

Helpful New Parent Information

Symphonic Band

Students are encouraged to sign up for symphonic band as an academic elective. These band classes are grouped by level and meet every day during school. Students receive credit and a grade for participating.

Marching Band

Marching band is an extracurricular activity outside of the school day. Marching band students attend band camp for a full week before classes begin each August. Then practices are after school 2-3 times a week with games on Fridays. Marching band season is primarily a fall semester activity.

How much will it cost? Like other extracurricular activities, marching band does require a fee of \$500 due by late July. This band is self-supporting, with each student contributing towards the costs of instruction, music and performance costs each year. Symphonic band fee is charged each August (\$50/student) to pay for instrument repairs, additional instructional support and related costs. In addition, students are asked to participate in fundraisers during the year that benefit the symphonic bands.

Do students provide their own instruments?

Yes, generally speaking, students should provide their own instrument. Some instruments may be available on an as-needed basis. Make an appointment with Mr. Fairchild if you are in need of an instrument. Percussionists (drummers) should have a stick bag with a minimum of 2 pairs of concert snare sticks, rubber mallets, yarn mallets and timpani mallets.

Can a student join band if he/she did not participate in middle school?

Yes, all students are encouraged to participate in band. It may be recommended that student without previous band experience supplement class time with private lessons to get up to speed.

General Benefits from participation in LHS band programs

- Integration to a social group early in the high school years (and beyond).
- Improved abilities in academic performance has been linked to learning an instrument and performing
- The Lakeside program is well established and known to be superior in quality and level of instruction.
- It's a positive and fun activity for high schoolers who may not be participating for whatever reason in varsity sports or other higher cost extracurriculars.
- Students from the Lakeside Band consistently earn more scholarship dollars than any other band program in the DCSD. In the years of 2012-2017, this total has averaged around \$4 million for all band students each year.

Next Steps:

- An information letter of intent to participate in marching band will be distributed to current HMS band students later this spring. Please see Mr. White for the letter if your child is not currently in band but would like to participate in Marching Band.
- 8th graders can request to be placed in band as their elective in the freshmen year. Contact the Lakeside Counseling Office for assistance.
- More questions? Visit lakesidevikingband.com/registration.html or contact David Fairchild, Lakeside Band Director david_fairchild@dekalbschoolsga.org.