

Lexington Pride of the Minutemen *Marching Band Manual/Syllabus* 2019

Mission Statement

As the Pride of the Minutemen Band, we honor the past and give an open mind towards the future. We reach for excellence in music while maintaining unity and lifelong relationships.



Student Name: _____

Forward

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures and traditions of the band. It is hoped that some of the questions always prevalent with a band will be answered in this handbook. If a problem or question not covered in this handbook should arise, the directors should be consulted for an explanation.

Marching Band

With a membership of approximately 220 members, the marching band is a musical marching unit organized during the fall for the duration of the football season. Membership requires total dedication and maximum effort and involvement in all aspects of marching, playing and performance. The marching band provides entertainment for home football games and it performs annually before hundreds of spectators at various band festivals, tournament of band competitions, parades and pep rallies. This band also performs at the Nebraska State Bandmasters Competition in October. The marching band rehearses every school day from 7:00 am through first period. All percussionists will rehearse from 7:00 am to 7:50 am. They will then return to class during 3rd period where they will resume rehearsal.

Color Guard

The color guard is a unit comprised of a flag/prop and dance group that is chosen by audition each spring. Members receive credit, as do regular band members. The color guard rehearses with the band from 7:00am through first period. Therefore, it is essential that all color guard members be signed up for first period band class. The color guard may have additional rehearsals throughout the season.

Attendance Policies

Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students should be on time for all band functions.

A. Excused Absence from Rehearsal

Except in cases of extreme emergency or illness, band members will not be excused from rehearsals. In case of illness, students are asked to contact the band directors at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal. During marching season, two or more absences in the same week may result in that individual not performing in that week's performance.

B. Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal

Any student receiving an absence from rehearsal will have his or her participation grade lowered. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the directors in order to obtain the necessary make-up work.

C. Tardy to Rehearsal

Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals. If a student is late, his or her participation grade will be lowered and extra work may be assessed.

D. Absence from Performance

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that grading period. Only in cases of extreme emergency or personal illness will a person be excused from a performance. Excused absences must be approved by the director. Any absence which is not brought to the director's attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. Remember that there are approximately 200 other students who are counting on you being there. Please don't let them down!

E. Absence from Band Camp

Any student who misses the entire week of Band Camp will no longer be eligible to participate in the Marching

Band. Only under extreme approved circumstances by the band staff and the high school administration will this policy change.

Grading

All students will be given a grade of "100%" provided that they follow the policies of the band. Grades will be based on attendance and punctuality, effort, memorization of music, marching fundamentals, personal appearance (clean uniform, grooming, etc.), care of equipment (instrument, music, uniform, etc.) and cooperation. A detailed grading procedure will be handed out at the beginning of the school year in your perspective class.

GRADING CATEGORIES

Performance Attendance (Concerts/Pep Bands)

Classroom Attendance

Classroom Participation/Behavior

Points Breakdown

Concerts/Performances = 35 (Points can not be made up – Unless illness)

Pep band = Is graded, must attend all performances (Mandatory for Lettering)

Class Absence = 10 points per day

Class Behavior/participation = 10 points per day

No Instrument = 10 per day (Unless out for repair)

Rehearsal Procedure

1. Every band member should bring instruments, music and proper equipment to every rehearsal and performance.
2. There is to be no individual playing before rehearsal or at any time during a rehearsal outdoors or indoors, unless the director specifically deems it necessary. Instrument warm-up will be done together under the direction of the director and/or the drum major.
3. There is to be no talking or disturbance during rehearsals. Subdued talking is permitted with the director's permission or when the director leaves the podium. Talking should cease when the director stands on the podium.
4. Gum chewing or eating of any kind is not permitted during any rehearsal or performance.
5. Posture is of utmost importance both on and off the field. Stand tall and do not slouch when in the position of attention. Students should avoid crossed legs or ankles and slumping when seated in chairs.
6. The video screen or marker board should be read when entering the rehearsal room. Students are not allowed to write on the bulletin board or marker board unless they have permission from the director. Music should be placed in the proper order according to the instructions on the chalkboard.
7. Music folders/iPads, instruments, and equipment should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Music folders/iPads should not be left on the music stands.
8. Books and personal belongings (clothes, etc.) should not be left in the band room or in the instrument storage area. All trash should be thrown in the waste container.
9. Loud talking, shouting or horseplay is not allowed in the band department.
10. No Hacky Sacks, balls, cards, or other games are allowed in the band department.
11. Personal phone calls are not permitted, except calls made to parents after rehearsals or performances.

Proper Attire

Band rehearsals will include physical and mental warm-ups so it is important to dress appropriately and be prepared.

1. We want to see your smiling faces not your stomachs. Please dress appropriately as you are representing your school at all times.
2. Students must wear socks and tennis shoes for all rehearsals. Baskets will be located in the band room for storage of your shoes. Please use them.
3. Gym clothing is great. Try wearing shorts and shirts that are made for athletics. You will find that as the season progresses coats, hats and gloves may be needed.
4. For camp sunscreen, sunglasses, and water bottles are important. Staying hydrated is essential.

Public Performances

1. Every student will receive a schedule of performances the band will be attending throughout the year. Information regarding these events will be posted and/or discussed during rehearsal. It is the student's responsibility to know this information.
2. Always report (rain or shine) to the designated meeting place. (updates on weather will be sent out through school email)
3. For home football games, concerts or pep band performances report to the band room one hour before the performance. A report time will be given by the directors.
4. Inspections will be held at every performance by the drum major, band officers, section leaders, band moms and sponsors.

Travel Policies

1. The complete uniform should be worn properly at all times when in public. On short trips, the coat and hat may be taken off while on the bus.
2. Students must submit a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian.
3. Horseplay and screaming are prohibited on the bus.
4. All students will sign a bus list before departure. No aliases or extra names are to be added to the master bus list. Students may not change buses without permission. The roll will be checked on each bus before departure.
5. All students must travel to and from performances on buses, not in personal cars. Any student who needs to return from a performance with his/her parents or guardian should submit a permission slip signed by them. The student will then be released by the director or sponsors to the parents or guardians only. (Lexington Public Schools Policy)
6. When wearing uniforms, no drinking or eating will be permitted except when designated by the director.
7. Students are responsible for their own equipment and instruments. Equipment should be placed near the equipment truck or buses. Students and sponsors will load the equipment truck/trailer and buses.
8. Students will receive an itinerary of activities for all major trips. Students are responsible for knowing departure times and should be ready on time.
9. Sponsors are to be obeyed and respected.
10. Any illness or injury should be reported to the director immediately, no matter how unimportant it may be.
11. Upon arrival at a destination, students should remain seated until instructed to leave by the director.
12. Students are expected to keep the bus clean and should avoid standing while the bus is in motion. Students should keep heads and arms inside the bus. Students will obey all of the guidelines as stated on the back of the master bus list.
13. Conduct of students in public eating places or motels should be subdued and courteous.

Football Games

A. Entering the Stadium and Pre-Game

1. Upon completion of warm-up procedures in the high school the band will assemble outside in block formation. Students will form ranks immediately upon hearing the drum major's command.
2. The drum major, band officers, and section leaders will inspect the band before departure for the stadium.
3. The band will march to the stadium in block formation, halting only to change to single file while going through the gates of the stadium. Spectators should not be allowed to break ranks or files.
4. All extra equipment, music, blankets, or jackets should be carried into the stadium by parents or band helpers before the band leaves for the stadium.

B. Stadium Seating

1. Each student will sit in their section. Your section leader will decide the appropriate area.
2. Once each student finds his/her seat, he/she should remain at attention until all band members arrive and the drum major gives the command for the band to be seated.
3. Hats may be removed and placed to the right of each player on the drum major's command. Gloves may be removed and placed inside the hat or in the flap of the coat.

4. Sections should remain seated together. Uniforms are to be properly worn at all times.
5. Students will be allowed to stand and cheer for touchdowns. However, they should be ready to play the school song before and after conversion. Cheer with the cheerleaders and avoid unorganized or section cheering.
6. Non-band members should not be allowed within the band section. Visiting band students or special guests are exceptions.
7. Refreshments will be permitted in the stands upon director approval.
8. Students will be allowed to go to the restrooms and concession stand during the game. However, students must check out with the director first. It is important that there are enough people to cover your part when you are gone.
9. Student conduct should be professional throughout the time spent in the stadium. Individual playing, "noodling," or beating of drums is not permitted. Students should watch and listen for titles of selections and be ready to get the music up rapidly.
10. Band members should treat other teams and guests courteously. If something good cannot be said about the visiting teams, don't say anything!

C. Halftime and Post-Game

1. Band members should file from the stands in an orderly manner according to the seating arrangement. Running up and down stadium steps or seats should be avoided.
2. The band should move quickly to form the proper line-up and instrumentation (pre-set formation) before halftime. The band will march by ranks and files to a point near the sidelines, forming a pre-set for the entrance to the field. The band will remain at attention until the drum major gives the command to move onto the field.
3. After the halftime performance, students will return to their seats in an orderly fashion.
4. The band will be required to attend the entire game. An exception may be made due to weather or an early departure time for the band the following day.
5. Uniforms, instruments, music and equipment should be returned to their proper storage areas.
6. All students will be required to turn in their own uniform at the conclusion of the game. Students will be in a single file line and present their uniform for inspection to the designated director, drum major, sponsor, or section leader. If the uniform is not hung up properly and in perfect condition the student will be required to go to the end of the line until the proper adjustments have been made. Fines may be assessed to students who damage the uniform due to improper care.
7. Any student needing a ride to or from the game should call a band officer or make arrangements at the final rehearsal before a performance.

Here are some factors other than musicianship that have a great bearing on a student's participation in the band.

Obedience, Cleanliness, Courtesy, Honesty, Alertness, Effort, Self-Control, Attitude, Dependability, Initiative.

Remember: while in uniform you represent yourself, your family, your school, your band, and your community.

Uniforms

The band department provides a uniform jacket, pants, gauntlets and hat for every band member.

Band members are responsible for providing for their own black shirt, black shoes and black socks. If the uniform needs alteration, the uniform doctors will see that it is altered properly. (please see the Uniform Moms) Color guard members provide shoes. Shoes must be cleaned and polished for every performance. The soles of the footwear should be cleaned or polished before every performance.

Uniform Inspection

A formal inspection will be conducted by section leaders prior to every performance. Band members are expected to wear uniforms properly at all times. When the uniform is worn, a band member's personal appearance is to be impeccable. Band members will be expected to observe the following points to present a neat personal appearance.

1. Shoes should be clean.
2. Gloves should be clean. Finger holes cut out for woodwinds should not be ragged or frayed.
3. Hair should be properly groomed, pulled back and placed in the hat. Girls should avoid wearing heavy makeup.
4. All coat collars should be buttoned. Snap in collars must be worn at all times. Please check to see that you have the same number on your collar and coat.
5. Trouser bottoms should be worn no higher or lower than about two or three inches from the ground.
6. Never wear an incomplete uniform in public.
7. Sunglasses, medals, rings, earrings and other accessories may not be worn. Earrings must be covered if they can't be removed.

Before and after all home games and other performances, students will use the band room to change into their uniforms. No food or drinks are permitted in these rooms. If the Band Boosters provide food it is essential that all uniforms and uniform items remain out of the food area. Band members should make sure that they do not leave uniform parts, personal belongings, clothing, coat hangers, accessories, or trash in this area.

Instrument Information

The band department may provide instruments for those students who do not play their own instrument. Each band member is responsible for the proper care, condition and repairs of this instrument for the length of the year. Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the director at once. Damages due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student. If the instrument is lost or stolen while away from the band hall, the student must reimburse the band for the cost of the instrument. A privately owned instrument is the responsibility of the student who owns it. Students should check with their parents to see that the instrument is included on their homeowner insurance policy. Before purchasing an instrument, students should consult with the band director. All instruments should be kept in excellent playing condition and should be cleaned and polished before every performance. Inspections will be held periodically before the games and concerts.

Music Festivals and Competitions

Announcements are made throughout the year as to which events the band will attend. Contest schedules with dates and times will be located in the band room and announced at rehearsals and band meetings. A schedule of events will be given to each student. (*Schedules will be posted on the band website at www.lexband.com*)

Band Camp

Band camp is usually held during the first week of August. The band camp runs all day from 9:00AM – Noon and 1:30PM - 5:00PM. Students learn to work together in total dedication to produce an excellent band. Band camp gives the student the opportunity to get acquainted and develop the feeling of belonging. The goal of band camp is to learn the music and drill fundamentals for the entire show. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in recreational and social activities. Band Camp is MANDATORY. Any student who does not attend Band Camp will be removed from marching band class. Only certain circumstances with the approval of the band staff and High School Administration will any student be allowed in the class while missing the entire week of band camp. Students who are employed should make necessary arrangements with their employers to attend all rehearsals and band camp. Band camp information sheets and activities guideline forms will be distributed during camp rehearsals. Information sheets contain what to bring, rules, and regulations, etc.

Band Leadership

Leadership Team

The leadership team is selected by the directors and is composed of section leaders, rank leaders, drum majors and class representatives. This team assists in planning rehearsals, setting drill, teaching music, and other administrative tasks. Members of the leadership team will be held to a higher standard and should model the appropriate behavior and character of the exemplary band student at all times. Failure to meet these criteria could lead to removal from the group.

Drum Major

This person should be a sophomore, junior or senior and is selected through an audition for the band, several judges and the director. The Drum Major must display strong leadership and motivational qualities and have knowledge of conducting music and teaching drill or marching fundamentals. He or she is in charge of the band at all marching functions and is responsible only to the director. Appearance and confidence and character are important at all times.

Section Leader/Rank Leader/Squad Leader

These people assist in teaching and rehearsing all marching band shows. Section leaders focus on the music and rank leaders are in charge of setting and cleaning the drill. Rank leaders must have a thorough knowledge of marching fundamentals, drill teaching techniques and rehearsal methods. Section leaders must display a high level of musicianship and have the ability to lead their section while maintaining a positive rapport. They both work under the supervision of the director and should check daily to see that they are prepared for each rehearsal. In addition, they are responsible for running music section rehearsals when needed, checking off music and inspecting uniforms before performances.

Marching Band Vocabulary

1. **BASIC FORMATION** - Band members in assigned rank, file.
2. **A RANK** - In Block Band Formation, bandsmen side by side (Usually 8)
3. **A FILE** - In Block Band Formation, bandsmen directly behind each other.
4. **GUIDE CENTER** – When band guides to person in center of rank
5. **GUIDE RIGHT** - When band guides to person on far right of rank.
6. **GUIDE LEFT** - When band guides to person on far left of rank.
7. **DRESS RIGHT/DRESS LEFT/DRESS CENTER** - To correct alignment in ranks literally.
8. **COVER DOWN** - To correct alignment in files, front to back. Stand or march directly behind bandsmen ahead of you.
9. **FLOAT** - Moving a line or form to another position in a given number of counts using adjusting size steps to remain in original line or form (stay between two people).
10. **HALFWAY TECHNIQUE** - The technique of arriving at a point half the total distance in half the total steps.
11. **INTERVAL** - Distance between bandsmen.
12. **FALL IN** - Take up position in basic formation (Block Band)
13. **ATTENTION** - Attitude of readiness for action on receiving orders.
14. **PARADE REST** - Attitude of attentiveness for receiving instructions.
15. **AT EASE** - Relax but do not talk. Be ready for immediate instruction.
16. **HORNS UP** - Bring instruments to playing position in specified number of counts.
17. **BRASS PLAYING ANGLE** - Parallel to the ground. Refers to normal playing

18. **MARK TIME** - Keep steady rhythm with feet. (Lift heels only) No forward motion.
19. **PIVOT** - Axis, or point of revolving (can be person or foot).
20. **TURN** – 4 or 8 count move in the direction of command.
21. **TO THE BOX** - Instrument is elevated approximately 30 degrees (Point to the center of the grandstands).
22. **SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE** - Exactly halfway between the person on the right and the person on the left.
23. **GLIDE STEP** - Knees not lifted, toe pointed up, heel touches the ground first, rolling of the foot - a stride.
24. **BACKWARD MARCH** - Moving backward with the toes never leaving the ground – using the toe as a guide for direction and keep knees slightly bent.
25. **FORWARD MARCH** - Begin on left foot.
26. **PLANT** - An absolute cessation of marching.
27. **SLIDE** - Horns front regardless of the direction of movement (right, left or backwards).
28. **SPACING** - Always stand an equal distance between two people.
29. **8 TO 5** - 22 and ½ inch steps (8 equal steps between 5 yards).
30. **EQUAL STEPS** - Size of step depends on the number of steps and the distance traveled.
31. **INTERNALIZATION** – process of maintaining a subdivided pulse while following a conductor.
32. **SUBDIVISION** – process of dividing each beat into two or three equal parts
33. **EXTERNAL PULSE** – a conductor or amplified metronome of some type (visual or audible).
34. **INTERNAL PULSE** – same process as external pulse only done mentally (felt, inner pulse).

Marching Fundamentals

The purpose of fundamental drills is to insure the attainment of absolute precision in the organization. Precision entails uniformity of rhythmic movement in all body motions. The responsibility for precision rests upon the individual, his/her attitude, and his/her intense desire to master these fundamentals to the point of flawless execution. Personalities and physical characteristics of the individual must be subordinate to group performance. This means that the individual must perfect the group technique rather than be one of a group of perfected individuals.

Marching Commands

FALL IN

This command is given at the beginning of a formation before the band has convened. Talking and instrument noise cease. The drum major now has everyone's undivided attention. Band members should assume the "To The Ready Position" with their feet "shoulder" width apart and heads slightly down.

PARADE REST (4ct)

Band – Pa-Rade Rest - **“Hit”**

On **“Hit”** the left foot moves quickly outward so that the feet are directly under the shoulders. The instrument snaps from carrying position or at ease position to rest position.

ATTENTION (4ct)

Band Ten - Hut **“Hit”**

On **“Hit”** the left foot moves quickly so the feet are together. The instrument snaps to the carrying position. The position of attention is poised, not rigid.

HORNS UP

Band - Horns - are **“Up”**

On **“Up”** the horn snaps into the playing position.

MARK TIME HUT (Stationary)

Mark - Time - Hut **“*” L R L R**

HALT

Ready - (*) - Halt - **“Step” - “Freeze”**

(4,8) COUNT TURN TO THE (RIGHT, LEFT, REAR)

(4) Count Turn To The (Right) **L R L R “lock”**

FORWARD MARCH

Forward March **“Execute”**

RIGHT or LEFT FLANK/SLIDE

R,L Flank March **“Execute”**

TO THE REAR MARCH

To The Rear March **“Execute”**

BACKWARDS MARCH

Backwards March **“Execute”**

SLIDE Marching

Twist the body in the direction you are going, keeping your upper body and horn parallel to the sideline. (Body turned - Horns Front). Similar to a flank maneuver but the upper body stays facing front.

Marching

FORWARD MARCH:

Roll from the heel to the toe while shifting the weight forward, creating a smooth “gliding” action. The 22.5” glide step is like taking a normal walking step except the toes are turned forward with the inseams of the feet parallel and close

together. When stepping forward keep the toe turned up and roll the heel to the toes while shifting the weight. Each step should resemble walking a tight-rope. When stepping forward the heel should touch the ground first. The shoulders should be square with the hips. There should be no movement from the waist up.

BACKWARD MARCH:

Rise up on the balls of the feet, or tip of the toes. Flex the knees in the same fashion as in forward marching. The feet slide backwards with the toes never fully leaving the ground. (*toes should skim the blades of grass*) The foot is picked up slightly while stepping backwards, like peddling a bicycle backwards. Avoid squatting, leaning forward, slumping, or bouncing. Shoulders should be inline with the hips. (*walk a tight-rope*)

Marking Music

Music should be clearly and adequately marked. The marking should be placed above the note on which the movement is executed.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. FM - Forward March | 6. HU - Horns up |
| 2. BM - Backward March | 7. S - Slide |
| 3. MT - Mark Time | 8. P - Plant |
| 4. Turn - (R or L, 4ct -8ct) | 9. FTL - Follow Leader |
| 5. TTR - Turn to Rear (4cts) | |

**These can be quite helpful in avoiding errors. *PLEASE USE THEM*

2019 Performance Schedule

** all performances are mandatory for a grade so mark down these dates now on your calendars.
(this excludes UNK Band Day for LMS)*

August 30 – Football with Crete (Homecoming) – 7:00 PM

September 13 – Football with Seward – 7:00 PM

September 21 – UNK Band Day Parade in Kearney – LMS Band ONLY – TBA - (some LHS Band students needed)

September 27 – Football with McCook – 7:00 PM

October 4 – Football with Gering – 7:00 PM

October 12 – “LINKS” FESTIVAL - LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL – TBA

October 18 – Football with Cozad – 7:00 PM

October 19 – LPS MARCHING INVITATIONAL – Seacrest Field/Lincoln East - TBA

(Central 10 Conference Volleyball Tournament - conflict)

October 26 – NSBA STATE MARCHING BAND – Kearney High School - TBA