

LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING SPARTANS

BAND MEMBER COMMITMENT HANDBOOK

Membership in the Marching Spartans is a commitment to your fellow musicians, your directors, your school, and yourself.

Every member plays an important role in the success of the program. Whether this is your first season or your final season, all members are expected to demonstrate **preparation, accountability, respect, discipline, teamwork, and pride.**

ONE BAND. ONE SOUND. ONE FAMILY.

SHOW UP. BE PREPARED. WORK HARD. SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

1 THE BAND MEMBER COMMITMENT

By choosing to participate in the Marching Spartans, students commit to:

- Attend required rehearsals and performances.
- Arrive prepared and on time.
- Practice and learn assigned music and drill.
- Maintain and care for instruments, uniforms, and equipment.
- Respect directors, staff, volunteers, student leaders, and fellow members.
- Maintain appropriate academic standing.
- Communicate conflicts appropriately.
- Represent Lakewood High School positively.
- Support fellow band members.
- Accept instruction and correction.
- Give consistent effort.

No member is expected to be perfect. Every member is expected to be committed.

2 ATTENDANCE & RELIABILITY

Marching band depends on every member. One missing person can affect an entire section or performance.

Students should make every effort to attend:

- Band camp
- Scheduled rehearsals
- Football games
- Performances
- Parades
- Competitions, if applicable
- Required band events
- Other events designated by the Band Director

Early communication is always better than last-minute communication.

3 BAND CAMP

Band camp establishes the foundation for the marching season. Students will spend significant time learning and reviewing music, marching fundamentals, drill, field positions, performance routines, section responsibilities, game-day expectations, and band procedures.

PREPARED FOR REHEARSAL	NOT PERMITTED
✓ Instrument & required equipment	X Sandals
✓ Music & pencil	X Flip-flops
✓ Large refillable water bottle	X Crocs
✓ Comfortable athletic clothing	X Open-toed shoes
✓ Athletic shoes with socks	X Jeans
✓ Sunscreen	X Heavy/inappropriate outdoor clothing
✓ Hat/sunglasses when appropriate	X Arriving without appropriate footwear
✓ Personal hygiene items	X Arriving without water
✓ Director-required materials	
✓ Positive, coachable attitude	

FLORIDA HEAT IS SERIOUS: Hydrate BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER rehearsal.

4 REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Early is on time. Arrive completely prepared when rehearsal begins.

- Listen when directors, staff, or designated student leaders are speaking.
- Keep phones put away unless permission is given.
- Have required materials available.
- Bring a pencil and mark corrections.
- Remain attentive when another section is receiving instruction.
- Move quickly when asked to reset.
- Follow instructions the first time they are given.
- Respect instruments, equipment, and facilities.
- Encourage teammates.
- Accept constructive correction.
- Give consistent effort.
- Avoid disrupting rehearsal.

You do not have to be perfect. You do have to be coachable.

5 FOOTBALL GAME & PERFORMANCE DAYS

Performance days are a major responsibility. Arrive at the designated call time completely prepared.

Students should have:

- Required band clothing
- Instrument and accessories
- Water bottle
- Correct shoes and socks
- Required uniform pieces
- Materials requested by the Band Director
- Money for concessions when appropriate/permitted

Students should not assume they can leave the band area to purchase food. Review away-game instructions before each trip.

6

UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITY

The Marching Spartans uniform represents **the student, the band, and Lakewood High School.**

- Marching uniform
- Band shirt
- Marching shoes
- Required socks
- Gloves
- Headwear
- Director-designated accessories

Report missing, damaged, or improperly fitting pieces promptly. Uniform pieces should never be left unattended or thrown in inappropriate locations.

7

INSTRUMENT & EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Band members are responsible for properly caring for instruments and equipment.

- Store instruments correctly.
- Keep cases secured when appropriate.
- Keep instruments clean.
- Report damage immediately.
- Never use another student's instrument without permission.
- Follow procedures for school-owned instruments.
- Keep required accessories available.

Check equipment before leaving home and before leaving school or an event.

8

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

Band members are students first. Students should:

- Monitor grades.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Plan ahead for performance days.
- Use available study time.
- Communicate with teachers appropriately.
- Ask for academic help before falling significantly behind.

Strong time-management habits are part of being a successful band member.

9

RESPECT & BAND CULTURE

The Marching Spartans should be an environment where members feel supported, challenged, respected, and proud.

THERE IS NO PLACE IN OUR PROGRAM FOR:

- Bullying
- Hazing
- Harassment
- Intimidation
- Deliberately excluding or humiliating another member
- Destructive behavior
- Disrespect toward staff or volunteers
- Inappropriate conduct or social media behavior involving the program

Experienced members should teach, encourage, and lead by example. WE BUILD EACH OTHER UP.

10 STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership is both an honor and a responsibility. Student leaders may assist with:

- Music
- Marching fundamentals
- Equipment
- Section organization
- Rehearsal routines
- Game-day expectations
- Supporting newer members

Leadership never gives permission to bully, haze, intimidate, humiliate, or disrespect another member.

11 SOCIAL MEDIA & REPRESENTING THE BAND

Band members represent Lakewood High School when wearing band apparel or uniform, traveling, attending performances, participating in school events, or posting band-related content online.

YOU REPRESENT YOURSELF. YOUR FAMILY. YOUR BAND. YOUR SCHOOL.

12 COMMUNICATION

Students and families are responsible for keeping up with official band communication. Regularly check for:

- Schedule changes
- Rehearsal reminders
- Call times
- Uniform instructions
- Meal and away-game information
- Fundraisers and volunteer opportunities
- Required purchases
- Forms and deadlines
- Director announcements

Students should take personal responsibility for knowing their schedules and responsibilities.

13 BAND BOOSTERS

The Band Booster organization exists to support students and the Band Director. Support may include:

- Fundraising
- Concessions
- Student meals
- Snacks and hydration
- Equipment needs
- Sponsorships
- Volunteer coordination
- Special events
- Student recognition
- Additional program needs

Family participation makes a tremendous difference. Find one way to help when you can.

14 FUNDRAISING & PROGRAM SUPPORT

Fundraising helps provide resources and opportunities for the Marching Spartans.

- Concession sales
- Restaurant spirit nights
- Community events
- Donation campaigns
- Sponsorships
- Car washes
- Seasonal fundraisers
- Other approved fundraising activities

Every contribution of time, effort, resources, or community connections can strengthen the program.

15 WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

Marching band requires commitment from students, but family support is extremely valuable. Students may come home **tired, hungry, sweaty, excited, frustrated, and proud** - sometimes all in one evening.

Marching band develops:

- Time management
- Accountability
- Discipline
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Leadership
- Confidence

Encourage students through difficult rehearsals and imperfect performances.

16 BAND MEMBER SUCCESS TIPS

A few habits can make the season more successful:

- Hydrate before you arrive.
- Eat appropriately.
- Wear proper footwear.
- Bring sunscreen.
- Ask questions.
- Practice outside rehearsal - even 15-20 focused minutes helps.
- Help newer members.
- Accept correction.
- Do not quit because of one difficult rehearsal.
- Enjoy the experience.

17 BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR BAND

DO I HAVE MY...

- Instrument
- Mouthpiece / reeds / sticks / accessories
- Music
- Pencil
- Water
- Correct shoes and socks
- Band shirt and uniform pieces
- Sunscreen
- Required forms
- Money, if needed
- Everything the director instructed me to bring

THEN CHECK AGAIN.

18 FAMILY SEASON CHECKLIST

BEFORE / THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

- Save the band calendar
- Join the official band communication platform
- Save Band Director contact information
- Complete required forms
- Complete required payments or purchases
- Review transportation and attendance expectations
- Ensure your student has required water, shoes, and clothing
- Consider becoming an approved school volunteer
- Review fundraising and booster information
- Check announcements regularly
- Keep game and performance dates available
- Help plan schoolwork around performances
- Keep emergency contact information current
- Volunteer when possible
- Encourage your student and celebrate progress

19 BAND BAG EMERGENCY KIT

Students may want to keep a small personal band bag containing:

- Sunscreen
- Deodorant
- Hair ties
- Bandages
- Feminine hygiene products, if needed
- Instrument supplies
- Extra reeds, if applicable
- Extra socks
- Small towel
- Poncho, when appropriate

Medications must be handled in accordance with school and district policies.

20**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

Band Director	
Band Director Email	
Band Booster President	
Booster Email	
Band Communication App / Website	
School Website	
Band Website	

21**IMPORTANT DATES**

Band Camp	
First Rehearsal	
First Football Game	
Picture Day	
First Performance	
Parade / Competition	
Other Important Date	

22 BAND MEMBER COMMITMENT

As a member of the Lakewood High School Marching Spartans, I understand that my participation affects more than just me. **My section and my band depend on me.**

I commit to:

- Attend required rehearsals and performances
- Arrive on time and prepared
- Learn my music and responsibilities
- Follow instructions from directors and staff
- Respect my fellow band members
- Care for my instrument, uniform, and equipment
- Accept constructive correction
- Communicate responsibly
- Represent Lakewood High School appropriately
- Support my section and my band
- Give my best effort
- Help create a band culture where every member is respected

MY SECTION AND MY BAND DEPEND ON ME.

We acknowledge that participation in the Lakewood High School Marching Spartans requires commitment, communication, preparation, teamwork, accountability, and respect.

We understand that schedules and expectations will be communicated by the Band Director and that official school, district, and Band Director policies take precedence over information contained in this handbook.

We understand that being a member of the Marching Spartans means being part of a team and that individual choices can affect the entire band.

Student Name		Grade	
Student Signature		Date	
Parent / Guardian Name			
Parent / Guardian Signature		Date	

OUR COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER

There will be hot rehearsals.

There will be long nights.

There will be difficult days.

There will also be Friday night lights, performances, celebrations, friendships, traditions, and moments when an entire group of individual musicians becomes **one band**.

Every person matters. Every position matters. Every section matters. Every rehearsal matters.

When you put on the Marching Spartans uniform, you become part of something larger than yourself.

Show up. Be prepared. Work hard. Support each other. Take pride in what we build together.

**ONE BAND.
ONE SOUND.
ONE FAMILY.**