



Largo High School Band of Gold

Mr. Christopher Benoit, Band Director

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www.LHSBandofGold.org

Welcome to all 2024-2025 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.
- **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.

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 this 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.
 - 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. We use a service called “CutTime” to send out information throughout our program, and we also use will be using the Band app specifically with the marching band and indoor colorguard.
- 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 Training:

Percussion ONLY: Monday, May 20, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Colorguard ONLY: Tuesday & Wednesday, June 4 & 5, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

EVERYONE: Mondays, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22; 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Band Camp (EVERYONE): July 29, 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2; 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm
AND July 29, time TBA

Beginning August 5: Rehearsals are on

Mondays from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

These will continue through AT LEAST Nov. 7; longer if the football team is makes the playoffs (which they very often do!).

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/>

Some highlights from our schedule for the fall:

Mon., Aug 12 – First Day of School

Fri., Aug. 23 – First Football Game (Home v. Pinellas Park HS)

Sat., Aug. 24 – Rehearsal 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sat., Aug. 31 – TENTATIVE – USF “HOT DAY” (performance at USF football game)

Sat., Sept. 21 – Rehearsal 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Fri., Sept. 27 – HOMECOMING Football Game v. Palm Harbor UHS

Sat., Sept. 28 – Band Contest at Seminole HS

Sat. Oct. 5 – Band Contest at Newsome HS, Tampa

Sat., Oct. 19 – Band Contest at Palmetto Ridge HS

Fri., Nov. 1 – Senior Night football game v. Northeast HS

Sat., Nov. 2 – FBA Marching MPA, site TBA

Sat. Nov. 9 – FFCC Outdoor Championships, West Orange HS, Orlando

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 2024 Marching Season are due on the following schedule:

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|--------------|------|
| June 25 | \$60 |
| July 25 | \$60 |
| August 25 | \$60 |
| September 25 | \$60 |
| October 25 | \$60 |

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, Elizabeth Canning, at either 727-453-1644 or eliz83084@gmail.com to get started.