




Lakota East Bands

Marching Band FAQ's

Getting Around


Who are the Marching Band Directors?


- Bill Thomas (William.thomas@lakotaonline.com) is the Director.
- Rob Tanis (rob.tanis@lakotaonline.com) is the Associate Director.
- Phil Chumley is the Marching Director.
- Betsy Carras is the Guard Director.
- Joe Davis is the Percussion Director.


 Where can I get answers to my Marching Band questions? Any of the Directors can answer your questions. Many of the veteran band parents are also a wealth of information. In addition, a Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks Handbook 2008 will be provided to the Rookie marching band students and their parents at Rookie Day on May 23rd. The handbook contains information on everything you need to know from band camp to grades to uniforms to attendance policy and behavior expectations and more.



 Check out the Lakota East Bands website (www.lakotaeastbands.org).

Introducing the Lakota East Upbeat Club






 What is the Upbeat Club and how do I get involved? The Lakota East Upbeat Club (LEUC or Upbeat Club) is the band booster organization that provides the physical and financial support to the concert bands, the marching band, the jazz bands, and the color guard for Lakota East High School, Lakota East Freshman School, Hopewell Junior School, and Liberty Junior School. All band and guard parents and guardians are member of the Upbeat Club. The LEUC works year round to support the entire band program and its directors by meeting once a month (except December), usually on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Lakota East High School band room. Please join us.






 How does the Upbeat Club get the word out? A monthly LEUC newsletter, called the "Upbeat Notes," is sent out to band parents with the latest in fundraising opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and LEUC contacts. The band program schedule is also included. The newsletter is also available online at www.lakotaeastbands.org.

 Can I volunteer? Absolutely. The Upbeat Club needs you. Many opportunities are one-time volunteer jobs, or you can be part of an ongoing effort! The newsletter lists all of the committee contacts.






-  **Why should I volunteer?** It is a great way to stay involved in your teen's life and get to know the people that they are hanging around with. At the same time, you meet other parents and build new friendships of your own. And the best part. . . it's a lot of fun!
-  **How do I get on the chaperone list?** There will be sign-up opportunities as marching band season approaches. Stay tuned.

Marching Band in a Nutshell


-  **How many students will perform in Marching Band this year?** Last year, 220 students participated, including the Guard. This year we expect more than 240 students to perform. At this level of participation, it is expected that all musicians will march in every performance.
-  **Tell me about the Band Camp and Marching Band schedule for 2008.**
 - The season begins with Rookie Day on May 23, 2008 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Following that practice is a parent informational meeting from 6:00 – 6:30 with the Band Directors.
 - All Band members who are in town are expected to play in the Liberty Township 4th of July parade.
 - For all Band members, mandatory pre-camp rehearsals are held at Lakota East High School just prior to Band Camp the mornings of July 28 – August 1, and August 4 – August 8.
 - Band Camp is held at Wright State University in Dayton, OH, August 10 – 15. Students stay in chaperoned dormitories on the Wright State campus.
 - Post-camp rehearsals occur August 19-21 and August 26-28 at Lakota East High School.
 - The first performance is an August 22nd football game. Details on the football game halftime performances and competition dates will be distributed later, as well as the information available on our website.
 - The 2008 Marching Band Summer Schedule has been distributed.
-  **What's the practice schedule once school starts?** The marching band practices after school on Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00, Wednesday 3:00 – 5:30, and Thursday 3:00 – 5:00, throughout the entire marching band season. The band is counting on you. It is expected that the student will attend every rehearsal and performance. Refer to the Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks Handbook 2008 for the complete Marching Band Attendance Policy.
-  **Is marching band as overwhelming as it sounds?** No more than football or other sports team commitments. The marching band season is only 3 months long, and the time flies by. Participation in marching band gives students the opportunity to learn how to better manage their time. It also encourages teamwork, sportsmanship, civic pride and contributions of one's personal best to a group effort. It's an opportunity to make lasting friendships with 240 of your new best friends. These students experience first-hand that hard work pays off. Parents will be amazed at what this group accomplishes in a very short time. The overwhelming part comes when the parents watch this group perform their show on the football field at half-time or at a competition. It is truly awesome.
-  **What are some details on Band Camp at Wright State University?** It is hard work and a ton of fun. Students provide their own transportation to and from Wright State. It is mandatory. Parents are welcome to chaperone. Save the dates - August 10 through August 15, 2008.


-  **What is the cost of marching band?** \$400 for the band students and \$370 for Guard and Field Commanders. The fee includes band camp (lodging and meals).
-  **Are there ways for me to help pay for my Marching Band costs?** Yes. See Marching Band Money Matters section.
-  **Where and when will students get their uniform? Do I need to purchase any of the uniform parts?** Your student will be fitted for his or her uniform during pre-camp. Uniforms are provided and altered to fit the student. The student is responsible for purchasing marching shoes (~\$26) and a flip folder for their music. Black shorts are also needed for the “summer uniform.” For your convenience, shorts are available for purchase through the LEUC Spirit Wear Committee. Sousaphone players need to purchase a beret (~\$25). Guard members must purchase their outfits. Uniform Guidelines and specifics on purchases (cost, due dates) will be distributed to the students as the marching band season approaches.
-  **Does my son or daughter have to provide an instrument?** Certain instruments will be provided for a fee, including all percussion and “Pit” instruments, and larger Brass, such as sousaphones. Students must provide their own smaller brass and woodwind instruments. Marching Band can be hard on an instrument. Some families rent an additional instrument for the season, or purchase a used instrument to use exclusively for marching.
-  **How are student musicians organized within the Marching Band?** Students are arranged into Sections by instrument. Each Section has at least one student Section Leader. Student Squad leaders are assigned to smaller groups of students within each section to help the Section Leader.


Marching Band Performances


-  **Where does the Marching Band perform?** The Marching Band has many opportunities to perform. They will play at every Lakota East home football game and some away games. During the games, they will present a pre-game show, a half-time show, and will play “stand tunes” from the end zone bleachers (reserved for band members only) during the game. Students will also perform at four out-of-town OMEA Marching Band competitions, State OMEA Marching Band Final competition, pep rallies, special performances, and community functions as needed. The Pearl Harbor Commemoration trip in November is optional.
-  **What is a Marching Band Show?** A show is made up of the blending of several musical numbers and coordinated marching activity. The performance of the show cannot exceed 15 minutes.
-  **When will students get the Show music? Do they carry the music as they march?** Show music is distributed prior to pre-camp. During pre-camp, students practice the music without marching, and are expected to practice on their own. Music should be memorized before the first show. Students do not march with their music.
-  **How do the students know where to march?** Students will march during rehearsals using “coordinate books” that diagram their place on the field.
-  **What is a Competition?** The marching band performs their show for a group of judges or adjudicators. The band receives both scores and ratings for each competition. In essence, the marching band competes against a standard set forth by the OMEA AE Committee to earn a rating between I and V, with I being the best. Scores can be based a variety of categories, such as the musical performance, general effect of the show, visual


performance, and visual effect. The higher the score the better. The bands compete in different classes. The “class” a band performs in is determined by the total school enrollment in grade 10 through 12, not the size of the marching band. Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks performed in Class AA last year (the largest class for schools with 776 or more students in grades 10 through 12). Awards are given within each Class, as well as for best overall band(s) in the competition. Award categories within each Class might include Best Field Commander, Best Percussion, Best Auxiliary, and First through Third Place. Overall band awards might include Overall Best Music, Overall Best Visual, and Grand Champion. Awards are given based on points scored and ratings earned by each band overall and within each category of adjudication.

 **Has the Band been competitive in the past?** The Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks have earned a Superior Rating at the OMEA State Marching Band Finals for eleven consecutive years! In fact, over the past eleven years, the Marching Thunderhawks have been rated as superior at EVERY show they have participated in. Step into the LE band room and admire the growing display of trophies. This band has good reason to be proud! They are awesome.


 **How does the Band get to away games and competitions?** The band members meet at Lakota East High School. Transportation is provided to and from the competitions and away football games, usually by school buses.


 **Who chaperones the Band competition trips, band camp, and away games?** Parents are welcome and encouraged to chaperone any of the events. Please volunteer. It’s a hoot.


 **How do we move all of the instruments, uniforms, and supplies to competitions?** It is all transported in the band’s semi-trailer. Do you know anyone who can donate the use of and drive a semi-tractor to and from events? We are in need of a volunteer.

 **What routine will musicians follow on football performance nights?** The band members perform a pre-game show at the East home football games. For home and away games, they play a variety of tunes including the LE fight song during the first, second, and fourth quarters of the game. The band students have the third quarter off.









Marching Band Money Matters




 **For information regarding fundraising for the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Performance –Hawaii ’08 trip, refer to the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Performance –Hawaii ’08 trip FAQ.**

 **What is Tag Day?** On a Saturday September 6, all band students are required to canvas neighborhoods within the Lakota East school boundaries asking for monetary donations. Many band parent volunteers are needed that day to drive students to assigned neighborhoods.

 **Does Tag Day money go to the General Fund?** No. Money collected on Tag Day is earmarked for uniforms, both for the marching band and for the concert bands. A portion

(up to 20%) is made available for ongoing uniform maintenance and replacement. The remainder is kept in a long-term fund for eventual purchase of all new uniforms.

-  **What is the annual budget for the General Fund?** The annual budget is approximately \$40,000, or about \$140 per student in the band programs at Lakota East High School.
-  **What are the greatest sources of income for the LEUC?** Kroger/Meijer Rewards cards and the Fruit, Cheesecake and Cookie Dough Sale are our two biggest fundraisers. A substantial amount is also contributed by the Cool Jazz and Hotcakes breakfast, the Swing Dance, Split the Pot, and the Entertainment Book sale.
-  **Any other fundraisers?** Scrip Gift Card Program was just introduced in November, 2007 as an additional fundraiser for the Upbeat Club. There's also a bake sale at the LE Craft Show in November. There are many other opportunities too. Check it out at www.lakotaeastbands.org.
-  **Are the fundraisers mandatory?** Participation in Tag Day by band members is strongly encouraged by the directors. Obviously, the more students out in the community canvassing that day, the more profitable it will be for our band program! In all other fundraisers while you are encouraged and welcome to participate, it is not mandatory.
-  **What are the biggest expenses for the LEUC?** By far, the largest group of expenses is for the Marching Band, including such items as music royalties, drill writing/choreography, entry fees, and transportation. The Upbeat Club also pays for guest clinicians, Concert Band and Symphonic Band uniforms, Guard props and also offers student scholarships.
-  **How will the proceeds from the CSO concert be used?** The money from the CSO concert and any other donations that are earmarked for the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Performance –Hawaii '08 trip will be held in reserve to cover any unanticipated costs for the trip, which will effectively guarantee the individual student cost. Remaining unused funds will be used to reduce the final individual payment.
-  **How can students earn money for their student account funds?** Students can earn money for their student accounts by participating in the Entertainment Book Sale and the Fruit, Cheesecake, and Cookie Dough Sale. The amount earned for the student account fund is based on what he/she sells. In addition, students can earn money by selling gift cards through the Scrip Gift Card Program. A percentage of the value of each gift card sold by the student is split between the Upbeat Club and the student's band account fund. Other fundraising opportunities that have been offered include working at either Homearama or Kings Island to also help build funds in students' band accounts. Please let LEUC know if you have any ideas for effective fundraisers.
-  **What can student account funds be used for?** Student account funds may be used to pay for any costs that are required for the band program, including band camp fees, trip expenses paid through the travel agent and individual uniform items such as Drillmaster marching shoes. Student account funds cannot be used for private lessons, purchasing spirit wear, personal instruments, or incidental expenses on a trip. Money that remains in a student's account at graduation may be assigned to a sibling or donated to the Upbeat Club.

-  **Is the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Performance –Hawaii '08 trip in November mandatory?** No.
-  **Is there a payment schedule for band camp and/or the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Performance –Hawaii '08 trip?** Yes.
 - **Marching Band and/or Pearl Harbor Hawaii Trip Fee** - \$150 non-refundable registration fee due on or before January 24, 2008.
 - **Marching Band Fee (Final balance due July 15, 2008)**
 - Marching Band Fee is \$400. Payment Plan Option: \$150 due January 24; \$150 due May 1; \$100 due July 15.
 - Guard & Field Commander Fee is \$370. Payment Plan Option: \$150 due January 24th; \$150 due May 1; \$70 due July 15.
 - **Pearl Harbor Hawaii Trip Costs** - Refer to the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Performance FAQ for details.
-  **Are there payment options?** Yes. Cash, check, or credit card (Visa and MasterCard only), and transfer from Student Account.