

# Freshman Parent's Guide to Marching Band

**Website:** Yes, we have a website: [www.libertylionband.com](http://www.libertylionband.com) **ALL** information such as schedules, directions, competition results, ensemble information, and board contact info is posted there! Check it out often!

**Phone/Text/Email Chain:** a system of quick communication with the parents when the schedule changes last minute  
Parents will select the method of notification on the contract sign page: by phone, email or text.

**Vouchers:** Store gift cards for Stop & Shop and Shop Rite, used same as cash, at face value with a percentage profit going to the band parents association as a fundraiser.

**Scrips:** gift cards from a long list of stores that can be purchased at face value and also giving the band a percentage profit.

**Kohls:** special fundraising gift cards that are purchased at face value and giving the band a percentage profit.  
(Can use these special cards to pay your Kohls credit card. )

**Hospitality:** a group of parents involved with the feeding the band - Students will be fed prior to some competitions, between a football game and competition that occur on the same day, and when there is a home football game and the students have "stayed through". There are also traditional dinners that are held at the end of the season. Please volunteer.

**Band wear:** (not required) includes a variety of member apparel that can be purchased by students/parents that includes sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, duffle bags, jackets etc. can be ordered at any time.

**Red Band Polo Shirts:** These are a **required** item for the student and is worn at parades, pep-rallies  
And when it rains... They do not have to be purchased annually, but they are expected to have one when needed. They are only ordered during the summer practices. Parents can also purchase to show support at various band events and competitions.

**Marching Band Uniform:** Your student /guard member will be issued a uniform, hat and garment bag. The numbers inside these are kept on file with the band. You are responsible for dry cleaning it occasionally and definitely when it is dirty. Magic Touch on New Prospect only charges a small fee. This uniform is very expensive and must be returned in the spring DRY CLEANED and in good condition. You will receive a price list with the uniform.

**Marching band Shoes:** These are a **required** purchase for the student and part of the uniform. They are ordered during the summer practices.

**Tan Pants/Shorts:** Each student will be **required** to have a pair of tan pants/shorts for parades and at the discretion of Mr. Katona. This item is not purchased through the band parents, any tan/khaki pants or shorts are appropriate. (school dress code enforced)

**Equipment Crew:** group of parents involved with the staging of show props, instruments and equipment used by the band during a show. Please volunteer.

**Membership:** for a nominal fee allows participation in The Band Parents Association to allow for voting and chairing volunteer committees. The fee is for **NON-STUDENTS** only, your Band member is already a member!

**Bagging:** Currently held at Stop & Shop. A monthly (most of the time) fundraiser which has 5 students per shift bag groceries on an "all tip basis" Each bagging date allows us to have 20 students participate. Money generated goes into the general fund. Participation by all students is expected.

**Fundraising:** Parents involved in the raising money to facilitate support and otherwise provide money for the organization EX: raffles, dining out nights, open to suggestions!!!! Please volunteer!

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## Open positions for marching season:

- Equipment hauler with a truck hitch to pull the trailers
- Photographer/ Video at football games and competitions
- Chaperones must fill out the Volunteer Medical Release Form

## Frequent answers to common questions:

**The "SHOW":** is a 15 minute performance by the students that includes marching and music.

The students are both musicians and Colorguard. The Colorguard is a visual part of the show that is integrated into the marching band. Props are typically used as well.

**The "SHOW"** is performed at competitions and at half time of home football games and prior to away football games. Competitions typically take place on Saturday evenings at various High Schools throughout the state. (occasional Sundays) The performance is judged by professionals who also provide notes to the band director for strengths and weaknesses.

The new band season starts on July 1 with summer practices beginning shortly thereafter.

A **mandatory band camp** will run for 1 and ½ weeks in August. The student is expected to memorize their music by the end of summer practices. See flyer.

**Uniform sizing** and distribution will take place during Band Camp.

**Red band Polo & Shoe order** forms are given out in the beginning July and due back by the middle of July in order to receive them during band camp. Parent's are encouraged to order polos for themselves to show support for the band when you are in the stands!

**FORMS:** there are a number of permission slips, medical forms and necessary paperwork that is distributed and required. Please return these forms in July, **BEFORE** band camp starts.... **Medical release forms are extremely important** for the director to have at all times when traveling with the band or at band camp/summer practices to assist with medical history.

**Please know that we all have been a Freshman Parent at some time, we realize it can be very overwhelming. There are no "dumb" questions, please feel free to ask any questions that you have. Check the website (listed below) for information and also email addresses for board members that you can contact at any time.**

**Parental participation and attendance at all band functions (competitions, parades, football games, performances) are strongly encouraged. Do not let your child tell you that you cannot or do not need to attend. We strive to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for**

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band members at Liberty High School. The support of band parents is necessary and critical to the success of the Marching Band Program.

All board members have an email address link on the Liberty Lion Band website [www.libertylionband.com](http://www.libertylionband.com)

At competitions and such, the HOSTING band will have fundraisers of their own usually consisting of:

**AIR GRAMS:** this is a "shout out" to your band/guard member saying anything you choose. Usually \$1.00 and is announced over the loud speaker as the band takes the field and sets up. Kids love these!

**CANDY/WATER GRAMS:** this is a gift that you may send your band/guard member. There is usually a selection of candy and you write a note on a sticker and it will get delivered to your student after their performance. These are generally \$1.00, but sometimes more

**Basket Raffles, 50/50, Food and vending:** All are optional, but this is how other bands make money. So please participate if you can.

Feel free to bring a seat cushion, blanket or anything else that may make you comfortable while sitting in the bleacher stands! Please keep in mind that competitions usually start in the daylight hours, ending when it is dark and much colder! Feel free to order "bandwear" for yourself to wear proudly at all band events! We tend to sit together, and you are so very welcome to join us!!!!