



MT. LEBANON BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NEWS / UPDATES/ CALENDAR

Where do I get the latest information about times, events, and band happenings?

- The BAND app! BAND is used for all communications and our calendar. Weekly performance report times will be sent via BAND and it is used for volunteer sign-ups, event RSVPs, group surveys and fundraising information.
- Mr. Cheskawich will email a weekly update on Sunday or Monday each week. This update will cover marching band, wind ensemble, and concert band.
- Visit our website: www.leboband.com
- Login to our management software system, Charms – registration will be provided upon joining the band.
- Follow us - **Facebook:** Mt. Lebanon Blue Devil Marching Band, **Twitter:** mtlband, **Instagram:** mtlband

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN MARCHING BAND

What are the requirements to participate in marching band?

- Musicians register for Concert Band or Wind Ensemble at Mt. Lebanon High School or register for marching band with the Band Director. Guard and Percussion will conduct auditions in May.
- **Mark Band Camp on your calendar now – August 2 through August 13.**
- Complete the Mt. Lebanon Band Builders Registration and pay the Annual Fee.
- Have a physical done after June 1st, and submit a Physical Form to a staff member* by the first day of band camp.
- Complete a Permission to Travel form and submit it to a staff member by the first day of band camp.
- All FORMS can be found on our website: www.leboband.com
- Pay the MTLSD “Pay to Play” fee of \$40. MTLSD implemented this fee for those involved in middle school and high school athletics, marching band and its guard programs, and high school intramurals. This fee is capped for families at \$80. Instructions and a link to pay online will be posted online as soon as they are available.

*Mr. Cheskawich, Mr. Deluca, Mrs. Eney, Mr. LoVerde.

BAND CAMP

What is Band Camp?

- Band Camp is a two-week training camp held at the High School. Students learn everything that they need in order to march in parades and perform the half-time show. Plan on having rehearsal for most of the day, Monday through Friday, and two evenings each week. With the implementation of the Blue and Gold bands in 2021, new schedules will be made for each group. Make sure to follow BAND and Mr. Cheskawich’s emails for details.

What do I need to bring to band camp?

- Your instrument, a binder and pencil with your music, sunscreen, a water bottle (a large one with your name clearly written on it), a bagged lunch, and a lanyard for your dot charts. Section leaders will advise what to wear for spirit days, too!

Where and when do I drop off and pick up my student?

- Students should always arrive at camp at least ten minutes early so that they are ready when the drum major says to begin.
- Musicians may be dropped off at the auditorium entrance (A-2) at the High School. Guard may be dropped off at the Principal’s Office entrance (C-20)
- Plan on picking up based on the end times reported on the band calendar.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

When do after school rehearsals take place?

- In general, there will be at least two rehearsals each week in either the Stadium or on the Upper Field. All rehearsals will be listed on the calendar; pay close attention to day, time and place since these will vary based on field availability each week. Students should be at the stadium at least 15 minutes prior to report time so that rehearsal can start on time and we can maximize our use of the field.

UNIFORMS

What are the uniform requirements?

- Each band and guard member will be assigned their own uniform that will remain the property of Mt. Lebanon High School. This will also include a hat (for musicians) and raincoat that will be required at all performances.
- Each member will be required to purchase items such as shoes, gloves, and a uniform t-shirt from an approved vendor. The total cost will be anywhere from \$45 to \$75.
- Other required items will include black socks for band members and approved cold gear for football season.
- Letterman jackets will also be available for purchase but are optional.

How do I get a uniform and the other accessories?

- Students and parents will attend Uniform Ordering and Measuring Day on June 2. Volunteers will measure students for their uniform and vendors will be in attendance for you to order your accessories.
- Uniforms will be fitted and distributed to students in late July. All students will have their uniforms by picture day which will be held during Band Camp.

How do I find out how to wear the uniform and what to wear with it?

- At your uniform fitting, you will be instructed on how to wear it. Care instructions can be found on the website.
- At picture day, section leaders will inspect all band members and assist new members with the proper way to wear their uniform. Inspections will occur prior to every performance.

TRANSPORTATION

How do students get to performances not held at Mt. Lebanon High School?

- For away games and most parades and performances, buses are used to take the band to and from the event.
- Students will always ride on the same bus throughout the season and attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of every trip. If you need to bring your student home from a performance, please notify Mr. Cheskawich in writing beforehand. There is a Release from Bus Transportation available on our website.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF FOR PERFORMANCES

Where do I drop off and pick up my student?

- Drop off is at the auditorium entrance (A-2) at the high school. Students will report to locations within the high school complex as requested by the staff. Students will be dismissed from the A2 entrance, with the exception of the Front Ensemble, they will be dismissed from the stadium. **If you drive to pick up your child after an away performance, do not park in front of the auditorium entrance. The buses need to park and unload there.**
- Students who drive may park in the high school parking lot for performances.

When do I drop off and pick up?

- Report time for each performance will be established by the staff and reported weekly via BAND. Report times may be different each week and be different for sections of the band.
- Report time means: In a seat with instrument ready for warm-up. This means that students should be dropped off at least ten minutes prior to report time.
- Pick up time is either at the end of practice (which is posted on the calendar) or at the end of the game (which can be unpredictable). For away games, students may call or text parents/guardians to advise them when they are close to the school.

What if I need to pick up my student at an away game or event?

- Students will not be permitted to leave without a note requesting release from the event provided to Mr. Cheskawich prior to leaving for the performance. The student should also advise the head chaperone of their approved release.
- An adult parent/guardian must check in with Mr. Cheskawich to have their child released from the event.
- Students also must either take their instrument with them or make arrangements to have it transported back to the school and returned to the band room.
- ***Picking up your student from an away event should be minimized as much as possible.***

GAMES

What should my student bring to the games?

- Their uniform and all parts, including the hat and raincoat.
- Their instrument.
- Guard should bring their flags and weapons.
- Cell phone (see below).
- **NO MONEY OR FOOD.** Students are not permitted to purchase food or drinks from the concession stand at games. After half time, students will receive water and a snack.

What is the cell phone policy?

- Students may bring their cell phone to band activities but they cannot use it during any event.

What if I need to contact my student at the game?

- The MLBB President's contact information is on the website and they can be reached at each event.

NON-GAME EVENTS

What type of non-game events does the band perform in?

- The band may perform in various community events and festivals. All events will be included on the BAND calendar. Events may include two or three festivals and/or competitions, in addition to our own festival at Mt. Lebanon stadium. We usually participate in the Bloomfield and Mt. Lebanon Halloween parades in the fall and the Memorial Day parade in May. Sometimes we are asked to perform at events in the Mt. Lebanon schools, too.

How do these events work?

- Festivals and competitions work very similarly to football games. Report times will be provided and the band will travel by bus to the event. The band will watch the other bands perform at the festival or competition and perform the half-time show during our scheduled performance time.
- For the Bloomfield Parade and the Memorial Day parade, students will ride a bus to the parade location. For the Mt. Lebanon Halloween parade, students will dress in costume and will be transported back and forth by a parent or guardian.

THE BAND TRIP

What is the band trip?

- Each year the band travels by motor coach or plane to a destination and performs in a parade or festival.

When is the band trip?

- The trips usually take place either in the late fall or early spring.

Is the trip mandatory?

- No

Who goes on the trip?

- The entire marching band (winds, percussion, and guard) attends the trip. Occasionally, the Concert Band and/or Wind Ensemble may be invited to attend based on the location and itinerary. Other Fine Arts groups may attend as well, such as Choir or Orchestra.

Is it fun?

- Yes!

What does it cost?

- Each year is different. We attempt to rotate trips so that if one year is a Disney trip (most expensive), the next year will be an inexpensive trip.

When is money due?

- The payments will be divided somewhat equally and will be due approximately when they are required by the tour company. The details will be provided at a family meeting for each trip.
- A preliminary cost is calculated based on estimates of number of students and staff attending, number of buses, activities and meals planned, etc.

Can I raise money to offset the cost of the trip?

- Yes. MLBB offers gift card fundraisers that you can utilize to earn funds to offset the cost of your student's trip.

How can I chaperone the band trip?

- It is up to the discretion of Mr. Cheskawich to choose the number of chaperones for each trip and the qualifications that they must meet in order to serve as a chaperone. This information will be communicated at the beginning of the season.
- Selection of chaperones is in part based on your participation with MLBB and the band during the year. The more you participate, the greater your chance of being selected.

Where can I get more information?

- See the MLBB website or BAND.
- Mandatory meetings will be held to provide details of the trip and prior to the trip to provide rules and expectations.

FUNDRAISERS**Can I fundraise to help offset the cost of the band trip or other expenses?**

- Students are able to sell gift cards to help offset the cost of the trip and pay the annual fee.

What about fundraising for the entire band?

- Band Builders also organizes fundraisers that benefit the entire band, or the general fund. Monthly hoagie sales; Sarris holiday candy sales; and other various food or product sales help the MLBB support the program. Fundraisers help to offset the cost of things like refreshments during half-time, band camp activities, the pool party, senior recognition, the show shirt, and the annual band banquet. The biggest fundraiser is our annual Festival of Bands. We will host 8-10 bands from local schools to perform in our stadium. We ask all families to sell tickets for this event. We also can use help in selling program ads and/or sponsorships to local businesses.

So what are the fees about?

- Like other athletic programs, marching band has operational costs. MLBB spends about \$133 per student. In 2020 we asked for \$100 per student to help with those costs. MLBB makes up the rest with our general fund fundraisers (see above). Our main general fundraiser is the Festival of Bands, but how well we do depends on the weather and the size of the festival in any given year. If we have a good festival year, we give back to the students by reducing trip costs. The cost for Blue and Gold bands for the 2021-2022 season will be determined by the MLBB Executive Board in June as per our bylaws.
- The MLBB fee is not related to the "Pay to Play" fee that is required by the school district for middle school and high school athletics, marching band and its guard programs, and high school intramurals. "Pay to Play" has a family cap of \$80, no matter how many programs your child(ren) participate in. MLBB does not receive any "Pay to Play" money.
- The MLBB annual fee is also not related to the Percussion program, which is a separate year-round program with its own operating costs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

How can I get involved with the band?

- There are a lot of opportunities to be involved with the marching band, all with varying degrees of time commitment. We need chairpersons for a variety of different committees, as well as volunteers to help on each committee. We need every parent to work a shift at our Festival of Bands. Most importantly, we need parent chaperones for games and events. Band Builders will publish volunteer opportunities on BAND, on our website, or you can contact the President to offer your assistance.

How do I obtain the necessary clearances required for volunteering in the school district?

- Chaperones and some other volunteer positions are required to have volunteer clearances on file with the school district. Complete details are available on our website or you can contact the Band Builders Co-Vice Presidents for more information. If you have lived in Pennsylvania for the last ten years or more, the clearances can be obtained within days. If you have not been a resident of Pennsylvania for more than ten years, you will be required to obtain FBI clearances, including fingerprints. This can take a few weeks, so plan accordingly. If you know you are interested in chaperoning football games, please obtain your clearances by the start of Band Camp.

THE YEAR MAPPED OUT

What happens when? (Note: a full calendar will be supplied when it becomes available)

May 2021

- Show Theme Announced - Students will be invited to a meeting at the high school for this exciting kick-off event.
- Guard How-to Clinic & Auditions
- First Rehearsal for Current and Incoming Band Members

June/July 2021

- Uniform Fitting & Ordering Day
- New Parent Social
- New Band Member Social
- Various Section Rehearsals and a Few Full Band Rehearsals

August 2021

- Band Camp – August 2 to August 13
- Kennywood Parade -- TBD
- First Football Game – End of August -- TBD

September and October 2021

- Weekly Rehearsals Begin
- Football Games (Friday nights)
- Festivals (Saturday nights)
- Halloween Parades

November 2021

- Playoffs (if the football team makes it that far)
- Banquet