



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT JOINING MT. LEBANON BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

NEWS / UPDATES/ CALENDAR

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

- You will receive a weekly email newsletter that includes a calendar for the week, announcements from the Director and fundraising opportunities. Once you are a member you will also receive a login to our password-protected management software "Charms".
- Visit our website: www.leboband.com
- Social Media: **Facebook** - Mt. Lebanon Blue Devil Marching Band, **Instagram** – mtlband, and **Twitter** - @mtlband.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN MARCHING BAND

What are the requirements to participate in marching band or auxiliary?

- Register for Concert Band or Wind Ensemble at Mt. Lebanon High School or register for marching band with the Band Director.
- **Attend Band Camp – Two weeks in August (will be announced in the winter).**
- Complete the Mt. Lebanon Band Builders Annual Roster Form.
- Pay the MTLSD "Pay to Participate" fee of \$40. MTLSD implemented a "pay to participate" fee for those involved in middle school and high school athletics, marching band and its auxiliary programs, and high school intramurals. This fee should be paid prior to the start of Band Camp on August 7. Instructions and a link to pay online will be provided.
- Have a physical done after June 1st, and submit a completed Physical Form to the Band Director by the first day of band camp.
- Complete a Permission to Travel form and submit it to the Band Director by the first day of band camp.
- The Physical and Permission to Travel forms will be distributed at the first rehearsal in May and will be emailed to all families, as well.

BAND CAMP

What is Band Camp?

- Band Camp is a two-week training camp held at Mellon Middle School. Students learn everything that they need in order to march in parades and perform the half-time show. The complete schedule will be released in June, but plan on having rehearsal during the day, Monday through Friday and two evenings each week.

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 majors say to begin.
- Students may be dropped off in the Mellon parking lot along Castle Shannon Boulevard. PLEASE OBEY THE SIGNS AND WATCH YOUR SPEED IN THE PARKING LOT.
- Plan on picking up based on the end times reported on the band calendar. Feel free to come early and watch the kids' progress on the field!

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

When do after school rehearsals take place?

- All rehearsals will be on the band calendar, but generally, there will be rehearsal every Monday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the band room (or other various locations communicated by staff or section leaders).

What are stadium rehearsals?

- The band practices once a week at the stadium, usually Wednesday or Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. We don't get a lot of stadium time, so 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 auxiliary member will be assigned their own uniform that will remain the property of Mt. Lebanon High School. This will also include a hat and raincoat that will be required at all performances.
- Each member will be required to purchase items such as shoes, gloves, uniform t-shirts, and a show 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.
- Band jackets will also be available for purchase but are optional.

How do I get a uniform and the other accessories?

- A uniform fitting and ordering day will be held at the high school in May. Students will be measured for their uniform, hat and raincoat.
- Uniforms will be fitted and distributed to students in July. All students will have uniforms by picture day which is held during band camp.

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

- Each student will be supplied with a Band Handbook that outlines all rules for uniforms. There is also a uniform committee that can help answer questions or solve uniform problems.
- 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 other performances, there are busses provided 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, follow the procedure in the Band Handbook.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Where do I drop off and pick up my student?

- Drop off is at the auditorium entrance (A-2) at the high school. Band and auxiliary members will report to the band room or other locations within the high school complex as requested by the staff. Pick up should be at the same entrance or the parking lot.
- 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 in the weekly newsletter and posted on the Google calendar. Report times may be different each week and may be different for sections of the band (i.e. Drum Line, Auxiliary, Front Ensemble and Winds players may all have different report times.)
- 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 the Band Director 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 the Band Director 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.
- 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 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, 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 work very similar to a football game. 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 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 and dress in full uniform. 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 to a destination and performs in a parade which is sometimes judged.

When is the band trip?

- It typically takes place in the spring, but can also take place in the fall, depending on the school calendar.

Is the trip mandatory?

- No

Who goes on the trip?

- The entire Marching Band (winds, percussion, and auxiliary) attend the trip. Occasionally, the Concert Band and/or Wind Ensemble may be invited to attend based on the location and itinerary.

Is it fun?

- Yes!

What does it cost?

- Each year is different. We attempt to rotate trips so that one year is Disney (most expensive), the next is an inexpensive trip, next is a mid-range priced trip, and the next is an inexpensive trip again.

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 band camp.
- 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 many fundraisers that you can utilize to earn funds to offset the cost of your student's trip. Details of each fundraiser will be available in our newsletters and on the MLBB website.

How can I chaperone the band trip?

- It is up to the discretion of the Band Director 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.
- Mandatory meetings will be held at band camp to provide details of the trip and prior to the trip to provide rules and expectations for the trip.

FUNDRAISERS

Can I fund raise to help offset the cost of the band trip?

- Our booster organization, Mt. Lebanon Band Builders, offers various fundraisers that you can participate in to help offset the cost of your student's trip. In the past we have offered gift cards; monthly hoagie sales; Sarris holiday candy sales; and other various food or product sales. All details will be available in the weekly newsletter and on the website.

What about fundraising for the entire band?

- Band Builders also organizes fundraisers that benefit the entire band, or the general fund. This helps to offset the cost of things like refreshments during half time; band camp activities, like lunch before Kennywood; 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.

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 in the weekly newsletter 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 contact the Band Builders Vice President 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 please 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 in June)

May

- Show Theme Announced - Students will be invited to a meeting at the high school for this exciting kick-off event.
- Guard/Rockette How-to Clinic & Auditions
- First Rehearsal for Current and Incoming Band Members
- Uniform Fitting & Ordering Day
- New Parent Social
- New Band Member Social

June/July

- Various Section Rehearsals and a Few Full Band Rehearsals

August

- Band Camp – Two weeks
- Kennywood Parade – usually last Friday of band camp
- First Football Game – sometimes last Friday of the month

September and October

- Weekly Rehearsals Begin (usually Monday and Wednesday)
- Football Games (Friday nights)
- Festivals and/or Parades (Saturday nights)

November

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