

LOARA HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD ORIENTATION INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

If you wish to become a member of the Loara Color Guard, then it is very important that you read, understand, and agree to abide by the tenets of these orientation materials. Our program is built on a foundation of everyone understanding program expectations and following through. It is important that everyone does their fair share, and knows that everyone else is doing what they have agreed to by signing the program contract. We have a well-developed system of accountability for both students and parent boosters, so please read this carefully and ask questions so your involvement with the program will be what we intend and what you wish.

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

In general, the school district pays the teacher's salary and provides a place for instruction. The school district provides for a portion of the instructional staff's payroll through the "extra-service" appendix to the teacher's contract. The school district supports Color Guard as a curricular offering. The school district strongly believes in the value of music programs and the programs that are attached to it. They support us with their policies as well as supporting us financially.

Our booster club's annual budget includes items for staffing, costumes, transportation, entry fees, capitol outlay, vehicle maintenance, show production items, props, office supplies, insurance, banking, and so much more that is not supported by the district. The booster club exists to support the general needs of the program.

To be in the competitive parade and field performances, to compete in court competitions, spring show, and to participate in events that require the program to raise money, you must be willing to work with the booster club to help raise the funds and/or pay the costs associated with participation.

THE STUDENT

Students are required to be at all rehearsals and performances. Students are responsible for communicating with their parents and keeping them informed about program events and responsibilities. Students must dedicate themselves to the development and improvement of their performing skills through practice on their own.

Performing, friends, dedication, and integrity are the qualities the program focuses on. Students should be interested in working on developing these qualities through practice, good citizenship, a strong work ethic, and acceptance of responsibility.

THE PARENT/FAMILY

Parent involvement is necessary. It is important that everyone does their fair share to support all of the students in the program.

When parents have questions or concerns, proper protocol should be followed. If you have a concern that is student oriented, Mr. Schroeder should be contacted. Other issues have an appropriate booster position to address your question or concern. See our web site (www.loaraband.org) for our constitution and by-laws, which will outline our organization's structure and define areas of responsibility for you. Of course, you can always contact the Band Office (714-999-3672).

YOUR FAMILY ACCOUNT

When you become a member of the band program, a "family account" is opened up for you automatically. Almost all of your financial transactions with the program will go through your "family account". It is called a "family account" because the money can be used by parents as well as students for trips and camps and anything that is program related. Your account information is available at any time by calling the band office (999-3672) or your parent rep. You will also be provided with a monthly statement of your account and its status.

The family account is there for program related expenses. You can pay for camps, trips, attire, and even private lessons or instruments through your account. You cannot buy yearbooks, class rings, pay for prom, or other non-program related expenses through your account.

BAND OFFICE/FAMILY ACCOUNT COORDINATOR

Since 1968, the Loara Band has been fortunate to have a volunteer parent work in the band office. Parents who work in the band office work with the parent reps for each group to organize all of our trips and collecting money for their accounts. The band office and your parent rep are the people to call to find out the status of your family's account.

THE LOARA BAND AND COLOR GUARD BOOSTER CLUB, INC.

The booster club exists to serve and support ALL of the students in the program. Membership in the booster club is free and automatic when your child becomes a member. The booster club holds regular meetings on the first Monday of the month, which you are encouraged to attend. The booster club is incorporated and is a 501-c3, non-profit and tax-exempt entity in the State of California. Boosters serve and support the needs of the students and are not a policy-making entity. They have autonomy and control over their structure, operating procedures, and the money that is earned through booster sponsored fund-raisers. Instructional staff and student related matters are not under the purview of the booster club.

PARENT REPS

In totality, we are the Loara Band Family. But we are comprised of several sub groups. Each group has a parent representative to the booster board. They advocate for their group and are the major source of communication between the booster club, the program families, and the band office. You will work with your parent rep more than any other person in the program.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is one of the most important aspects of a program like ours. The band has developed several ways of communicating with you and keeping you up to date in a timely manner.

General booster meetings are on the first Monday of the month. Booster board meetings are on the last Monday of the month. All meetings are open and everyone is encouraged to attend. We publish a monthly newsletter, which is distributed at the general booster meeting on the first Monday of the month and is then placed on "the table next to the door" in the band room for easy access. Each time we have a performance (other than football games) a flyer is produced which includes maps, schedules, and anything else you need to know. Our boosters have an organized phone tree. We also have a web site that has calendars, newsletters, and much more on it. The URL address is www.loaraband.org. The band office phone (999-3672) also has taped messages as well as fax capability. You can leave messages on the office phone. You can email Mr. Schroeder through the web site or at Loara@aol.com.

TIME COMMITMENT

There are times when we are very busy, and there are times when we are not. The important thing is that you be aware of the fact that there will be occasions when the demand on your time will be more than you might be used to, and that you should be ready and willing to give the time it takes to be a member of our highly successful program. Perusing a calendar of events for the program will give you a good idea how our year goes. You can do that by accessing the Program's web site at www.loaraband.org and clicking on the calendar page.

We are active throughout the summer, although summer activities are not required until we begin "band camp" (August 20, 2007). The student leader will contact you about "summer sectionals". You are encouraged to attend these sectionals unless you are out of town on vacation. Attached unit team members who miss too many summer rehearsals may not be able to perform until their abilities catch up to the rest of the team. About two weeks before school starts (8-20-07), we begin what we call "band camp". All students wishing to participate in the marching band portion of the program need to attend band camp. There will be more about band camp later in these materials.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Full participation in the Color Guard will cost under \$2,000 per year. This includes all camps, trips, clothing/uniform costs, and any other expenses. A "schedule of expenses" page is attached to these orientation materials which will explain in detail how much it costs, and when the money is due.

Aside from the expenses related to being in the attached units, all parents should contribute to the efforts of the booster club, which supports the general needs of ALL the students. While participating in booster

activities is not a financial obligation per se, the boosters are responsible for raising the money that supports the general needs of the organization and is an important financial consideration and obligation. Booster involvement is detailed on the "schedule of expenses" page as well.

FUNDRAISING

Booster club fundraisers meet the general needs of the program as represented in the annual budget, and your participation in their efforts is only fair as well as being expected. Student/family fundraising, which is designed to help you offset personal expenses related to being in the program, is voluntary.

UNIFORMS/COSTUMES

Attire such as shoes, briefs, and other personal items are purchased and owned by the individual. The individual pays for all "day uniform" items. All uniform/costume costs are included in the \$2,000 figure given earlier. Details about cost and what the items include are given at the new member meetings after auditions as well as being represented in the "expenses" page.

BAND CAMP

Of all the things we do during the year, Band Camp would be the one thing that most of the students would single out as their favorite. Not only is this an intense 4 or 5 days of hard work preparing the parade and field bands for marching season, this is also where the group bonds and becomes a family. Most of the group's traditions and foundations are established at band camp. Even though there is expense attached to the band camp, it is well worth it. Students who do not go to camp take longer to assimilate fully into the group once school starts. By going to camp, your student will begin school with over 200 new friends and a sense of security and belonging that few freshmen experience as they enter high school, not to mention the performing skills they develop and music that is learned at camp. Going to camp in the mountains is not required, but is strongly recommended. Parents wishing to be chaperones at camp just need to contact Mrs. Miller (774-4854) to get on the list. You can also contact Mrs. Miller online at BertBand@aol.com.

SUMMER CAMPS

The attached units rehearse at school over the summer with their instructors. Basic skills are taught. These "school camp" rehearsals are not mandatory if you are on vacation, but every rehearsal you miss places you that much farther behind the rest of the team and almost always affects your ability to perform until you catch up. The attached units go to Band Camp before school starts. The school camp rehearsals are free. Band Camp costs \$200. Please remember not to make summer plans until you are given the team's summer rehearsal and camp dates at the new member meetings after auditions.

TRIPS

The attached units all go on overnight trips that require out of school time. The costs for the trips are included in the \$2,000 figure given earlier. We cannot travel without appropriate parent support. All teams need chaperones when on a trip as well as helping hands with the preparation of costuming and props for performances. For our girls to travel, we must first know that there is enough parent participation to allow it. Please plan ahead.

BAND AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The program's philosophy is that high school age students need the opportunity to explore and experience a wide variety of activities. Most band members are involved in other groups and/or organizations.

We consider what you are doing at school to be of the greatest importance. Of course things like your family, religion, and health take priority. Family situations must be of an emergency or tragic nature. Weekend trips to the mountains do not qualify. Religious excuses must be of a dogmatic nature such as religious holidays. Weekend church retreats do not qualify. Health excuses must be serious enough to warrant absence. Runny noses do not qualify. DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS MUST BE SCHEDULED AROUND REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES.

For exceptions to be warranted, we must hear from you in a timely fashion. Letting us know of conflicts at the last minute prevents us from being able to cover your absence and causes problems for the rest of the group. In general, two weeks notice is required.

GRADES

Per AUHSD policy, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA at each grading period (quarter) to be eligible to participate in any school activity. A GPA below 2.0 does not remove the student from the class, but from participating in extra and co-curricular activities. Raising the GPA on the following report card reinstates your ability to participate. There is a one time only opportunity to use "probation".

WHAT CLASSES TO SIGN UP FOR

All members of the color guard/dance team will be enrolled in, 4240 "0" PERIOD MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS. This course gives you fine arts credit and gives you a grade on your report card for the time you put in during 0 period.

Color guard members will also be enrolled in 5165 COLOR GUARD, first period.

Below (see attachment) are three suggested four-year school plans. The first is designed to prepare you for basic entry into college. The second includes AP and Honors courses of study within the college preparatory plan. The third example is for those interested in the IB (International Baccalaureate) program. Each example shows you how to reach your academic goals while having band (or any elective) in your schedule.

The most important thing is that you consider the classes you are taking from the time you are a freshman (7th grade would be better) to make sure that you are taking all of the classes you need and are taking them in the correct year so you don't find yourself in your Junior and Senior year behind in your classes with no chance for taking electives or enrolling in advanced courses.