



LITCHFIELD MARCHING DRAGONS

PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to the 2022 Marching Dragons summer season!

This year's parent handbook includes information you and your student will need for the upcoming season. The goal is to provide you with important information up front, so you can plan accordingly for the season.

Included in the handbook:

1. Fees associated with Marching Band
2. Uniform guidelines – band & color guard
3. Important dates/events prior to parade season
4. Band camp highlights/tips/schedule
5. Parade schedule (a parade packet with maps, parade routes and more details will be available at band camp)
6. Important dates/events in June
7. Parent/student expectations
8. Parade chaperone duties

Follow and like us on:

Facebook: Litchfield Marching Band | **Instagram:** litchfieldmarchingband

Band website: www.litchfieldband.com

Band email: dceasar@isd465.org

Fees for the 2022 marching season

- Activity fee: \$95.00 - *payable to Litchfield High School*

Payable to Band Boosters:

For Band and Honor Guard members:

- Band camp: \$65.00
- Band shoes: \$20.00
- Two T-shirts: \$15.00
- Gloves: \$5.00
- Uniform maintenance: \$10.00
- Garment bag: \$10.00

Purchase on your own: black socks. Band members must wear black socks that rise to at least mid-calf with no writing or decoration. NO ankle socks!

For Color Guard:

- Band camp: \$65.00
- Color guard shoes \$22.00
- Two T-shirts: \$15.00
- Color guard costume: cost to be determined
- Garment bag: \$10.00

>> We do not want cost to be the reason a student doesn't participate in marching band. The Band Boosters have set aside money for scholarships to help cover part or all of the cost for students who cannot afford to pay marching band fees. Please talk with Mr. Ceasar privately to make arrangements. We do not offer scholarship funds to pay for the band trip. We also cannot offer scholarship funds to pay for the LHS activity fee; please talk to the high school activities director regarding that payment.

* All prices are subject to change.

Optional band trip:

- Myrtle Beach: Cost is approximately \$900. Half of the payment is due at Uniform Night; the remainder is due on the first day of band camp. The band trip is open to band students who currently are in ninth through 12th grades.

Uniform guidelines

To keep our band uniforms in good condition, please follow these guidelines:

1. Wear deodorant – Band members sweat a lot during each parade. We cannot wash the uniforms after every parade, and they start to smell after wearing once. It's important to wear deodorant every day. If you do not have any, please see a chaperone before each parade, and we will provide some.

2. Garment bags – Uniforms must be properly hung on the hanger that is provided with the uniform, and kept in the garment bag purchased at Uniform Night. Uniforms **CANNOT** be stored in a plastic garment bag. Uniforms tend to be very sweaty after parades; plastic will not allow the fabric to dry completely before the next parade.

3. The only item allowed to be stored in the garment bag is the uniform. Shoes, socks, T-shirts, etc., cannot be stored in the bottom or back pocket of the bag. These items are usually sweaty and smelly after parades. We are trying to keep the uniforms in good condition for many years. Also, things in the bottom of the bag can be heavy, causing the bag to rip out from the bottom. Space in the trailers is at a premium - shoes and other items in the bottom, or back pocket of the bag do not allow us to hang as many bags on each rack. Your child must have a separate bag for all other items apart from their uniform. Chaperones will check the garment bags before they are rolled into the trailer at the end of each parade and remove shoes, socks, etc. It's a good idea to put your child's name in the shoes.

4. Gloves - Uniforms will be worn with gloves. A limited number are available from chaperones at each parade, if students forget to bring their pair. We do not loan out gloves. Once they are worn at a parade, they become the student's and must be purchased. Gloves need to be kept clean and in good condition. If they are not, the student will be asked to purchase new ones. Any outstanding bill for gloves purchased at parades or on the trip will be sent to the parents at the end of the season or taken out of their band account.

5. Color Guard costumes - The sergeants will tell the Color Guard when to wash their costumes, if they can. Some costumes can be washed using the following procedure:

Turn the costume inside out, place in a pillow case and tie shut. Wash on gentle cycle with 1 tablespoon of detergent. Hang to dry indoors.

6. Hats - Marching band hats must be stored in the box they come in and placed on the rack in the trailer.

7. Band T-Shirts - Marching band T-shirts must be worn following every parade. After a parade, no student will be allowed to leave the bus if they are not wearing the band shirt from this year. We rely on the color and design of the shirt to allow our chaperones to see our students within a crowd. Please remember to bring your band shirt every time.

Mark your calendar

April-June: Marching band practice - Students/parents, see the monthly Marching Dragons calendars for a schedule of sectional and whole band practices.

Drumline and color guard members will receive an additional schedule sheet of rehearsal times to be aware of. Also, check the band website for information that might change and or be revised, www.litchfieldband.com, click on the marching band tab.

Sunday, April 24: Uniform Night - Students AND at least one parent MUST attend this night. Students are fitted for a uniform, hat, gloves, and shoes; band fees need to be paid and half of the band trip cost must be paid. Students are scheduled to come based on the grade they are in. From 4-5 p.m. will be 11th- and 12th-graders; 5-6 p.m. are 10th-graders; 6-7 p.m. are ninth-graders; 7-8 p.m. are eighth-graders. Younger siblings who are marching can come with an older sibling at their time. Bring your student's completed medical form.

Monday, May 30: Litchfield Memorial Day Parade - All Marching Band members must be at the high school band room by 8:00 a.m. to get dressed in your uniform and warm up. We will march to Central Park and then march and perform in the Memorial Day parade. This is your first chance to perform, so be at your best. You will be done by 11 a.m. Be sure to bring all items to wear with your uniform - shoes, gloves, black socks, etc.

May 23 - May 31: M&M Week - Music and Marching basics, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the high school. We will practice on the street for the first time and learn our marching formations. **Music should be memorized** and ready to play for your section leader.

June 8-10: Band Camp - Band camp begins. See later in this handbook the schedule for each day, what to bring, etc. These three days will be dedicated to perfecting our show.

You must be at these rehearsals. For without you, we cannot be our best.

**You will make a big difference if you are at practice working hard,
with positive team concepts, and a caring and winning attitude.**

A special thank you to all parents/guardians for your involvement with the Litchfield Marching Band program. Without each of you, our program could not continue to be successful. We look forward to a great summer. Enjoy watching and cheering on the Marching Dragons, as we take to the streets for the summer parade season.

Band Camp

Band camp is fun, but it's a lot of work. Come with a water bottle and a positive attitude. Please note: All remaining fees must be paid by the start of band camp. If your student will be going on the band trip, the cost of the trip must be paid in full by the start of band camp.

This year's camp will be:

- June 8-10 (Wednesday - Friday) at **Litchfield Civic Arena**
- Check in: 8:00 a.m. June 8

Things you need to know:

1. Students will go home each night of Band Camp to sleep. Students are encouraged to go directly home, shower, rehydrate, get a good night's sleep, and eat a healthy breakfast before coming to band camp the next morning.
2. Students will be outside a lot to practice. Please bring and use sunscreen, bring a refillable water bottle, and wear clothes appropriate for sun and rain.
3. We will provide lunch and supper, as well as snacks, during camp. If students have a severe food allergy, they should notify Mr. Ceasar ahead of time and provide an EpiPen (if needed) in case of emergency. Students can bring their own food/snacks to eat during meal breaks; however we provide plenty of food.
4. The second night of Band Camp, we will have our Sneak Peek dress rehearsal at 7 p.m. for the public. We will wear our full uniforms as a way to get our pre-parade routine in order. The band will run the show around the big block of the high school on the street.

What to bring to Band Camp:

Since we will be at the Litchfield Civic Arena, parents can bring up anything that students forget. However, try to remember the basics:

- Your music and instrument
- Refillable water bottle
- Garment bag/gloves/band shoes/black socks (for Sneak Peek)
- Medications (EpiPen, inhaler, meds taken during the day)
- Clothes for marching (shorts, T-shirt, sweatpants, sweatshirts/light jacket)
- Tennis shoes/comfortable closed-toe shoes
- Baseball cap, sunglasses
- Sunscreen, Chapstick
- Snacks if you want them (we will have plenty)
- Most importantly, a good attitude!



Band Camp schedule

Band Camp is a time when the entire band is singularly focused on the goal of becoming a competitive unit on the summer circuit. We bring in additional music staff to help with teaching and critique of the group. Below is a tentative schedule of events for the three days.

Wednesday, June 8

8:00 a.m.: Check in at *Litchfield Civic Arena*

9:00 a.m. - noon: Rehearsal

Noon - 1:15 p.m.: Lunch/break

1:15 - 5:00 p.m.: Rehearsal

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.: Sectionals

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.: Full group

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.: Dinner/break

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.: Full group rehearsal



Thursday, June 9



8:00 a.m. - noon: Rehearsal

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.: Full group warm-up

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.: Sectionals

10:00 a.m. - noon: Full group rehearsal

Noon - 1:15 p.m.: Lunch/break

1:15 - 5 p.m.: Rehearsal

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.: Sectionals

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.: Full group

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.: Dinner/break

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.: Full group dress rehearsal/Sneak Peek starts at 7 p.m.

8:30 - 11:00 p.m.: Evening activities



Friday, June 10



9:00 a.m. - noon: Full Group Rehearsal

Parents: Please pick up your student(s) at noon if they don't have a car.

2022 Parade schedule

- May 30 - Memorial Day:** Call time at 8:00 a.m., parade time: 9:15 a.m.
- June 9 - Sneak Peek:** Band Camp preview show at high school: 7:00 p.m.
- June 12 - Albertville:** Depart at 10:00 a.m., parade time: 12:30 p.m.
- June 13 - Litchfield Parade of Bands:** Call time 5:00 pm, parade time: 6:00 p.m.
- June 14 - Benson:** Depart at 3:30 p.m., parade time: 6:30 p.m.
- June 18 - Montevideo:** Depart at 8:30 a.m., parade time: 11:00 a.m.
- June 18 - Waconia:** Depart from Montevideo, parade time: 6:00 p.m.
- June 19 - Hutchinson:** Depart at 11:00 a.m., parade time: 1:00 p.m.
- June 25 - Glencoe (exhibition):** Depart at 9:00 a.m., parade time: 11:00 a.m.
- June 25 - Eden Valley (exhibition):** Depart at 4:30 p.m., parade time: 6:00 p.m.
- June 26 - Lake City:** Depart at 9:00 a.m., parade time: 2:00 p.m.
- June 27 - Roseville:** Depart at 2:30 p.m., parade time: 6:15 p.m.
- June 30-July 6 (tentative):** Myrtle Beach band trip (optional, 9-12th grades only)
- July 9 - Litchfield Watercade:** Call time at 5:30 p.m., parade time: 6:00 p.m.

Parade depart times

Depart times are typically calculated using drive time and warm-up before the start time of the parade. Some variations do occur in both directions, determined by distance of parade and parade placement. Call time for students and chaperones will be prior to the departure time. These times are subject to change, so please pay attention to last-minute notifications.

Practices

Practices sometimes are held on mornings between parades from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., depending on the amount of practice needed. Summer school students and driver's education students are released from band practice early to attend those classes. Practices will proceed even on rainy days.

WE ARE GOING TO ROCK!

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Invite family and friends to join you in liking us on:

Facebook: Litchfield Marching Band | **Instagram:** litchfieldmarchingband

Litchfield Parade of Bands - June 13

This is one of the best bands-only parades in the state. Our community will have a chance to support us, and we will provide them with entertainment from our hometown band as well as other marching bands from across the state. Encourage friends and family to attend for great music and food!

Marching Band photos - June 13

Individual, section and large group photos are taken the same day as the Litchfield Parade of Bands. Photo times and location to be determined. Tentative photo schedule at Central Park:

- 1:20 p.m. - Low Brass & Trombones
- 1:40 p.m. - Flutes & Trumpets
- 2:00 p.m. - Drumline
- 2:20 p.m. - Alto Saxes and Mellos - Tenor Saxes
- 2:40 p.m. - Clarinets and Honor Guard/Props
- 3:00 p.m. - Color Guard
- **4:00 p.m. - Full group photo at location TBD**

If you would like to order individual and section photos, Country Gallery envelopes will be given to all students the week of Parade of Bands. The full group photo will be taken by Dan Gelle and will be available in digital format by the end of the season.

Important notes

- **Grades matter** - Students who fail a spring quarter class cannot march until the school allows it.
- **Medical forms** must be returned to the drum major by Uniform Night. Students will not be allowed to march without this form on file.
- **Marching band fees** - All fees must be paid in full by the first day of band camp. Your LHS student activity fee must be paid to the LHS office. All marching band fees and band camp fees must be paid to the Band Boosters.
- **Band trip payment** - Half of the band trip cost must be paid at Uniform Night. The remaining amount must be paid by the first day of band camp. **Any deposits or payments made toward a band trip are non-refundable.** We make plans based on the number of students going on the trip and must pay for many trip costs upfront.
- **Rested, fed and hydrated** - Make sure your son/daughter has plenty of rest, eaten well and drinks plenty of fluids **before** practices and especially **before** parades. Students should bring water to practices. Students are required to bring a full water bottle on the bus to each parade, and they must drink that water before stepping off the bus so they are hydrated and ready to march.

What to expect for Parade Days

- **Parade Day call times** - The call time for parade days is 30 minutes before the depart time unless otherwise changed by the director. Some pre-departure meetings will happen on days when judges' comments will be evaluated as a group for deeper learning. Those changes of call time will be announced on the trip home from the previous event and will be followed up with a Remind text.
- **Traveling on the bus** - Our trips out of town will be on motorcoach buses equipped with air-conditioning and bathrooms. While on the bus, if you have a need for something urgent, please ask the bus chaperones for help.
- **Food and water** - Some of our band trips are a few hours away and happen between meal times. It is advisable to bring a small cooler or bag with snacks and/or meals to eat while traveling before and after the parade. Water will be provided after the parade; however, bring a full, refillable water bottle to drink on the bus before and after the parade.
- **DVDs/movies** (PG-13 or lower) - can be watched on the bus. Discretion will be used by the chaperones to stop or not allow movies to be played.
- **Parents can bring students home:** Parents are welcome to bring their student home after a parade but must provide a written note to their bus chaperone and must be present to pick them up. (We can not release students to go find any parents in a different location.)

Band chaperone duties

The band depends on chaperones to help at parades. Please consider volunteering. It's a fun way to get to know the students and hear great music!

Prior to departure

1. Arrive at Litchfield High School parking lot at least 15 minutes before student call time.
2. Attend a brief instructional meeting with the other chaperones and Band Booster officers for chaperone job assignments and bus assignments.
3. Fill coolers with ice and water.
4. Pull out racks from trailers so students can load their instruments and uniforms onto racks.
5. Load racks back into trailers and secure.
7. Check with Band Booster officers for other duties.

On the bus

1. Sit in the front of the bus – at least two chaperones per bus.
2. Before departing, refer to the binder on the bus which has a list of students on the bus. Ask students on your bus to count off and be sure everyone is on the bus. If a student is absent/not excused, notify Mr. Caesar on bus 1 before leaving and note it on the roll call list.
3. Students may bring DVDs (PG or PG-13 only) to watch on the bus system.

Arrival at parade, prior to marching

1. Unload trailers of instrument racks, uniform racks, color guard flags/decorations.
2. Set up tables and serve water.
3. Encourage students to be responsible for garbage pick-up, and respect for property.
4. Most girls will dress on the buses; ask all male chaperones and bus drivers to stay off the buses at that time.
5. Distribute plumes.
7. As band members are warming up, secure students' long hair under hats with bobby pins and hairspray found in fanny packs in the trailer.
9. Review the appearance of students - that they have their gloves, shoes are tied, etc.

During the parade

1. You will be given a position for walking with the band.
2. Watch your group closely for signs of overheating or other injury. If a student cannot continue marching, please pull them out and off to the side of the street – preferably in a shady, grassy area. Let one of the officers know, if possible. For overheating, have the student lie down, unzip their jacket, and take off their shoes and socks. Give them water. Parade officials have first responders available, if needed.
3. Students are required to drink water on the bus. However, if a student asks for water while on the parade route, some chaperones will carry water bottles, which students can use between performances.
4. Try to stay off the street as much as possible – especially in the judging area. You may kneel down off to the side, while the band is being judged, and catch up after they have completed their show. Be careful not to obstruct the view of parade watchers.

After the band is done marching

1. Set up water tables and allow students to refill their own water bottles.
2. Collect plumes and put them away carefully to minimize damage.
3. Make sure uniforms are neatly hung on racks. Be sure no other items are in the garment bag – socks, T-shirts, shoes, gloves, etc. If things are in the bag, take them out.
4. Help load instruments onto the racks.
5. Load racks, tables, garbage cans into trailers and secure.
6. Check area for garbage, instruments, uniforms etc., and place on the trailers.
7. Attend the awards ceremony.
8. Board the bus, and call roll again. Everyone who came on your bus should ride home on your bus. A student needs to give you a written, dated, signed note if they are riding home with their parents. They may only ride home with their parents.

Arrival at the LHS parking lot

1. Pass a garbage bag around the bus for students to throw their garbage in. One chaperone on each bus should stay on the bus after the kids exit to check for any forgotten items and pick up any mess before buses leave the parking lot.
2. Other chaperones should unload trailers, so students can get their instrument and uniform.
3. Empty water coolers, leave lids off to dry, and put them back in the trailer.
3. Bring garbage to school garbage cans.
4. Check with Booster Officers if anything else needs to be done before you leave.