

What every new band parent needs to know...

What should you expect? Chaos...absolute chaos. Just kidding. The high school band can be as much fun for the parents as it is for the kids. You can sit back and listen, or you can volunteer to help with the band activities. There are many volunteer opportunities. Those include prop construction, serving food, organizing uniforms, loading and unloading equipment, trailer and 4-wheeler maintenance, etc. Hopefully, the information below will help clarify some of the chaos.

The directors are responsible for the music and the musicians. The Music Parents' Group supplies the roadies, the stage crew, the sound crew, the catering, and the truck drivers. We all work together to get the band and the equipment to the correct place at the correct time. Each year we work to make the process more organized and efficient. Hopefully, you will volunteer.

The following is a list of need-to-know type items as well as a brief description for some of the major band events. The events are somewhat listed in order as they occur throughout the year. Please check the calendars to obtain the dates and times.

How to keep track of the band activities

The directors will send out email reminders and schedules throughout the year. Please make certain that you are receiving those emails. The LSW Music website is <http://titanmusic.org/>. There is a calendar on the website. Keep in mind, the calendar also includes orchestra and choir activities. The band has a Facebook page. It is LSW Titan Pride Marching Band. You may also follow the band on Twitter at https://twitter.com/LSW_Music. The parents' group will send out emails throughout the year. The parents' group also uses Charms Office Assistant. You will access Charms through the internet. Charms contains a calendar, band documents, volunteer information, etc. Please refer to the [How to access Charms](#) document for instructions or contact a music parents' group officer. There is also a website called MidwestMarching.com. It contains a little information about the various marching competitions in the area. Compare the calendar provided by the directors to the events on MidwestMarching.com. You can then click on the events we are participating in to get more information. Check for updates as we get closer to the event date.

Here is the link <http://www.midwestmarching.com/2015/2015MO.htm>

Spirit Wear

It is nice to have matching shirts in order to find each other in a crowd and to let everyone know we are from LSW. (It is easier to embarrass your teenager if everyone knows they belong to you.)

Football Games

The band students will arrive at school prior to "call time". The call time is set by the director. Students will get into their uniforms at school. A small group of volunteer parents will meet early to gather water, the sound system, and other items. The volunteers will help make certain that the sound system and "Frontline equipment" (percussion) make it to the field. The band students will all sit together during the game. The band will perform the National Anthem, the half time show, and brief outbursts throughout the game. Parent volunteers will help get the Frontline and sound equipment on and off of the field. We will need parent volunteers to help supervise as the students get into their uniforms and as the uniforms are returned to their hangers and storage bags for the night. There is a fee to enter the football stadium as a spectator.

Marching Competitions

There will be a variety of marching competitions. Students must arrive at school prior to call time. There may sometimes be a practice session before loading. We will need parent volunteers to

supervise the loading. We will need parent volunteers to gather food, water, and various pieces of equipment. We will also need parent volunteers to supervise the uniform process throughout the day, just like football games. Sometimes, we may not return to the school until after bedtime. Some events will involve cooking/providing food for the entire band multiple times throughout the day. (Grilling for 100+ people is entertaining.) There may be warm-ups/practice throughout the day in addition to the performance. The color guard and percussion may have their own performances at some of the competitions. The color guard and percussion may also depart from school earlier than the rest of the band in order to make their scheduled performance times. We will all return to the school to unload together. There is generally a fee to enter the stadiums as a spectator.

Drummit At The Summit

This competition is for the percussion sections (Frontline and Battery). The percussion sections will meet at school prior to call time. We will generally load the percussion equipment into our trailers the morning of the competition. The call time and departure time will affect the loading time. The competition is at Lee's Summit High School. The students will perform, watch the other percussion groups, and return to school to unload. Parent volunteers will be needed to help supervise the loading and unloading of equipment. There is a fee to enter the stadium as a spectator.

Ice Cream Social

The ice cream social is a fundraiser for the music program. The music students sell tickets to the ice cream social. Many of the music students will perform during the ice cream social. Parent volunteers will be needed to set-up, cook, and serve (ice cream and food).

State Football Game

The post season games are usually marked on the Titanmusic.org calendar as "Possible Playoff Football Game". The band may perform on those dates if the team continues to progress through the playoffs. The band usually travels with the football team if they make it to the State game. The process is similar to a marching competition, except the travel day is longer. There is generally a fee to enter the stadium as a spectator.

All-District and All-State Band or Jazz Band

Your student will have an opportunity to try-out for the All-District Band or Jazz Band. Those students chosen for the all-district bands will have the opportunity to try-out for the all-state bands. Your student should contact their director at the beginning of the school year to obtain information if they are interested. The music is generally available near the beginning of school and the try-outs are in late fall/early winter.

Band Banquet (End of the marching season banquet)

This a banquet to bring the marching season to a close. This is a family event. Eating dinner and awards presentations are the primary activities for the banquet.

Jazz in the Courtyard

The Jazz bands from LSHS, LSNHS, LSW, and SLMS will perform in the courtyard at Lee's Summit West. This is a springtime event. This is generally a free event. Jazz band is a voluntary band for which students will try-out. Your student should listen for announcements if interested.

MSHSAA District Competition

This competition is hosted by Lee's Summit West. It is held at the school. Students will perform with the band, in ensembles, and as soloists. Soloists and small ensembles that receive a "1" rating will go on to the **MSHSAA State Competition** out of town. Hosting the district competition requires a small army of parent volunteers from the LSW music program. The list of volunteers includes registration staff, room monitors, stage hands, and concessions. It is a great opportunity to

hear a lot of music. When you are scheduled to volunteer, care will be taken to ensure that you will have an opportunity to hear your own student perform.

Cavalcade of Bands

This is a gathering of elementary, SLMS, and LSW bands in the Lee's Summit West gymnasium. You will have an opportunity to hear music from each school level. This is generally a free event.

Music Awards Program

There will be an LSW Music awards program in the LSW PAC near the end of the school year. The directors will present a variety of awards, music letters, and scholarships. Make certain that your student knows how to obtain a "letter" in music early in the school year. They will then need to complete the music letter form. The form listing the requirements is available through Charms. Music patches will also be available to order.

How to access parent/student information in

CHARMS

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com, and click the “ENTER/LOG IN” link at upper right.
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following School Code:

lswhsmusic

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the “public” calendar for your organization, event list, handouts and other files.
- Clicking on an event on the calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements, volunteer opportunities, and other event details. Note that if a calendar event is specifically assigned to your child, it may NOT show up on this calendar – check the “Student” calendar after entering the secured portion of the website (see below).
- To enter the secured portion of the website for the first time you will use your student’s Lee’s Summit student ID number as the password. You will then be taken to another more detailed screen with even more options to view your student’s uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Once you have first entered this ID number, you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the “lock” icon (***Change Password***).
- Two areas in which you can help the director maintain the records:
 - **Update Personal Information** – if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your child’s student information page (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teachers communicate with you more effectively. Click the Student icon near the top of the of the screen and then the ***Personal Information*** tab.
 - **If your program has setup online payments, you can make credit card payments for fees, trips and deposits to your student’s account.** If credit card payment is activated, you will see blue buttons in the four main areas of the financial statement indicating your ability to make online payments.
- You will also see links to enter ***Practice Logs***, view ***Grades***, and use the ***Recording Studio*** if the teacher has enabled these options.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. Stay up to date on what’s going on with your student!