



LOVELAND HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Frequently Asked Questions

Will band fit into an aggressive academic schedule?

Yes! We have students who are planning to enter a diverse range of majors. From engineering to pre-med, from music education to psychology, band prepares students for the next step, whatever it may be! We have had Boettcher scholarship semi-finalists and many of our students are awarded scholarships. Many International Baccalaureate students and AP scholars are members of our program. The schedule at Loveland is designed to allow students to pursue a full schedule of classes and perform with our bands for four full years. In addition, TSD's offering of online classes continues to expand, creating greater flexibility for our students. Visit with your guidance counselor to see how your schedule can accommodate band membership and the most challenging of academic schedules.

Can a student play sports while doing band?

Yes! Contrary to popular belief, members of the band program participate in sports at all levels at LHS. We have (or have had) students participate in football, wrestling, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swimming, diving, track, baseball, softball, golf, cheerleading, lacrosse, and soccer. Our Head Football Coach was actually in band and football in high school himself! The athletic staff, band directors, and counselors will work to make this a reality for any student who desires to participate in sports and band. A full, four year commitment to the band and sports will likely require careful communication between student, parents, directors, and coaches, but it is possible.

Do I have to audition for high school band?

No! Just enroll! All students who are interested in band will be admitted by director approval into Marching Band or Concert Band first semester. Just talk to your middle school director about how to enroll or contact Mr. Freesen (kyle.freesen@thompsonschoools.org) at LHS to get help. Students who do not currently play an instrument are welcome to join our Colorguard or talk with Mr. Freesen about getting special permission to start learning an instrument. With a little bit of work, it's never too late to begin.

What class period do I enroll in to start with?

For first semester you should be enrolled in "Marching Band" and the corresponding wind, guard, or percussion course (it will be in the same box on your registration sheet). For second semester, incoming freshmen should enroll in Symphonic Band, unless asked to enroll in Wind Ensemble by Mr. Freesen. You may also enroll in Jazz Ensemble II during both semesters if you are concurrently enrolled in another ensemble. Jazz Ensemble I is by director approval. If you are choosing to perform only in Concert Band, enroll in that course both semesters. Placement auditions are held in November so things do move around based on your ability and needs. This initial enrollment helps the LHS counselors get a head start on creating a great schedule for you!

Will there be any orientations?

Yes, there will be opportunities to learn more about our program for both incoming members and their parents. There will be a joint information session during 8th grade Symphonic Band Camp. Please join us for an evening of information and great music. Dinner is provided for all incoming families by the LHS Band Boosters and will be followed by a performance at LHS. Our annual Show Reveal Night in April is another important chance to learn more about the band program. During summer band we will host sessions for parents on "What to Expect from High School Band". Dates will be published on the distributed calendar and at <http://www.lovelandband.org>

Is it difficult to learn how to march?

Incoming freshmen are usually a little apprehensive about marching. It is a learned skill that is different from everything you have learned before in music class. Our band staff and student leadership team will thoroughly teach the technique needed. It may be awkward at first, but with time, it will become easy.

How much time does band really take?

Due to weather, the marching season in Colorado is very short. We rehearse during two mini-camps and our band camp during the summer months. This in no way takes up your whole summer! Once school begins, the marching season flies by

in just 5 weeks. We meet as a class during our scheduled time during the traditional school day and then as a 9th period class on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. At the conclusion of the marching season, the 9th period class ends and frees up large blocks of time. In the Spring, students will perform concerts and attend sectionals.

Will band and its time commitments negatively impact my grades?

It shouldn't! Above all, you are at LHS to receive a high-quality, well-rounded education. Good grades are mostly dependent on a student's time management skills. Interestingly enough, our students find that they get their best grades at the height of our competition season. Students must be academically eligible to participate in many of our band events. Many of LHS' top scholars are in the music program. Tutors are available both inside and outside of the band program, for those who need a little extra help.

Does the Loveland Band travel overnight?

On occasion. The Crimson Regiment marching band, Winter Guard, and Wind Symphony are given opportunities to travel based on their high level of performance quality. Some honor bands for select students will also require overnight accommodations. The band travels with a high chaperone to student ratio, usually with medical personnel. We take performance-based trips that also allow the students to experience places outside of Northern Colorado. All students will have the opportunity to travel to Disney at least once during their four-year tenure in the program. Other destinations in-state or out-of-state, such as St. Louis, Dallas, Chicago, and New York will be offered as the opportunities arise.

Are there social events?

Yes! Some of the most impactful moments in band are social in nature. Our Student Leadership Team, Staff, and Band Boosters organize a variety of social events throughout the year. Some of the highlights are section parties, band camp evening activities, Parent Cookout, Drums Along the Rockies, Trunk or Treat Halloween party, Tradition Ceremony, End of the Year Banquet, and the Senior Barbeque.

What if I'm just not sure about joining?

Remember parents always saying things like, "Try it before you decide you don't like it."? Band is the same way. Sign up for band even students or parents are unsure. If at some point before August Band Camp, you decide that it is not for you, contact a director and drop the class. It is much easier to drop something after trying it, than to join late when everyone else has already started.

What are the costs?

Marching Band requires hiring of extra staff that the school district does not provide. Each student is asked to pay band fees that are set based on budget, band size, and fundraising projections. These fees provide students with uniforms, food, travel, and instruction. It's a great value. There are many fundraising opportunities that will families to offset fees. You can even start fundraising during 8th grade. Contact our Fundraising Chair to get started today. The school has a number of large or specialty instruments that are available for yearly rental of \$40. If financial constraints prevent you from being able to participate, please contact Mr. Freesen to discuss options. We will not let instrument availability or financial constraints keep an interested student from participating.

What if I have other questions?

Please know that we here to answer any and all questions that you may have. Due to the busy nature of our program and schools in general, it is sometimes difficult to contact me by phone. The best way for you to reach me is electronically at kyle.freesen@thompsonschoools.org. This will allow me to thoughtfully respond to your query. You may also contact any of our Band Booster Board members and find other information at <http://www.lovelandband.org>

Thank you and we're looking forward to seeing you as part of the Loveland High School Band next school year!

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