

General McLane Lancers Band Parents HANDBOOK



**Prepared by the
GM Band Boosters**
www.gmbandboosters.org

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Welcome to our Family From the General McLane Band Boosters

Welcome to the General McLane High School Band Program. Most people think of the Marching Band when they think of the General McLane Lancers Band however, the band program at GM is comprised not only of the Marching Band, but also the JAZZ Band, the Concert Band, and also the 7th and 8th Grade band which occasionally participates in various functions.

The Marching Band is the most visible of all the bands. They perform at all GM Football games (Home and Away) and compete in numerous competitions throughout the fall season ending with the Lakeshore Marching Band Association Championships at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Erie. They also perform at various venues including Disney World, Kennywood Park Parade, Edinboro University Homecoming Parade, etc. The 2011 show is titled “The Sound of Music”.

General McLane JAZZ Band performs throughout the year including benefits, High School Concerts, The Disney World Trip, etc.

Concert Band, Developmental Band, and Symphonic Winds have several performances throughout the year.

The Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Band will perform on several occasions with the Marching Band and also other activities such as GM Graduation at EUP McComb Field house.

GM Band Boosters Web Page

At any time if you have a question regarding the Bands or the Booster organization, you can email us at gmbandboosters@gmail.com. Most information regarding activities, schedules, volunteering, etc. is available on the Booster web Page at www.gmbandboosters.org. You can also find any of the forms you will need to fill out for membership, photos, or volunteering on the web page.

About This Handbook

The intention of this handbook is to make the entry into the Band Booster Family easier for incoming parents who may be overwhelmed by the amount of information given to them when their Band Students first begin playing with the Bands.

Things We've Learned

1. Attend the Band Booster Meetings: You don't need to volunteer for anything, or even attend every meeting. If you come to meetings, you will discover things that your student has never mentioned (like upcoming fundraisers that help you pay for trips). The Band Director and Booster Executive Board gives status reports at each meeting. Meetings are the second Monday of each month in the GM HS Band Room (enter back of HS, first room on left)
2. When in doubt, check the website: The GMBB posts a lot of valuable Band information on its website (www.gmbandboosters.org) including: Dates and times for all competitions; downloadable copies of important forms and documents; fund raising information, last minute changes and more.
3. Network with other parents: It will make your life much easier if you make ride sharing arrangements for practices and carpooling for competitions.
4. Go to the Competitions and football games: Watch the shows and take pride at the improvement as the season progresses. Your student(s) will appreciate the fact that you take the time to come to the events.
5. Information: Make sure the members information sheet is completed accurately and turned in and let us know if there are any future changes (Cellphone numbers, emails, etc.).

LMBA Handbook

The Lakeshore Marching Band Association (LMBA) handbook is available on the Booster web page. This has a wealth of information covering competitions that may answer your questions not covered in this handbook. There is also a link to the LMBA web site.

2011 LMBA Member Schools

<u>Class A</u> <u>Conneaut Lake HS</u>	<u>Class AA</u> <u>Cochranton HS</u>	<u>Open Class</u> <u>Fort LeBoeuf HS</u>
<u>Sheffield HS</u>	<u>Corry Area HS</u>	<u>General McLane HS</u>
<u>Maplewood HS</u>	<u>Girard HS</u>	<u>Iroquois HS</u>
<u>Otto-Eldred HS</u>	<u>Linesville HS</u>	<u>Northwestern HS</u>
<u>Saegertown HS</u>	<u>Class AAA</u>	<u>Class AAA</u>
<u>Seneca HS</u>	<u>Fairview HS</u>	<u>Harbor Creek HS</u>
<u>Union City Area HS</u>	<u>Bradford Area HS</u>	<u>North East HS</u>
<u>Erie All-City</u>	<u>McDowell HS</u>	

2011 Schedule

Varsity Football Games

Sept. 2: Vincent – Home
Sept. 9: North East – Home
Sept. 16: Harbor Creek – Away
Sept. 23: Seneca - Home (**Homecoming**)
Sept. 30: Northwestern - Away
Oct. 7: Bradford – Away
Oct. 14: Meadville – Away
Oct. 21: Fairview – Away
Oct. 28: Girard – Home
Nov. 4: Franklin – Home

Marching Band Competitions

Sept. 10: GM Exhibition / Clinic & Preview
Sept. 17: McDowell HS (Needed - Volunteers to work McDowell Concession Stand while McDowell Marching Band Plays)
Oct. 1: at Girard HS
Oct. 15: at Harbor Creek HS
Oct. 22: at Corry HS
Oct. 29: LMBA Championships at Erie Veterans Memorial Stadium

Other Band Activities

Aug. 13: Kennywood Park Parade 7:30am – Midnight
Sept 17: McKean 150th Parade – Time TBA
Oct. 8: EUP Homecoming Parade 9:30am
Nov. 3: Band Review @ GMHS 7:30pm
Nov. 5: Bid-for-the-Bands – Lots of fun and excellent dinner!
Nov. 25-30: Disney World / Universal Trip.

Band Booster Meetings: Second Monday of Each Month
7:30pm in the GMHS Band Room. (No Meetings July, Dec, Jan)

Band Camp

June 13 – June 17 Mini-Band Camp 9am – 3pm
August 1-5, 8-12 Band Camp 8am-noon, Lunch, 1pm – 4pm
August 23-25 – Band Practice **6pm - 9pm**

Competitions

Directions

Location of the Competitions can be found on the web page by going to the Calendar and clicking on a particular Competition. This will bring up a small box with information and also a link to “[map](#)” that when clicked on will bring up Google Maps. This will show the location of the competition and also give you the ability to use Google Maps to get directions. A sheet with the full fall schedule along with directions will be handed out at the August Booster Meeting.

Weather

Bands do perform (and rehearse) in the sun, wind, rain and snow. The experienced parents go to the competitions prepared to sit through unpleasant weather and cheer for all the bands. Rain gear and ponchos are better than umbrellas (which tend to block the view of the shows and cause rivers of rain to run on the laps of people behind you). If it rains during a competition, the bands may still need to march in the mud. If the field conditions are poor, the band may perform indoors. **It can get cold later in the fall. Bring warm clothing and ensure your band member is prepared.**

Spectator Etiquette

When attending competitions, try to sit with other GMHS parents. Wear your marching band t-shirt/sweatshirt if you have one. Yell, cheer and clap at appropriate times during the show. General McLane is proud to have an outstanding, supportive audience.

Do not enter/exit the stands during anyone’s performance. Usually, the stands are roped off just before a performance until that particular one is done. Do not talk during any show (remember, you may be sitting next to another parent whose child is performing). Stand and applaud every band as they parade by the stands after their performance. Remember, the students in the other bands have worked just as hard as our own students. They deserve our respect and applause. Remember, every marching band member in every band is participating in an activity that is teaching them teamwork, respect and pride in what they do. There are no losers in this activity.

Competition Ticket Prices

The maximum price of tickets to an LMBA sanctioned contest shall be \$4.00 for students and senior citizens and \$6.00 for adults.

EXEMPTED FROM THIS POLICY IS THE LMBA CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST.

Band Classification, Awards and Scoring

(Taken from the LMBA Manual)

BAND CLASSIFICATION

Classification of bands shall be determined prior to August 1 of the current marching band season. Any reclassification after August 1 shall be at the discretion of the LMBA Executive Council. However, NO classification shall be changed after the 1st LMBA Contest whether the band that wishes to be reclassified does or does not compete in said show. ALL PLAYING MEMBERS, REGARDLESS OF SCHOOL GRADE, SHALL BE CONSIDERED ONE (1) MEMBER FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES.

Class A 29 or less playing members
Class AA 30 to 42 playing members
Class AAA 43 to 65 playing members
Open Class66 or more playing members
Festival Class.....Non-Competitive

Exhibition Class -Any band may choose this classification but shall remain in Exhibition Class for the entire marching season. Taped comments only, NO SCORES. Exhibition bands may perform first in their class or first in the show.

AWARDS (Some Awards are under revision by the LMBA)

Awards (plaques / trophies) shall be given to all competing / exhibition bands in each LMBA sanctioned contest. Awards shall be given IN EACH CLASS as follows:

- Placement Awards - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.
- High Winds (Taken from the Brass and Woodwind sub-captions on the Field Music sheet)
- High Percussion (Taken from the Percussion sub-captions on the Field Music sheet)
- High Music (Average of the Field Music and Music Ensemble Scores)
- High Auxiliary (From the Auxiliary score)
- High Visual (Average of the Field Visual and Visual Ensemble Scores)
- High General Effect (Total of GE Music 1 & 2 and GE Visual)

NO DRUM MAJOR, SOLOIST, OR BEST OVERALL AWARD
SHALL BE GIVEN IN ANY LMBA CONTEST.

SCORING

LMBA scoring system places 60% of the value on music and 40% on visual, and at the same time, 60% of the score is within the area of general effect and 40% within the performance area. The point allotment for the field competition is as follows:

20 points* Music Performance (Individual)* Averaged
20 points* Music Performance (Ensemble)*
20 points** Visual Performance (Individual)** Averaged
20 points** Visual Performance (Ensemble)**
20 points General Effect Visual
40 points General Effect Music

Practices, Band Camps and Football Games

Rule #1: Be Early! This applies to all activities and makes it easier on Band Staff, Band Members and Parents (you).

Home Football Games

The Band Boosters are responsible for running the Concession Stand and Novelties Stand at all home football games. If you are not volunteering that day, at least stop by, say high and get something to eat and drink. If you want a piece of apparel that is not at the Novelties stand, ask the individuals working there and maybe we can get it for you.

Band Camps

Band Camps begin in June with one week of Mini-Band Camp in June and two weeks of Band Camp in August at General McLane High School. There are also several days of Practice at the end of August. The dates and times are included in the handbook and will be posted on the web page. The concession stand will be open during band camps and will be in need of volunteers. Also, your band member can order food (usually pizza or subs) if they want it for lunch. They will have to place their order early each morning at the concession stand.

Volunteering

Parents are an integral part of making the GMHS Band a success. Volunteering opportunities both large and small are available and everyone can contribute. Whether you are chairing an event or working for one hour at a football game, your contribution makes a difference. If being in charge is not your preference, start small. Begin by chaperoning an away football game, Band Trip or Competition. No experience is necessary for any of these jobs. Talk to other volunteers and find something that suits you best. Get involved. The rewards are tremendous. The following is a list of some of the volunteer tasks needed. Please consider how you can help. To learn more about volunteering, contact the event chair or ask the Band Booster President.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1
Concession stand and/or Novelties booth
Help distribute snacks during Band Camps
Sell novelties at football games and Exhibition
Serve food at Exhibition Chair Tracey Polaski / Lisa Prihoda</p> | <p>8
Buttons
Help make button pins of band members
Chair Ginny Keim</p> |
| <p>2
General Helper
Help at Band Camp</p> | <p>9
Spirit Committee
Generate Enthusiasm
Chair Ginny Keim</p> |
| <p>3
Chaperoning
Chaperones are needed for the Kennywood trip, Away football games, Competitions and Championship,
Chair Jennifer Conley</p> | <p>10
Uniform Fitting
Help fit students with uniforms and keep records
Mend uniforms Chair Marcia Cooke</p> |
| <p>4
Musical Notes for Seniors
Help sand and paint wooden musical notes</p> | <p>11
Publicity –
Notify media of Exhibition, meetings, concerts, etc.
Chair _____</p> |
| <p>5
Trailer Transport
Drivers with vehicles able to pull the trailer are needed.
Free admission to event and gas allotment provided.</p> | <p>12
Marching Band Review
Organize/help with reception after the performance</p> |
| <p>6
Senior Memory Book
Collect pictures and organize a scrapbook for seniors</p> | <p>13
Senior Night
Organize/help reception and recognition activities</p> |
| <p>7
Fundraisers –
Organize or help with one or more of many fundraisers
Chair Cheryn Rawson</p> | <p>14
Bid for the Bands
A committee is forming to organize the event</p> |

*Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless,
but because they are **priceless**.*

Concession Stand

The Band Boosters are responsible for running the concession stand at all sporting events at General McLane High School including Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Track & Field, etc and will need volunteers for these events

Student Accounts, Fundraisers, Exhibition

Student Accounts:

When entering the GM Marching band, the treasurer will set up an individual account for each band member within the main GM Band Boosters Account. This student account is used to cover the individual student's cost for various Band Trips made throughout the years the student is in the band (i.e. Disney Trip, etc). There are various ways to help fund this account including Fundraisers, Volunteering at the Concession Stand, and Direct funding (you make a payment directly into the account). When the student discontinues participation in the band (graduation, etc.), the account balance may only be transferred to a sibling who is currently in or will be in the band in the upcoming school year. Otherwise, the balance will revert to the Band Boosters General Fund. Balance/Trip Deposits can be refunded to parents for up to the amount of money paid out-of-pocket into the student account for the trip year. Per Band Booster By-Laws, **No amounts raised by fundraising can be refunded.** This goes by a year to year basis. A deadline will be established by the treasurer to notify parents of when they can request a refund of an cash deposits directly paid into the student account. Any questions on this should be directed to the Treasurer.

Fundraisers:

Numerous fundraising opportunities are done throughout the year for Students/Parents to help fund the student accounts. Past examples include Magazine sales, Candle sales, car washes, Kiwanis Duck Tickets, Ads for the Exhibition program, etc. An announcement will be made at the June and August Booster meetings to advise which fundraisers are being done for the current Band season. The majority of the profits made on fundraisers are credited to the individual student accounts (per Band Booster By-laws, a minimum of 10% is required to go into the Boosters General Fund).

Exhibition:

The GM Exhibition and Clinic is the Premier event of the Marching Band Competition Season. This is an all day event and usually involves the participation of around 16 bands. During this event, there is a need for a large number of volunteers. Signups will be requested at the May through August Band Booster meetings.

Common Band Terms and What They Mean

Listening to marching band staff, students and parents talk can sometimes feel like you're listening to a foreign language. Below is our attempt to define some of the commonly used terms.

Battery (Drum Line): These are the snare drums, tenor drums (sometimes called quads or quints), and bass drums that are carried and played while marching.

Color Guard (Guard): These students move with the music, often display flags or colorful props, adding visual excitement to the total presentation. In some shows, they enact the stories and may be dressed to fit the roles.

Competition (Invitational): This is an event where bands are judged and ranked in groups called flights. Specific areas are being judged according to captions (categories) laid out on page 7. **Be warned: What may appeal to the spectators may not impress the judges.**

Drill: This refers to the formations the band makes and the movement from one form to another. It's the MARCHING part of the program.

Drum Major: This student (or students) is second in command (behind the director). This person directs the band for the show and is given authority to make many decisions. All band members are expected to follow his/her leadership. Drum Major auditions are held during Mini-Band Camp.

Flight: This is the term used in competition to group bands.

General Effect: A judging term (commonly mis-understood) that refers, in lay-men's terms to the "wow" factor of a show. How the visual and musical elements interact to entertain the judges and the audience creates "General Effect".

Impact: A moment in the show that is a climactic or "wow" moment. "Impacts" generate much of the General Effect score in a show, and get a lot of rehearsal attention to get them to work exactly the way the design staff intends. Impacts ideally happen in the show every 45-60 seconds to keep the audience engaged.

The Pit: The students in the pit play instruments that are stationary (often in the front of the band or toward the sideline). They may be on raised platforms or even movable platforms. The pit often includes percussion instruments and/or keyboards.

Pit Crew: These are the very important volunteers that quickly assemble the field commander's stand, props and pit instruments for every performance. After the show, the pit crew is responsible for quickly removing all these items from the field. The show is timed and the pit crew plays a vital part with their speed and accuracy to help the band avoid penalty points. Each band has four minutes to set up and only three minutes to exit the field. The Pit Crew also plays a large role in the construction of any props that are used during the show. If you would like to be a member of the Pit Crew, contact the director or any Booster Officer. They'd be happy to introduce you to the "Pit Boss".

Section Leader: This is often a senior from each instrument section of the band. In the guard, this position is called the captain. This person makes sure his/her section is following instructions and is achieving what the field commander and director expect. This is a position of authority and requires maturity and strong leadership skills.

Sectionals: These are practice sessions with members of the same instrument group.

Show: This is the performance that the marching band does for competition. It usually is based around a theme, a composer, a type of music or a story. We perform, perfect and add to the same show all season.

Winds: These students play brass or woodwind instruments. This includes everyone but the Guard, Pit and Battery.

Contacts

Email Addresses

Band Director

John Marszalek – Marszalek.j@generalmcclane.org

Booster President

Cheryn Rawson – cgrawson22@gmail.com

Booster Vice President

Jennifer Shepherd – gmmarchingband@gmail.com

Booster Treasurer

Dan Prihoda – DNL1124@verizon.net

Booster Secretary

Ward Waldo – gmbandboosters@gmail.com

Assistant Band Director

Diann Smith – smith.d@generalmcclane.org

Telephone Numbers

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Band Boosters Mailing Address

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