

LACKAWANNA TRAIL MARCHING LIONS

HANDBOOK 2008-2009 Season

Director:

Katie Bower (Phone: 351-2959)

Color Guard Instructor:

Kelly Hopkins (Phone: 945-5181 x9)

Percussion Instructor:

David Hopkins

I. Attendance/Tardiness

Students are required to attend ALL rehearsals and ALL performances. Certain allowances may be made on a case by case basis; however, students are expected to bring any such conflicts to the attention of the staff immediately. If a student falls ill on the day of a rehearsal his or her parent or guardian are expected to notify a member of the staff as soon as possible. It is not acceptable for the student to simply tell another student. This is for your safety and ours. If a parent is expecting his or her child to be with us during certain times, we must know from that parent first hand that the child will not be in attendance.

Students must be on time to every rehearsal and performance. We believe that: "To be early, is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late, is to be an inconvenience to others." If we plan to start rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. that means that you should be on the field, with all necessary equipment, at 6:00 p.m. If this requires you to arrive at 5:45 p.m. then please do so. Percussion and Color guard students must typically arrive 15-20 minutes prior to scheduled time in order to set up their equipment. Any problems with transportation, etc. should be brought to the attention of the staff immediately.

If a student is late for any reason anytime during the week, they do not receive their free period during that week's football game. If the problem becomes chronic, further disciplinary action, in

accordance with the Lackawanna Trail School District Disciplinary Policy (found in the school handbook) , will be instituted. If a student compiles three (3) unexcused absences, he or she will be put under review of the staff. Frequent absences may result in dismissal from the unit.

It is to be understood that every individual member of this unit is of vital importance to the whole. Our strict Attendance/ Tardiness Policies reflect that and are designed to benefit and protect the best interest of all students as well as the unit as a whole.

II. Academics

The music department as a whole has always taken great pride in boasting a large number of academically successful students. The majority of students that participate in the music department have always been honors students. This is very important to our staff. We believe that academics should be the first priority of any organization. We encourage our students to do their very best in school. If, at any time, a student feels they need extra help with a class they are encouraged to approach our staff. If we cannot help you, we will find someone who can

If, at any time, a student begins to feel overwhelmed attempting to balance his or her school work with our performance and rehearsal schedule, they are encouraged to talk to the staff. Certain accommodations will be made to assist the student in getting caught up with his/her school work. With this being said, it is also very important for students to learn to organize their time so that they can fully dedicate themselves to their schooling and their extra-curricular activities.

It is also acknowledged that Marching Band Students are held to the same academic eligibility rules as the athletic teams. If a student is failing any 2 classes, a notice will be sent to the staff by the Athletic Director notifying us of this. The student will then be ineligible to participate in any rehearsals or performances for at least one week (Saturday to Saturday) or until they get their grade back up.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of each individual to our unit. Missing an entire week of rehearsals and performances not only hurts the student, but the unit as a whole. Students must keep communication open between their parents/guardians and the staff to ensure that this won't happen.

III. Uniforms/Equipment

All uniforms and equipment issued to the students are their responsibility and should be treated with the utmost respect. It is expected that all uniforms and equipment will be returned in the same condition that they are issued, with reasonable wear and tear.

It is the responsibility of the student to keep his or her uniform and equipment clean and well-maintained throughout the season. If, at any time during the season, a student's uniform must be cleaned, it must be taken to Eagle Cleaners in Clarks Summit. This is the ONLY dry cleaner that may clean these uniforms as they are aware of special measures that must be used to prevent running of the colors, etc. If, at the end of the season, any uniform or equipment piece is not returned in proper condition it will be reported to administration and listed as a senior obligation. This obligation will not be removed until the situation regarding the uniform/equipment is rectified.

IV. Discipline

Our staff firmly believes in treating each student with the respect that he or she deserves. We expect the same consideration in return. If we all respect ourselves, our equipment and each other there will be no need for any sort of disciplinary action. However, if a student does act out in an inappropriate way, he or she will be given one (1) verbal warning. If the behavior does not cease after one warning, the student will then have his or her free period privilege revoked for that week's football game. If a student becomes a chronic behavioral problem, he or she will be referred to the High School Administration and further disciplinary action, in accordance with the Lackawanna Trail School District Disciplinary Policy (found in the school handbook) , will be instituted.

V. Miscellaneous

It is understood that the student will travel to and from all events with the unit. If a parent/guardian intends to pick his or her child up directly from an event, they MUST present a member of the staff with a note stating this. All such notes must be received by Friday morning. This is for the protection of your child.

Students will be issued medical forms prior to band camp. The information on these forms must be completed fully and returned to Katie Bower before July 19, 2008. This is extremely important as the students will be traveling with us frequently and we must be armed with all of the information necessary to keep them well. Any extreme physical conditions such as asthma, heart problems, or severe allergies must be brought to the attention of the staff. Also, if the student has a medical condition which will prevent him or her from participating in any sort of physical activity (i.e. running, walking, etc.) this must be brought to the attention of the staff.

VI. Commitment

The student's commitment to this unit begins with the signing of this handbook and ends at the conclusion of the Memorial Day Parades in May of 2009. It is expected that by signing this handbook, both the student and his or her parent/guardian are committing themselves to uphold all of the principles outlined in this handbook. By signing this handbook, students understand that they are responsible as a member of the unit to uphold high academic standards, to attend all rehearsals and performances, and to perform to the best of their ability at all times. Students also acknowledge that they are, at all times, representing Lackawanna Trail School District. By signing this handbook they agree to maintain a high standard of public behavior and classiness. Rudeness, crude language/behavior, rowdiness, etc. will never be tolerated.

By signing this handbook, parents/guardians understand their responsibilities to their child and to the unit, to assist in upholding these principles.

Signature Page

(To be signed & returned to staff + please keep the handbook itself for your own personal reference.)

I/We, _____ (parent/guardian)
acknowledge that I/We, have reviewed the 2008-2009 Lackawanna Trail Marching Lions Handbook
with my/our child _____ (student) in depth. We understand and accept all
of the principles outlined in said handbook. We agree to immediately bring any questions or concerns
we may have with said handbook to the attention of the staff. We also agree that if at any time
throughout the season we have questions or concerns about the program, we will bring them
immediately to the attention of the staff for a quick and amicable resolution

Dated: _____

(parent/guardian)

(parent/guardian)

(student)