



Largo High School Band of Gold

Mr. Christopher Benoit, Band Director

benoit@pcsb.org
www.LHSBandofGold.org

Welcome to all 2023-2024 Marching Band Members!

IMPORTANT: Items that you need to turn in:

- **A completed Marching Band Paperwork Packet.** Packets are available in the band office; PDF files of the forms are on our website. Part of what is required is a completed FHSAA Physical form – if you need to do a physical and do not have a regular doctor, you can always get it done at the Largo High School Clinic; call 727-588-3758 x2026 to make an appointment
- **Proof of School Insurance.** This must be done each year; which option to purchase is up to you. The “At-School Low Option” meets the requirement. You may either print and bring in your ID card OR just forward the confirmation email to Mr. Benoit. Visit <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/15271> for further information and to enroll. **WAIT UNTIL THE LINK TAKES YOU TO 2023-24 TO DO THIS; IT WILL SWITCH OVER SOMETIME THIS SUMMER.**

What else will you need?

1. An instrument—either your own or rented from the school. Some instruments are specialized for marching band, and you will use a school instrument even if you have your own. **SUMMER INSTRUMENT RENTALS** are currently available by appointment; email Mr. Benoit to set up. Rental contracts & payments will now be done **ONLINE**.
2. Accessories related to playing your instrument—things like sticks, reeds, valve oil, etc. You can usually purchase these items through the school for less than you would at a music store.
3. A large 3-ring binder and clear plastic sheet protectors for your show music.
4. A small notebook or a notes file on your phone that you can always have with you at practice to keep a record of drill notes.
5. A lyre and flip folder to hold stands music. You can get these on your own or through the school.
6. A water bottle – something you can bring to practice and have handy. Have this at **EVERY** practice!
7. Comfortable sneakers to use for practices as well as a hat and **SUNSCREEN**.
8. Various sundry other items that you will order through the band – there will be an order form.
 - A. Practice uniform (shorts and Band of Gold practice shirt) for all evening practices.
 - B. Guard/Drum tape
 - C. Uniform gloves and shoes – With the new uniforms, **ALL** Winds & Percussion will need to get these, as we will be switching to black gloves and shoes.
 - D. Theme shirts

HOW DO WE FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON?

- We will send information to you on a regular basis via e-mail. Please be sure to go on www.cuttime.net and sign up – every member and every parent should sign up! When you sign up, under “school/group” simply search for Largo High School.
- We also have a [website](http://www.LHSBandofGold.org) that is kept updated...it's not fancy, just informational – www.LHSBandofGold.org
- You can always e-mail or call and ask if you have a question!

Practice and Performance Schedule

Pre-Season Camp:

Mini-Camp #1: June 5 & June 6, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Mini-Camp #2: July 10, 11, & 12; 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Band Camp: July 24, 25, 26, 27, & 28; 12:00 noon – 9:00 pm
AND July 29, time TBA

Beginning July 31: Rehearsals are every **Monday** and **Thursday** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. these will continue through at least November 9 (if the football team makes the playoffs we will have a few more rehearsals).

FOOTBALL GAMES are generally on Friday nights, and **BAND CONTESTS** are generally on Saturdays – there will be several Friday night and Saturday events; be sure to regularly check the calendar to be sure that you have the most up-to-date and accurate information:

For the most current and complete calendar of Marching Band events, please refer to the calendar posted on our website:

<https://www.lhsbandofgold.org/events/>

Our Fall Schedule is not fully determined yet, but there are a few dates we know already:

Thursday, August 10	First Day of Classes
Friday, August 25	First Football Game (at Pinellas Park HS)
Friday, September 1	First HOME Football Game (vs. Lakeland HS)
Saturday, October 7	First Band Competition (Seminole Sound)
Saturday, November 11	FMBC State Semi-Finals

Fees and Fundraising

It does cost quite a bit of money to do all the things we do with the band...we need EVERYONE'S help to make it all happen. We work hard to keep our costs down and we try to fundraise as much as possible. Things you need to pay for fall into four categories:

1. Marching Band fees. These fees help pay for the instructional staff, travel costs, uniform cleaning, and so forth. We have kept these as low as we can – so we really do need EVERYONE'S help both in paying them in a timely manner AND in participating in our fundraisers. Our fees are among the absolute LOWEST in the county for a competitive marching band.
2. School insurance. It's very inexpensive; coverage is minimal; the school board requires it.
3. Instrument rental if you use a school-owned instrument. This fee is set by the county; last year it was \$60.00 for the year. Summer Rentals are \$35.00.
4. Supplies. This will be different for everyone; do know that we do our best to keep these costs as low as possible for everyone while still having what we need to perform effectively.

We do recognize that some families are in tougher financial situations than others. *We do not want any child to ever miss out on participating in our program because of financial concerns.* We have tried to keep our fees as low as possible, but if you are truly in financial difficulty we will work with you to find a solution.

In order for our program to be successful, we need EVERYONE to be timely with fee payments AND we need EVERYONE'S help with our fundraisers throughout the year!

Fees for the 2023 Marching Season are due on the following schedule:

August 10	\$50
September 10	\$50
October 10	\$50
November 10	\$50

Parents...we ALWAYS need your help! We ALL need to work together if our program is to maintain a high level of success. We'd love for you to get involved and have a voice in our program! Please contact our band booster president, Nicole Stockhausen, at either 727-454-5853 or nicole.stockhausen3@gmail.com to get started.