

### **Attendance:**

The competitive nature of the marching band program requires that students attend all rehearsals and performances during the course of the season. The staff is aware that emergencies do arise which may necessitate an absence from rehearsal or performance. To be as fair as possible to these and other concerns, the following attendance policy will be used for all members of marching band starting with the Monday of Band Camp and continuing through the remainder of the season. (Please read the summer rehearsal attendance policy at the bottom of this page as well)

1. Members must attend all rehearsals and performances. An excuse for any planned absence from a rehearsal or performance needs to be submitted **in writing** to the director at least two weeks in advance and must include the reason for the upcoming absence. Students and parents may discuss the circumstances surrounding the excuse with the director prior to the date of the absence if needed.

**The validity of any excuse will be accepted or rejected on the basis of priorities and the decision of the director is final.**

2. Members who become ill on the day of a rehearsal or performance should call or e-mail the director on that day and bring in a written excuse when they return to school.

3. Members who are absent from school due to medical, religious, or family emergency reasons are considered excused from a rehearsal or performance on the same day.

4. Members who show up at a rehearsal or performance more than five minutes after the start time will be considered late for that rehearsal/performance.

5. All members will abide by the following consequences concerning the attendance policy:

1 Unexcused Absence = Warning from the director

2 Unexcused Absences = Member is put on probation for remainder of season

3 Unexcused Absences = Member is removed for remainder of season

(Note: 2 Lates = 1 Excused Absence; 2 Excused Absences = 1 Unexcused Absence;

2 Unexcused Lates = 1 Unexcused Absence)

6. Penalties will not be assessed to students who are late to rehearsals or performances due to school sponsored athletic contest in which they participate.

### **Summer Rehearsals:**

“Summer” rehearsals start with the first pre-season rehearsal and continue up to the beginning of Band Camp in August. Members are expected to attend a minimum of four rehearsals during this time period. As previously noted an excuse for any planned absence from a rehearsal or performance needs to be submitted in writing to the director at least two weeks in advance and must include the reason for the upcoming absence. It should be noted that Off the Line Camp (6/24 & 6/25) is considered mandatory due to its proximity to the end of the school year and its importance in introducing the program to the members.

### **Rehearsal Dress:**

Students should dress appropriately for inside and outside rehearsals. Dress for rehearsals is as follows: no bare feet, sandals, clogs or shoes without socks. Students are required to wear sneakers and socks. Any jacket (weight depending on the weather) should be waterproof since the band does rehearse in inclement weather. During the summer, students should protect themselves with sunscreen, hat, glasses, and whatever else is needed. Insect repellent is highly recommended. Lastly, dress so you are comfortable and protected from the elements; the band cannot afford illness due to poor dress.

### **Uniforms:**

All members will be issued a uniform for which they are entirely responsible. Any part of a uniform that is torn, mutilated, lost or destroyed will be replaced at the expense of the person to whom the uniform was issued. All uniforms must be returned at the end of each season. Band proper are expected to purchase black/white shoes, shoe polish, black/white socks, and black/white gloves that are not provided by the school. Front group (guard) members are expected to purchase shoes, stocking, gloves and their own makeup as determined by the instructors.

### **Instruments and Equipment:**

No member is to use anyone else's instrument and no one is to use any school instrument unless it is assigned to them; those lent by the school are the responsibility of the user. Percussionists are responsible for the percussion room, (room 924) and the orchestra room in the months of June through November, All instruments are to be cleaned and in good playing order **at all times**. Any problems with instruments should be brought to the attention of the directors immediately. Do not fix the instrument yourself! Front group equipment such as flags, poles, rifles, sabers and props that are owned by the school will be assigned to each member. All equipment is the responsibility of the user and should be in good condition at all times. Any damaged or stolen equipment should be reported to the directors immediately.

### **Drum Major:**

Drum Major candidates should demonstrate leadership qualities, marching expertise, showmanship, musicianship, conducting ability, scholarship standing, and good peer relationships.

### **LHS Marching Band Awards & Scholarships:**

First year students will receive a certificate.

Second year students will receive a LHS Varsity School Letter.

Third year members receive a pin to place on the school letter.

Fourth year students receive a plaque.

The Ray Bennett Memorial Award is given to a senior percussionist who has displayed a high level of percussion musicianship and technique as well as pride, dedication an excellence in the LHS Marching Band. Selection of the award is decided by the directors and the percussion instructors,

The New York State Field Band Conference Scholarship is given to a senior who has displayed a high sense of pride, dedication and excellence. This award is decided by the directors and the staff. The recipient of this ward may not receive the *LHS Booster Club Scholarship* (see Booster Club By-Laws regarding LHS Booster Club Scholarship).

The LHS Marching Band Booster's Scholarship is an annual award presented at graduation to a senior who has been a minimum of a 4 year marching band member, in good standing of the LHS Marching Band at the end of the fall season. This award is presented through the LHS Dollars for Scholars program, See Appendix B of the Boosters By-Laws for details.