



New Parents Guide to the Lincoln-Way Marching Band



Welcome to the first informational meeting for the Lincoln-Way Marching Band! We are very excited that you are joining us tonight and hope that your student will make marching band a part of their high school experience. We are aware that as parents of a future LWMB member you may have questions regarding your child's participation in high school marching band.

Joining the Lincoln-Way Marching Band is a great choice. Freshmen music students have the unique opportunity to work with upperclassmen and build friendships that will last well beyond their high school years. As a freshman member of the LWMB, your student will walk through the door the first day of school already knowing over 200 other students! This will make the transition to high school much easier.

Other benefits of becoming a member of the LWMB:

- Become friends with the best kids in school!
- Supports your child's overall academic and musical performance
- Learn from a staff of great marching, music, color guard, and dance instructors
- Develop self-discipline as a part of a high caliber band, drum line, and color guard
- Looks great on college applications!
- Travel! The LWMB takes a trip to a national marching event every year!
- Become part of the LWMB Family & Have a ton of FUN!

When do LWMB rehearsals begin?

Rehearsals generally begin in mid-June. The LWMB generally practices 3 weeks in June through July 4th. July is generally free except for competitive band camp, which is at the very end of July.

How much time does the LWMB take during the school year?

Practices during the school year are on Mondays and Wednesdays at one of the three L-W campuses, and Thursday sectionals at the student's own school. LWMB members perform at football games on Fridays and have rehearsals and/or competitions on Saturdays. Sundays are free except for two SIAM Sale days, occasional parades, and occasional travel days.

Does the LWMB prevent students from being involved in other school activities?

No. We have students that are involved in all aspects of student organizations, clubs, and sports. Students will need to learn to manage their time wisely to be involved in several school activities, but it can be done and has been done successfully for many years.

If my child takes a full schedule of demanding classes, is there still time to do marching band?

Yes! Even if students signed up for multiple AP or Honors classes, marching band is not a problem. In fact, the LWMB organization includes some of the highest-achieving students in the Lincoln-Way school district. The LWMB consistently contains several members in the top of each class. Because of the marching experience, students learn the self-discipline to achieve at high levels academically.



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My child's instrument is not a 'marching band' instrument, are they still able to participate?

Of course! Many members of the LWMB will play a different marching instrument during marching season, and then return to their primary instrument in concert band. This is very common, and many students end up enjoying being able to play two instruments!

Can I take Concert Band all four years of high school, and still get in all my graduation requirements without attending summer school?

Yes. Freshmen and all students may also take "Zero Hour." However, if you choose not to take summer school or zero hour, you will not have much room left over for any extra electives. Many band students elect to take one to two semesters of summer school just to get ahead.

Is it a requirement to take a music performance class to participate in the LWMB?

The Lincoln-Way Marching Band is an extracurricular activity open to any Lincoln-Way student. Participation in the curricular band and percussion classes is strongly encouraged for all members, and is required for those members who wish to be wind or percussion section leaders or drum majors.

Is being a part of Madrigals, competitive marching band, and summer school a possibility?

Yes! Absolutely. The marching schedule wraps around the summer school schedule. Madrigal camps at each school fall between competitive band camp and the start of school. The school year schedule is developed with Madrigals rehearsing at different times than the marching band.

What is the time commitment for students choosing not to be in the competitive show?

The required time commitment for the "Football Band(s)" consists of the camp weeks in June, noted rehearsals in the fall, parades, and then only Fridays for football games.

I heard participation in the LWMB is expensive.

Just like other student activities, it costs money to be involved. LWMB members are required to pay the applicable Registration Fee, plus purchase necessary equipment. Fortunately, the LWMB and the L-W Music Boosters organizations at each school provide many opportunities for fundraising. Money earned by fundraising is placed into their **Individual Band Account (IBA)**. We also offer parents volunteer opportunities to earn money for their child's IBA. Many students pay all of their fees via their **IBA** if they participate in fundraising.

Is the LWMB fun, or just a lot of work?

Yes, marching band is a lot of work, but everyone agrees in the end that the reward is well worth the effort. The Lincoln-Way Marching Band experience is challenging, inspirational, memorable, and a lot of fun. Most students think of it as the highlight of the year! From the music and the performance locations, to the traditions and new friends, the LWMB is a great experience.