

**JACKSON LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL
LIBERTY LION BAND
125 N. HOPE CHAPEL RD
JACKSON, NJ 08527
(732) 833-4600 ext. 7310
FAX (732) 415 - 7099**

Dear Band Member,

Welcome to the Jackson Liberty High School Band program! We are confident that your participation in the program will be an enriching one in many ways. As a member of the band, you will be exposed to many performance opportunities and a wide variety of musical groups and styles. You will have the opportunity to meet members from other bands throughout the state, the region and the country. Band is not only a musical organization, but also a social organization - both curricular and extracurricular in its scope. The Jackson Liberty Band program is focused on achieving the highest level of excellence in both its performance and community obligations. For this reason, the program requires a level of commitment that may not be found in other school activities.

Enclosed in this manual is the information you will need for the coming school year concerning band camp, band schedule, the grading system, the awards system, rules and regulations and performance groups, as well as the forms you will need to complete to become a member of the program.

Please read through the manual with your parents, and if you have any questions, feel free to call us at the school at 833-4700, extension 7310.

Sincerely

Mr. S. Katona- Band Director
sskatona@jacksonsd.org

IMPORTANT SUMMER SCHEDULE

Evening Music Rehearsals:

These rehearsals introduce band members to each other and to the year's musical selections. It also allows the musicians to become more familiar with the high school music program. Music will be distributed to new members at this time. Rehearsals are usually held from 6 pm to 9 pm in the high school band room Wednesday and Thursday evenings starting in July. Section leaders will notify the students of the exact dates and times.

Percussionists:

The percussion section may start rehearsals as soon as April. Again, students will be notified by the section leader as to dates and times.

Guard Rehearsals:

These rehearsals introduce guard members to each other and to the year's field work. Rehearsals are usually held two evenings per week. The focus of these rehearsals is to introduce the members to proper color guard techniques. (Spinning flags, sabers and rifles as well as dancing) Exact dates and times are determined by the availability of the Guard Instructor and Guard Advisor.

Band Camp:

Band Camp is the most important rehearsal opportunity available to the band and the program. The music and marching routine for the entire fall season is learned, uniforms are fitted, and students develop the esprit de corps necessary for such a large organization to function successfully. Due to the fact that Marching Band takes up almost the first quarter of the school year performing at football games, competitions, festivals, parades, pep rallies and other community events, a student cannot sign up for concert band only. To that extent, to be a member of the concert band, the student is also required be a part of the marching band and attend an 8 day band camp in August. Please schedule your vacation plans accordingly. It is also expected the student will attend summer night rehearsals in July. Attendance at band camp is crucial to both the band's success and your success.

Band Camp will be held in AUGUST over a 2 week period at the high school on the following schedule:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st week of CAMP | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Monday-Thursday |
| That FRIDAY | 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Pizza party 12:00-1:00 |
| 2nd week of CAMP | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Monday-Wednesday |
| That WEDNESDAY | Picnic @ Candlewood | 4:30-7:30 p.m. |

Please send in Picnic Form if planning to attend

**A SPECIFIC DATE FLYER WILL BE ISSUED EACH
SCHOOL YEAR**

Because the band camp schedule is so demanding, we ask that you:

- **dress comfortably and school appropriate**
- **wear sneakers with socks (no sandals or clogs, please)**
- **bring lunch and plenty to drink (soda makes you sick) minimum 3-4 water bottles**
- **wear hats and arrive with sunscreen already applied and bring more with you**
- **bring a chair or towel to sit on during break times**

Make sure you bring necessary reeds and oil for your instrument. Each student will be responsible for providing their own music flip-folder and music lyre.

Band Camp is not just a time to practice and march out in the hot sun. It is also an excellent time to establish lasting friendships with other band members; this also serves as a wonderful transition for incoming freshman entering the high school.

BAND RULES AND REGULATIONS

Jackson Liberty High School rules and regulations will be enforced at all times and in all places where the band travels or performs.

No student will be permitted to perform unless the school permission/health form, and band contract have been completed, signed and returned to the band directors.

All marching band music must be memorized.

Each member will remain in full uniform at all performances unless otherwise instructed.

All members will leave and return with the band for all performances.

No parents, friends or relatives will be permitted to ride the band buses to or from performances.

All members will sit in their respective sections with the band - friends and family will not be permitted to sit with the band during performances.

Each member is responsible for his or her own stand music and music lyre at football games.

No food will be permitted in the stands during football games. Adequate time will be provided for members to eat during the game.

Discretion in personal relationships is to be observed at all times (no PDA).

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT RULES Each student needs to purchase the following equipment: band shirt for warm weather performances, band or guard shoes, one pair of socks, and a garment bag for storing your uniform. Guard members must purchase a leotard and panty hose. In addition, the uniform will require dry-cleaning approximately twice during the season. These items can be purchased through the Band Parents Association at cost. In addition, band jackets may be offered for purchase at intervals during the school year.

Each band member will put his/her hair under his/her hat.

Each band member will keep his/her uniform clean and properly stored. Unprofessional-looking or incomplete uniforms may not be permitted on the field.

****Each band member will keep his/her instrument in a proper state of repair and cleanliness. Instruments are to be kept in their cases when not in use. Students are responsible for repair and upkeep of school-loaned instruments, including repair or replacement costs. *Instruments do not break by themselves!*

FALL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE Each student needs to be at evening rehearsals scheduled for Wednesday evenings from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Fridays directly after school from 2:00-5:00 p.m. In the event there is a home football game, we will stay through.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is based on the following factors:

- adherence to the Band Rules and Regulations and the Equipment and Uniform Rules
- attendance at band rehearsals and performances
- promptness to rehearsals and performances
- preparedness for rehearsals and performances
 - is instrument/equipment in good order
 - is uniform clean and pressed
 - is music, drill and work learned (memorized and practiced outside of school time)
- quality and quantity of effort during rehearsals
- display of work/leadership habits
- continual improvement at each student's individual level
 - is practice at home productive
 - do YOU see or hear your child practice
 - does your child take advantage of all playing opportunities
 - is your child performing and playing better each week
- timely and full completion of assignments
 - is music, drill and work learned (memorized and practiced outside of school time)
- are all performance tests completed

Above all, it must be remembered that each student is measured individually AND as a member of the group. So we need to ask not only how is my child doing, but also, how is he/she contributing to the benefit of the entire band. Both must be in balance for your child to get as much out of the Band program as possible. This is what makes the Band program special - each member gains something from the experience AND the Band gains from your child's contribution. Most of all, remember, without YOUR support and encouragement, neither the Band nor your child will be successful!

Performance Groups

Marching Band (incl. Colorguard)
Jazz Ensemble
Woodwind Choir
Wind Ensemble

Concert Band
The Musical – (pit orchestra)
Percussion Ensemble
Student Ensembles

Transport & Equipment Vehicles

All Band members will help load instruments and equipment onto and all buses and trailers at the “directions” of the equipment crew. (this will not only include the member’s own instrument, but props, accessories, and other instruments as needed)

***Failure to follow directions can result in disciplinary action

Carry more than one instrument OFF the bus if possible. Step away from the buses and let the equipment crew do their job. ONCE you have your instrument, LATCH your case. Once the equipment bus is unloaded, you will put YOUR case back on the bus.

***Failure to follow directions can result in disciplinary action

On the Transport Buses. You must keep the Bus CLEAN at all times. No throwing things out the windows. You must keep your head and hands inside the bus at all times. No Horseplay on the buses, and most of all...NO PDA!!!

***Failure to follow directions can result in disciplinary action

On the Golf Carts or Trailers. You are NOT allowed to ride on any unless you have special permission to hold drum sets or equipment from falling over or you are having a health problem. It will be the Directors’ decision ONLY, to allow you to be on the vehicle.

***Failure to follow directions can result in disciplinary action

special note: **Student pick-up is done in the parking lot, not at the curb.** Parents who are picking up their children should allow approximately 15 minutes after the buses return to the school before expecting to leave, so BUSES may be unloaded, and the Band may have a special meeting in the Band room at the conclusion of the day to discuss performance and upcoming schedule.

Attendance:

Being a member of the marching band requires a high level of commitment and dedication. As you can imagine, once the marching routine is established, it is very difficult to perform well if there are holes or empty spaces. The marching band does not have the option of filling missing members since all members have a designated role and play at every performance! Attendance is expected at all practices and performances unless there is a valid personal reason, such as illness or family emergency. If you are aware in advance of a potential problem, please speak with the band director.

Non-Band Related Activities:

The staff recognizes that there is life outside of marching band. However, new band members should remember that being a member will require the same type of effort as is expected by the sports teams, drama groups, cheerleading squads, etc.

Academic Matters:

The band staff understands that academic matters take precedence. They encourage students to stay current with their homework. Students will need to further develop their organizational skills in order to avoid missing practice sessions.

Other Extracurricular Activities:

Many students still manage to find time to participate in certain other extracurricular activities. Some even have part-time employment. However, regarding his or her overall load, they will probably want to be selective during the active marching season. (September – mid November)

Band Parents Organization:

In order to keep up the same level of support, new parent volunteers are necessary and welcome. There are many types of tasks available such as helping to sew uniforms, build props, cook and serve food for the band, and serving as a chaperone. Some only involve a few hours of time whereas others involve taking charge of a major activity. Some can be done from home. If you are interested, feel free to attend a meeting or contact an officer. Volunteer medical forms are required.

Meetings take place at Jackson Liberty H.S. the second Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30pm. Meetings are held in the high school chorus room, next to the band room. Notice is usually given in advance if meeting will be cancelled. PLEASE NOTE: we are only permitted to be in these two rooms during our Band Parents Organization meetings, the rest of the building is off-limits.