

Liberty High School
Marching Band
Handbook



2019- 2020

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To all Liberty High School Marching Band and Colorguard members:

It is so exciting to welcome you to the 2019 Liberty High School fall marching season. Our group is ready to move to the next level of performance, and I am so pleased to have you involved. This year will be a continuation of the progress of years past, but the constant will be your commitment to this ensemble and the enormous amount of work you will put in. Music, drill, rehearsals and staff are all important pieces to the puzzle, but without the talent and dedication you bring, we'd just be another marching band. During this season I challenge you to ask the most of yourself and push yourself to a new level. I see our competitions as opportunities to grow as musicians and performers as well as to represent Liberty High School across the state. I hope you are as excited as I am about the opportunity ahead of us, and I know that you will make this the most successful marching season in the history of our school.

Go Falcons!

Kevin Soon
Director of Bands
Liberty High School

Mission

The mission of the Liberty High School Band program is to promote musical, intellectual and social growth in its students in a positive, challenging atmosphere.

The mission of the Liberty High School Marching Band and Colorguard is to achieve excellence in the marching arts through instruction and concepts that are contemporary, challenging and educationally sound. The constant goal of the group is to be **“Better Every Day”**.

Band Room Rules

A clean, organized rehearsal space is a key element to a successful season. We need to take pride in our facility and treat it with respect. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- **TWO STRIKE POLICY FOR FOOD AND DRINK IN ROOM.**
- **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF.**
- **ALL INSTRUMENTS NEED TO BE PUT AWAY WHERE THEY BELONG.**
- **CASES SHOULD STAY IN INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOM DURING REHEARSAL.**
- **RESPECT ALL EQUIPMENT, NO MATTER WHO IT BELONGS TO- IF IT’S NOT YOURS, DON’T TOUCH IT!**
- **THE MUSIC OFFICE IS OFF LIMITS TO STUDENTS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM MR. SOON.**

Band Camp/ Rehearsal Guidelines

Band Camp is our group’s opportunity to learn skills, concepts and procedures together in a full group atmosphere. You will come away from band camp with a clear understanding of what we do and how to do it well for the rest of the season. These are some things you will need to have during band camp and at every rehearsal throughout the season.

- Water – Whether it’s hot or not, you need to stay hydrated. If you don’t like plain water, products like Smart Water and Vitamin Water are preferable to Gatorade and other sports drinks.

- Shoes – For safety reasons, all members must have athletic shoes on at every rehearsal.
- Be prepared for the weather – Be smart. If it’s pouring down rain, don’t show up in a tank top and shorts with no jacket. If it’s sunny, wear sun block. Be ready for anything, we are in Oregon after all.
- Notebooks – All members are required to have a notebook at each rehearsal that contains the following items:
 - This handbook
 - Your music
 - Your drill
 - Any other papers that you are asked to keep
 - Pencil
 - Plastic sheets to put your music and drill in
- Dot Books – This should be around your neck EVERY TIME you step onto the field. This needs to be sturdy enough to last all season; you can make it out of 3 X 5 note cards. Each card will contain the following information:
 - Set Number
 - Set Counts
 - Measure numbers
 - Coordinates
 - Move description
 - Form picture

The Rehearsal Mode

The *Rehearsal Mode* is a rehearsal system which was established to create a rehearsal environment in which unnecessary commands and instructions are systematically eliminated. This means once we get past the first initial visual techniques, most commands will cease to exist (unless needed). This system eliminates the time spent moving through traditional rehearsal commands and focuses on quick, decisive adjustments by all involved. This system hinges on the ability of the student leadership to set the right example and keep their section’s talking to a zero. With this system in place, our rehearsals will operate at the level of efficiency

necessary to achieve the excellence we're striving for. This is how *The Mode* works.

- Section leader sets all positions
- Members follow section leader in a ripple
- Silence while in all positions is absolute
- Section leader anticipates the next move of the director or staff
- The field captains only speak at the relax position (during field time)
- Questions are not encouraged in this system
- In the early stages, if a pressing question is necessary, it may get addressed during “field” time.
- Wait until a break to ask questions
- If there is a major visual issue around you, we should see it, but if not, go ahead and raise your hand (early stages only)
- Additional “dead time” positions (not the norm)
 - One knee
 - Crouching
 - Do not sit on the field
 - When you section leader pops up, get up as fast as possible
- The director or staff may call commands at any time. In this situation, the staff member is in charge until they call you to *stand by* at which time you resume to follow your section leader
- All changes in positions are done with lightning speed and perfection

Uniform Etiquette

Our uniforms are a visible symbol of the pride we take in our program. How we appear in those uniforms sends a clear message to the public about who we are. Moreover, these uniforms are school equipment that is intended to be used for years to come. These are the guidelines for wearing and handling your uniform.

Jackets: The jacket should always be worn facing front, fully zipped and fastened. In the event that you are asked to remove your jacket, it should be folded and placed on top of your helmet. When not in your possession, it should be stored on the hanger as it was given to you by the appropriate uniform parent.

Pants: The pants (bibbers) should always be worn with both straps on your shoulders and fully zipped. When not in your possession, they should be stored on the hanger as they were given to you by the appropriate uniform parent.

Helmet: The helmet should always be worn on your head facing forward with the strap down under your chin. In the event you are asked to carry your helmet, it should be carried in your right hand so your fingers are curled underneath the bill and the helmet upright. In the event that you are asked to take your jacket off, the helmet should be placed on the ground upright so the jacket can be placed on it. When you are not in uniform, your helmet should be stored in its box in the designated location.

Plumes: Our plumes are costly and fragile – please treat them with respect. Plumes should always be returned to the responsible parents – not kept with your uniform.

Gloves: Gloves should be worn whenever you are in uniform. Gloves should be stored in your helmet box.

Marching Shoes/ Socks: Marching shoes should be worn at all times while in uniform. Shoes should be purchased by each student for use during marching season. Shoes are the responsibility of each student at performances. All members will wear black socks at all performances.

Membership T-Shirt: Membership T-shirts will be worn under your uniforms every time you perform. Your first membership shirt is provided to you, additional shirts will be available for purchase. Keep in mind that this shirt is always required, so make sure it is always clean for every performance.

Food and Drink: Food and drink are prohibited while in uniform, with the exception of water.

Cell Phones, iPods and Other Electronics: All electronic devices are prohibited while in uniform.

Professional Behavior: When in uniform, you are a walking advertisement for Liberty High School. Everything you do and say is a reflection of your fellow band members, our boosters and our entire school. Please keep this in mind and behave accordingly.

Performance Procedures

Each of these performances will have their specific procedures, but in all cases, all members will follow all established conduct and uniform guidelines.

Football Games: Call time for all football games is generally **6:15 p.m.** in the band room. That means you are in uniform, with your instrument and ready for warm-up at **6:15 p.m.** Please allow enough time as you will not be the only one checking out your uniform. Following our warm-up, we will make our way to the stadium, perform for pre-game activities and take our seats. We sit together in sections without any non-band members in our area. The uniform etiquette section above outlines part of the expected procedures for stands behavior. Please also be prepared to play at all times. During the second quarter we will walk to our warm-up area, warm up and then perform our halftime show. Following the performance, you will have part of the third quarter off to use the restroom and take care of any other important personal business. When the clock reads 3:00 left in the third quarter, begin making your way back as we will play **immediately** following the end of that quarter. After the game, we will return to the band room, check in our uniforms and return the band room to its normal setup. **You will be dismissed when your section's assigned area and/ or duties have been checked by either Mr. Soon or one the drum majors.**

Competitions: If I wrote about every aspect of going to competitions, this handbook would be 600 pages long. So here are the highlights:

- Be on time for all call times all day long.
- Be patient – competitions are usually a game of hurry up and wait.
- Be a team – we sit as a unit in the stands.
- Be professional – we are there to compete, but we recognize the time and hard work that all bands put in with applause and support.
- Be respectful – don't leave your messes for the host band, the janitors or our parents. Performing in these venues is a privilege, so take it seriously.
- Students are expected to travel with the band both to and from the competition site. **All exceptions must be cleared with Mr. Soon by Thursday night of competition week.**
- Upon returning to Liberty following a competition or any event away from school, all students are expected to help unload and unpack. We will ALWAYS dismiss as a group, so the more you help, the quicker you go home.

Conflicts with Other School Activities

If you are participating in a school activity that may conflict with the band schedule, it is your responsibility to provide schedules to all coaches and instructors involved. All conflicts will be dealt with on a case by case basis and every effort will be made to find to most suitable compromise for all involved.

School Owned Instruments

If you are using a school instrument, you need to fill out an instrument checkout form before the season begins. You will be responsible for all repairs past normal wear and tear. Please remember that these instruments are intended to be used for many years and your treatment of them is a reflection of our program.

Marching Band Leadership

The marching band leadership will consist of drum majors, section leaders, assistant section leaders and field captains. The number of student leaders may vary from year to year. Drum majors will be selected through a process that includes student input, and the section leaders will be chosen at the discretion of the director. It is the duty of the drum major to lead the group behind the scenes and on the field. The drum major is responsible for ensuring that daily rehearsal-related tasks are completed. Section leaders serve as the labor force for most group activities. As explained in the section on *The Mode*, the section leaders and field captains set the tone for the success of the rehearsal through their ability to anticipate the instructions of the staff and to keep their sections in line.