



Frequently Asked Questions

Be sure to attend the New Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, August 10 at 5:30 p.m. to get all your questions answered too!

NEWS / UPDATES/ CALENDAR

Where do I get the latest information about times, events, and band happenings?

- The BAND app! BAND is used for all communications and our calendar. Weekly performance report times will be sent via BAND and it is used for volunteer sign-ups, event RSVPs, group surveys and fundraising information.
 - **The following calendars are available in BAND:**
 - All Marching Band - notices for every member in every section
 - Blue Band - Rehearsal & Performance notices for Blue Band - every member is in this band
 - Gold Band - Rehearsal & Performance notices for the Gold competition band (audition only)
 - Guard
 - Percussion
 - MLBB General Membership - used for parent events
- A weekly newsletter will be posted to BAND on Sunday or Monday each week. During the season this will include report times (and departure times for away games/competitions) for any performances that week.
- Mr. Cheskawich will email a weekly update on Sunday or Monday each week. This update will cover marching band, wind ensemble, and concert band.
- Visit our website: www.leboband.com
- Follow us - **Facebook:** Mt. Lebanon Blue Devil Marching Band, **Twitter:** mtlband, **Instagram:** mtlband

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

When do after school rehearsals take place?

- In general, there will be at least two rehearsals each week in either the Stadium or on the Upper Field. All rehearsals will be listed on the calendar; pay close attention to day, time and place since these will vary based on field availability each week. Students should be at the stadium at least 15 minutes prior to report time so that rehearsal can start on time and we can maximize our use of the field.

TRANSPORTATION

How do students get to performances not held at Mt. Lebanon High School?

- For away games and most parades and performances, buses are used to take the band to and from the event.
- Students will always ride on the same bus throughout the season and attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of every trip. If you need to bring your student home from a performance, please notify Mr. Cheskawich in writing beforehand. There is a Release from Bus Transportation available on our website.



Frequently Asked Questions

PICK UP AND DROP OFF FOR PERFORMANCES

Where do I drop off and pick up my student?

- Drop off is at the auditorium entrance (A-2) at the high school. Students will report to locations within the high school complex as requested by the staff. Students will be dismissed from the A2 entrance, with the exception of the Front Ensemble, they will be dismissed from the stadium. **If you drive to pick up your child after an away performance, do not park in front of the auditorium entrance. The buses need to park and unload there.**
- Students who drive may park in the high school parking lot for performances.

When do I drop off and pick up?

- Report time for each performance will be established by the staff and reported weekly via BAND. Report times may be different each week and be different for sections of the band.
- Report time means: In a seat with instrument ready for warm-up. This means that students should be dropped off at least ten minutes prior to report time.
- Pick up time is either at the end of practice (which is posted on the calendar) or at the end of the game (which can be unpredictable). For away games, students may call or text parents/guardians to advise them when they are close to the school.

What if I need to pick up my student at an away game or event?

- Students will not be permitted to leave without a [note](#) requesting release from the event provided to Mr. Cheskawich prior to leaving for the performance. The student should also advise the head chaperone of their approved release.
- An adult parent/guardian must check in with Mr. Cheskawich to have their child released from the event.
- Students also must either take their instrument with them or make arrangements to have it transported back to the school and returned to the band room.
- ***Picking up your student from an away event should be minimized as much as possible.***

GAMES

What should my student bring to the games?

- Their uniform and all parts, including the hat, baseball cap, raincoat, and duffle bag.
- Their instrument.
- Guard should bring their flags and weapons.
- Cell phone (see below).
- A water bottle filled with water
- NO MONEY OR FOOD. Students are not permitted to purchase food or drinks from the concession stand at games. After half time, students will receive water and a snack.

What is the cell phone policy?

- Students may bring their cell phone to band activities but they cannot use it during any event.

What if I need to contact my student at the game?

- The MLBB Co-Presidents' contact information is on the website and they can be reached at each event.



Frequently Asked Questions

NON-GAME EVENTS

What type of non-game events does the band perform in?

- The band may perform in various community events and festivals. All events will be included on the BAND calendar. Events may include two or three festivals and/or competitions, in addition to our own festival or competition at Mt. Lebanon stadium. We usually participate in the Bloomfield and Mt. Lebanon Halloween parades in the fall and the Memorial Day parade in May. Sometimes we are asked to perform at events in the Mt. Lebanon schools, too.

How do these events work?

- Festivals and competitions work very similarly to football games. Report times will be provided and the band will travel by bus to the event. The band will watch the other bands perform at the festival or competition and perform the half-time show during our scheduled performance time.
- For the Bloomfield Parade and the Memorial Day parade, students will ride a bus to the parade location. For the Mt. Lebanon Halloween parade, students will be transported back and forth by a parent or guardian.

THE BAND TRIP

What is the band trip?

- Each year the band travels by motor coach or plane to a destination and performs in a parade or competition.

When is the band trip?

- The trips usually take place either in the late fall or early spring.

Is the trip mandatory?

- No

Who goes on the trip?

- The entire marching band (winds, percussion, and guard) attends the trip. Occasionally, the Concert Band and/or Wind Ensemble may be invited to attend based on the location and itinerary.

Is it fun?

- Yes!

What does it cost?

- Each year is different. We attempt to rotate trips so that if one year is a Disney trip (most expensive), the next year will be an inexpensive trip.

When is money due?

- The payments will be divided somewhat equally and will be due approximately when they are required by the tour company. The details will be provided at a family meeting for each trip.
- A preliminary cost is calculated based on estimates of number of students and staff attending, number of buses, activities and meals planned, etc.

Can I raise money to offset the cost of the trip?

- Yes. MLBB offers gift card fundraisers that you can utilize to earn funds to offset the cost of your student's trip.

How can I chaperone the band trip?

- It is up to the discretion of Mr. Cheskawich to choose the number of chaperones and the qualifications that they must meet in order to serve as a chaperone. This will be communicated at the beginning of the season.
- Selection of chaperones is in part based on your participation with MLBB and the band during the year. The more you participate, the greater your chance of being selected.

Where can I get more information?

- Mandatory meetings will be held to provide details of the trip and prior to the trip to provide rules and expectations.



Frequently Asked Questions

FUNDRAISERS

Can I fundraise to help offset the cost of the band trip or other expenses?

- Students are able to sell gift cards to help offset the cost of the trip and pay the annual fee.

What about fundraising for the entire band?

- Band Builders also organizes fundraisers that benefit the entire band, or the general fund. Monthly hoagie sales; Sarris holiday candy sales; and other various food or product sales help the MLBB support the program. Fundraisers help to offset the cost of things like refreshments during half-time, band camp activities, the pool party, senior recognition, the show shirt, and the annual band banquet. The biggest fundraiser is our annual Festival of Bands. We will host 8-10 bands from local schools to perform in our stadium. We ask all families to sell tickets for this event. We also can use help in selling program ads and/or sponsorships to local businesses.

So what are the fees about?

- Like other athletic programs, marching band has operational costs. MLBB spends over \$200 per student throughout the year. We ask for \$100 per student in Gold Band and \$75 from Blue only band members to help with those costs. MLBB makes up the rest with our general fund fundraisers (see above). Our main general fundraiser is the Festival of Bands, but how well we do depends on the weather and the size of the festival in any given year. If we have a good festival year, we give back to the students by reducing trip costs.
- The MLBB fee is not related to the "Pay to Play" fee that is required by the school district for middle school and high school athletics, marching band and its guard programs, and high school intramurals. "Pay to Play" has a family cap of \$80, no matter how many programs your child(ren) participate in. MLBB does not receive any "Pay to Play" money. We do, however, receive support from the school district by them providing us with buses and trucks during the season, uniforms, and many other things.
- The MLBB annual fee is also not related to the Percussion program, which is a separate year-round program with its own operating costs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

How can I get involved with the band?

- There are a lot of opportunities to be involved with the marching band, all with varying degrees of time commitment. We need chairpersons for a variety of different committees, as well as volunteers to help on each committee. We need every parent to work a shift at our Festival of Bands. Most importantly, we need parent chaperones for games and events. Band Builders will publish volunteer opportunities on BAND, on our website, or you can contact the President to offer your assistance.

How do I obtain the necessary clearances required for volunteering in the school district?

- Chaperones and some other volunteer positions are required to have volunteer clearances on file with the school district. Complete details are available on our website or you can contact the Band Builders Co-Vice Presidents for more information. If you have lived in Pennsylvania for the last ten years or more, the clearances can be obtained within days. If you have not been a resident of Pennsylvania for more than ten years, you will be required to obtain FBI clearances, including fingerprints. This can take a few weeks, so plan accordingly. If you know you are interested in chaperoning football games, please obtain your clearances by the start of Band Camp.