

# Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks



## Handbook 2011

[www.LakotaEastBands.org](http://www.LakotaEastBands.org)

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**\*THE FOLLOWING FORMS ARE ONLINE AT LAKOTAEASTBANDS.ORG\***

[www.lakotaeastbands.org/marching/forms-documents/](http://www.lakotaeastbands.org/marching/forms-documents/)

1. Lakota Emergency Medical Form
2. Lakota Medication Permit
  - a. (School Copy. This for prescription medication)
3. Lakota Medication Permit
  - a. (Band Use Only. For Over The Counter medication i.e. Tylenol)
4. Thunderhawk Marching Band Contract
5. Lakota Board of Education Substance Abuse Marching Band Guidelines
6. WSU Play it Safe and Release Form
7. Lakota East Upbeat Club Information Form
8. Marching Band Rehearsals and Performance Schedule

# The Tradition Continues!

**To all Lakota East Band Members:**

**Welcome!**

We look forward to having you participate in one of the most active and exciting activities at Lakota East High School.

**The Lakota East Thunderhawk Marching Band Mission Statement**

The Thunderhawk Marching Band is dedicated to the development of self-esteem and self-reliance. It encourages teamwork, sportsmanship, civic pride and contributions of one's personal best to a group effort. These lessons are learned through a musical and marching activity in which there is a blending of the arts and athletics. Being a part of the East Marching Band is an experience of a lifetime. It is hard work, but the rewards and sense of accomplishment are second to none!

**Welcome to the Lakota East Marching Band Program!**

**Accomplishments of the Thunderhawk Marching Band**

**State Marching Band Finals**

Appearances - 15

Superior Rating at the OMEA State Marching Band Finals - 15

**Local Contests**

Number of Local Contests Entered – 59

Superior Ratings Earned at Local Contests – 59/ Grand Champion Awards – 36

First Place Finishes – 44 / Second Place Finishes – 12 / Third Place Finishes - 3

Best Music Awards – 41 / Best Marching Awards – 35/ Best General Effect Awards - 39

Best Auxiliary Awards – 30 / Best Percussion Awards – 25

Best-In-Class Awards – A LOT!!!!

**Parade Participation**

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii/ Waikiki Holiday Parade, Honolulu, Hawaii! / Pacific Life's Holiday Bowl Field Show (Superior Rating, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Internationally), Parade and Half-Time Show, San Diego, CA / Disney World Electric Light Parade, Orlando, FL / Cedar Point / Mason Heritage Day Parade / Liberty Township 4th Of July Parade / Union Township Funfest Parade / West Chester Christmas Parade / West Chester Memorial Day Parade

**What can you do to help add to our list of successes?**

The “Lakota East Thunderhawk Marching Band” is comprised of *brass, woodwind, percussion, field commanders* and *guard (auxiliary)* members. **Marching Band is the term that refers to ALL of these elements!**

### **The Chain Of Command**

THE DIRECTORS

THE FIELD COMMANDERS

THE SECTION LEADERS

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

THE BAND/GUARD MEMBERS

### **Field Commanders**

(The communicators of the band!)

Field Commanders will:

1. Be a positive role model for the band; Know as many members as humanly possible; Encourage all members to do their best; Work with those who are having difficulties with marching; Set up the field prior to rehearsals and tear down afterwards (Construct and oversee a field crew); Get members to rehearsal on time! (If a director is running late to a rehearsal, start the band with the warm up promptly at 3:15); Take ACCURATE attendance from section leaders; Participate in fundamentals by either leading or marching with the band (Helping new marchers is also appropriate); Be available to take charge for those extra impromptu performances (bonfires, pep rallies, etc...); Direct the band!

### **Section Leaders**

(The heart of our band)

Section Leaders will:

1. Be a positive role model for their section (be on time, have all the needed materials, be ready to rehearse, limit the excessive talking); Listen to and help out the field commanders; Know everyone in your section; Take accurate attendance; Be organized; Listen to your section playoff; Have patience with struggling marchers; Be at all impromptu performances (pep rallies, bonfires, etc...); Have an informal social event during the season for everyone in your section.

### **Leadership Team**

(The soul of the band)

The Leadership Team will:

1. Be a positive role model; When asked, help the section leader(s); Help chart 4 to 5 members in your section; Work with those who are having difficulties with marching or learning the music; Look out for your original squad members; Help the new members learn the system (where and when to be places, how to hang up the uniform, where to keep stuff, how to read charts, learn music, etc...); Be a big brother or sister to new members in your section. Be at all impromptu performances (pep rallies, bonfires, etc...).

### **Band/Guard Members**

(The backbone of the band)

Band and Guard Members will:

1. Be on time and at all rehearsals and events; Set up study times or meetings with teachers/administrators (if needed) on a Monday, Friday or from 2:40 until 3:15 Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; Have all the necessary items at each rehearsal (music, drill charts, pencil, charting chips, etc...); Have a water bottle at all rehearsals (there is no need to go in the school during an outdoor rehearsal); Know their music/routine and drill; Learn the style of marching and playing and then perfect them!

A BAND IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK. Respect the CHAIN!

## **Band Council**

The Band Council will be elected from the leadership team.

## **MARCHING BAND GUIDELINES**

### **Attendance Policy**

1. It is expected that you will attend every rehearsal and performance. Please schedule appointments for non-marching band days. See the calendar for the rehearsal schedule. Every time you miss a rehearsal or performance, you affect the band. We have an awesome band, BUT we can get better. We will not improve if we have members missing!
2. Please note the calendar and give the performance/rehearsal dates to your parents and if necessary to your employer. A conflict with a performance (ex: family wedding) should be reported at least three weeks in advance.
3. If you miss school, you miss marching band. There is no lowering of your grade for an excused school absence; HOWEVER, you will not march at the next event.
4. If you have an excused absence from marching band (missing school, medical emergency) your grade will not be lowered, HOWEVER, you will not march at the next event.
5. If you have an unexcused absence from marching band, your grade WILL be lowered and you will not march at the next event. Too many unexcused absences will result in your being removed from the band.
6. You must be at school in order to march! If you miss school on Friday, you won't be able to march the game or the event on the weekend.
7. If you miss a rehearsal, even if you were absent from school, fill out an absence form (see the directors for the form).
8. Report no earlier than 45 minutes prior to your assigned time for any rehearsal or performance. When you arrive, be sure to stay in the band room area only.

### **2011 Rehearsals**

1. Tuesdays- 3:15-5:15 winds (woodwind and brass), 6-8 guard and percussion
2. Wednesdays-"On the Field and Under the Lights" 6-8 ALL
3. Thursdays - 3:15-5:15 ALL

### **Make Up Rehearsals**

You can possibly make up the time missed from a rehearsal at the directors' discretion. No unexcused absences can be made up.

### **Examples of unexcused absences** (by no means is this a complete list):

1. Drivers Ed. You know the band schedule months ahead of the fall.
2. Work
3. Babysitting
4. Interviews
5. A bad day (you're at marching band; your day just got better!)
6. Too much homework
7. Club meetings or activities

### **Tardy**

1. Tardy is defined as being ten minutes or less late to rehearsal. Three tardies equal an unexcused absence. See unexcused absence policy above for consequences.
2. Tardy=being late. Being late=individual error. Individual error=bad performances. Bad performances=unfulfilled performance/lower scores/ratings.
3. The only reason to be tardy to a rehearsal is because of a teacher help session or make up quizzes/tests. At some point in time you may require help from a teacher in one of your other subjects. Please try to arrange help sessions on non-band days or from 2:30 until 2:50. Most

teachers will be glad to work with you so that you can get to rehearsal on time. Remember, without you the band is incomplete.

### **Leaving Early**

1. Again, you affect the band when you are not there. Leaving early will affect you the same way as being tardy.

### **Music/Routine Playoffs**

A schedule will be posted telling you when the music and auxiliary routines should be memorized. It's critical to our success that you follow this schedule and know your part.

Be prepared at all times. Keep practicing your music/routine and drill until its right. Then practice it again!

### **Shared Positions/Alternates**

1. Since the number of members that perform the competition show is predetermined, a few members will be assigned a shared position. These students who show commitment and hard work will alternate performances. Factors that are considered when deciding who is to march in a performance includes: attendance at rehearsals; marching skills and music checks for the show being performed; willingness to follow marching band guidelines; general attitude.
2. All attempts will be made to alternate performances.
3. If another spot opens up in the band, a shared position person may be asked to fill that position.
4. We will have shared positions for the competition show only. All members in good standing will march at parades, pre-game and football half-time shows when we are not performing the contest show.

### **Grades**

1. Marching Band is worth one-quarter credit.
2. Grades will be based on:
  - a) Attendance at rehearsals and performances.
  - b) Proficiency as determined by the directors.
  - c) Class participation.
  - d) Performance of assigned music and/or routines.
  - e) Cooperation in following established guidelines.
3. Those members, who are on time to all rehearsals, know their music and /or routine and are at every rehearsal and function will receive an A+, 100% for their marching band grade.

### **Facilities**

1. You will be assigned a locker or shelf area.
2. Put things in their proper places. Please pick up after yourself.
3. School supplies are not to be kept in the instrument shelves or lockers.
4. Do not walk on the carpet with muddy shoes. When coming into the band room from outside, please use the sidewalk.
5. Music stands are not to be used as desks and chairs are meant to be sat in, not stood upon.
6. Defacing of any school property and/or equipment in the music area is forbidden. Removal from the band can result.
7. The band offices are for directors only. Please ask to use the phone or to borrow something. If you borrow something, please return it!
8. TAKE PRIDE IN OUR FACILITY!

### **School-Owned Instruments**

1. There is a school instrument usage fee of \$45.00 per semester for a total of \$90 per year. The fee for percussionists is \$30.00 per semester. This fee is used to cover maintenance and up keep of the school-owned instruments.

## Instrument Care

1. Have your name and school on your case (personal and school owned instruments)!
2. You are expected to keep your instrument in proper working order. Never be without reeds, oil, grease, etc.
3. Do not play other people's instrument. Learn to play your own first!

## Private Lessons

When it comes to playing your instrument to the best of your ability, there is no substitute for private lessons with a competent teacher. The directors will be able to supply you with a list of qualified teachers. It is a proven fact that in most cases, students studying privately achieve a higher degree of proficiency on their instrument, thus enabling them to derive more musical benefits from their instrument and also to make a better contribution to the music program. See the website for a list of qualified teachers.

## Uniforms

1. You must give our uniforms the best care at all times.
2. When in uniform, your full uniform must be worn unless otherwise instructed.
3. You will turn in your uniform after each performance. They must be hung properly and hats must be in your storage box.
4. **You may not be dismissed following a performance until your uniform has been checked.**
5. Have your name in your shoes. It sounds funny, but it works.
6. Keep your gloves clean, shoes polished, and your instrument or props shiny.
7. Any hair extending beyond the uniform collar must be pinned up or tucked under your hat.
8. **No facial hair is allowed** as part of our uniform appearance.
9. **No jewelry, including earrings,** is to be worn with the uniform.
10. Inspections will take place before every performance. Section Leaders will inspect their sections and directors will inspect Section Leaders.
11. **BLACK SOCKS MUST BE WORN AT EVERY PERFORMANCE.** You will not march if you do not have black socks. These socks must be **crew-length** or longer.
12. A plain white **T-shirt** (or show shirt) must be worn under the uniform jacket. **NO** sleeveless shirts, tank tops or camisoles are allowed.
13. You will be changing in front of others. Over your usual underwear, please wear boxers, bike shorts or other short gym shorts that will not create a bulky look under the uniform trousers.
14. In climate-weather Uniforms: The Marching Band performs in just about every kind of weather. However, we may not be wearing our uniforms. In the event of bad weather, the uniform will be blue jeans, black socks, marching band shoes, your band shirt, parkas and hat. If the weather looks threatening, or you are in doubt, **BE PREPARED BY BRINGING BOTH THE ALTERNATE UNIFORM** and your normal uniform.

## Travel Rules

1. At the beginning of the season, you will sign a bus list. This will be your traveling assignment for the year. While on the bus, the chaperone is in direct charge. You must observe all rules in order to assure a safe trip.
2. Be on time. We will leave at the designated time **with or without** you.
3. **No food or drinks** will be allowed on the bus.
4. **Listen to the bus driver and chaperones.**
5. Be **silent** when crossing railroad tracks.
6. Use moderation when talking and singing.
7. Hands and arms must remain inside the bus at all times.
8. Stay seated when the bus is moving.
9. Reserve the front and rear seats for chaperones.
10. Do not board or load equipment on the bus until asked to do so.
11. Stay on the bus until asked to unload.
12. Leave windows up when leaving away football games unless told otherwise.
13. Take care of your uniform as instructed.
14. **Absolutely no exiting from the back door of the bus.** Exiting from the back of the bus is for emergencies only.

15. Don't ask to change bus assignments.
16. Don't forget to thank the bus driver and chaperones for their assistance in making our trip safe.
17. All students must travel **to and from** all activities on the bus.
18. In the event you need to go home with your parents, your parent(s) in person must sign you out with the head chaperone of your bus.
19. You will not be permitted to go home from a performance with other students.

### **Football Games**

1. Organization is the key to a good band. At football games the band is a vital part of school spirit. Be alert. Things happen quickly and you should be prepared to play the fight song after each East score.
2. Stay in full uniform at all times. No ball caps or other accessories are permitted.
3. We are a band therefore we will SIT together as a band. Only band members are allowed in our section of the bleachers. Do not invite other friends to sit in the band section.
4. Sitting in sections is important.
5. You must have your flip folder, with the current pep songs, in the stands.
6. When we play, we **WILL ALL PLAY!**
7. No experimenting with others' instruments!
8. **Do not leave the bandstands without the director's permission.**
9. Refreshment breaks come in the third quarter.
10. Take care of your instrument to prevent damage.
11. Make the best impression you can. Remember, you are wearing a Lakota East uniform, which stands for our school and community.
12. Be sure to be back when there are 2 minutes on the third quarter clock. We play between the third and fourth quarters.

### **Behavior**

1. Proper conduct and good sportsmanship are expected at all times.
2. Students will at all times conduct themselves according to the Lakota East High School Handbook. All school rules will be enforced.
3. Treat people the way you want to be treated.
4. When you travel with the band you are not only representing our band, but our school, your parents and the community. Be courteous and respectful at all times; your actions speak louder than your words.
5. Public displays of affection will not be tolerated at any time.
6. At a school (band) related activity, possession/use of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco products, will not be tolerated. (Read the Lakota Board Policy later in this handbook.)

### **Discipline**

1. As with any large organization, the directors cannot waste time on discipline problems. We will simply remove all students with discipline problems from the band. The administration says, and rightfully so, that athletes and band members should set the highest standards of behavior, a standard for the rest of the student body to follow.
2. Be sure to have a positive attitude.
3. A winning attitude produces a winning band.
4. Use common sense in all of your decisions.
5. If you know or think something is wrong, DON'T DO IT! Save us all a headache.

### **Consequences**

1. In order to be successful, we need every one to work together. This is the only way we can achieve our goals. If you are constantly late, have any unexcused absences, talk excessively during rehearsals, chew gum, use profanity or do anything that detracts from our band, you may not march in certain performances or you may be asked to leave the organization. Keep in mind, negative behavior not only hurts you but our band as well.
2. The following offenses will make you miss our next performance:
  - a) Excessive tardiness.

- b) Missed rehearsals or scheduled performances.
  - c) Inappropriate language.
  - d) Insubordination, lack of cooperation with the directors.
  - e) Suspension from school.
  - f) Any other offensive action the directors feel is inappropriate.
3. The following offenses will lead to serious consequences. See Lakota policies dealing with such.
- a) Smoking or possession of, cigarettes during a band function.
  - b) Involvement with any chemical substance at a band function.
  - c) Destruction of school or private property.
  - d) Not obeying the rules set forth by the directors on any trip.
  - e) Physical action against another student or staff member.
  - f) Any other offensive action the directors feel is inappropriate.

### **Cell Phones**

Music rehearsals (sectionals or full band) and field rehearsals are not the time nor place for cell phones. Marching band is an extension of the school day therefore the same cell phone rules apply. Turn off your cell phones and keep them in your pocket during rehearsals. In other words: **No cell phones (cell phone functions) during marching band!**

### **Section Spirit Shirts**

All section shirts must be approved by the band council. Those shirts that fail to get approval will not be allowed at school or any marching band function.

### **FORMS**

ALL FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON <http://www.lakotaeastbands.org/marching/forms-documents/>

#### **Emergency Medical Form**

This form is required for band camp and all band activities, including games, competitions and trips. This form must be **notarized** and have a **current photograph** of your student attached (one of the small school photos would be perfect). Please write the student's full name on the back of the photo and attach it to the lower right corner of the emergency medical form. **Please turn in the emergency medical form by July 31 at the latest.**

#### **Prescription and Over the Counter Medications**

1. Students are not permitted to keep any over-the-counter medications or prescriptions with them at band camp or other band functions. Any student needing prescription medication or over-the-counter medication during band camp, trips, or other band activities, needs to have a medication permit signed by the parent and physician on file with the band nurse. This is Lakota policy and state law.
2. On-line you will find a blank medication form (School Form) to be used for prescription medications and over the counter medications not listed on the second form. This first form needs to be signed by a parent, filled in and signed by a physician and then turned in to the band nurse with the medication in the original container at band camp registration.
3. The second medication form (For Band Use Only) is partially filled out with over-the-counter medications that the band nurse will have on hand at band camp, games, competitions, and trips. If you want your student to be able to take these medications while with the band, fill in the top portion and have your physician fill in and sign the middle section. Return the completed form to the band nurse at band camp registration (you do not need to bring the listed medications with your student; the band nurse will have them on hand).
4. Remember, all over-the-counter medications and prescriptions must have a medication form signed by a parent and physician on file with the band nurse. Without this form your student will not be able to receive any medication while on band activities.

5. The exception to this is, if your student needs to keep their inhaler with them. The band nurse needs to have a medication form filled out by you and your physician stating this. They also need to tell the band nurse each time they use their inhaler.

### Lakota Board Of Education Substance Abuse Policy

The form states the Lakota Board Of Education's Substance Abuse Policy as well as a consequence. You should print two copies of this form, one to sign and return to the band and another form your records.

### Wright State University Release Form

WSU is requiring every camper's guardian sign the release form found on the forms page of the website.

### Marching Band Fees Payment Schedule

1. Total cost of marching band is \$550.00 for instrumentalists. Checks are to be made payable to the Lakota East Upbeat Club (LEUC).
2. Payment Schedule: May 3 - \$200 non-refundable deposit due; June 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$200; July 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$150.00 balance due. In accordance with the Upbeat Club check payment policy, the last date that personal checks can be accepted for band camp payment is August 1.
3. Rookies are issued charting chips on a ring and an equipment bag that are to be used throughout their marching band career. If either are lost or damaged and replacement is needed, it must be purchased at the student's expense. Other uniform expenses include: marching shoes (\$36), gloves (\$5), and sousaphone players' berets (\$25). Guard will have an additional uniform expense. All deposits are non refundable (unless the student moves out of the district).

**All payments should be sent to:** LEUC Treasurer, LEHS Summer Band Camp, P.O. Box 1686, West Chester, OH 45071 (Please put your student's name on the memo line of the check).

**STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO BAND CAMP IF THEIR MARCHING BAND FEES ARE NOT PAID IN FULL.**

### Major Marching Band Trips (Occur Once Every Three-Years)

2011 is a major trip year! Trip information can be found on the bands website. (For advanced planning, the next major marching band trip will be in 2014.) Because this is a major trip year, there will be no Cedar Point weekend.

### Lakota East Upbeat Club (LEUC)

The Upbeat Club is the parent support group for the bands. We could not survive without their support. The various committee members and officers spend countless hours working to insure the band's success. Never take them for granted and thank them whenever possible.

### Upbeat Club Mailing Address

Lakota East Upbeat Club has a post office box. Our "official address" is P.O. Box 1686, West Chester, OH 45071. This is the address where the club receives invoices and other official business notices. Anyone can send payments and/or bills to this address. This address was set up to keep one permanent address—even when the officers change from year to year. You may also send money to school with your son or daughter to give to Mr. Tanis or Mr. Thomas. In the memo space of your check, identify what the check is for and the full name of the student.

### Upbeat Club Student Account Policy

Student accounts have been established with the goal of allowing band members to earn money for major expenses such as band camp and overnight trips. Some of the revenue earned by individual students participating in designated fundraisers will be credited to the student's account for future use at his/her

discretion. The designated fundraiser, and the student's percent of the revenue sharing for that particular fundraiser, will be determined by vote of the membership.

### **Upbeat Club Suggested Uses for Student Accounts**

- Band Camp fees
- Guard/Field Commander camp fees
- Overnight trip fees (not spending money for major trips or day trips)
- Uniform expenses (shoes, Guard uniforms, assessment for loss, damage)
- All State, Honor Band, Youth Symphony fees, etc.
- Solo and Ensemble fees
- Special assessments made by the Treasurer

### **Fund Raising**

Although not the most fun thing in the world, an organization like ours takes lots of money to run. Therefore, we are asking you to do your part and support the bands with the following fund raisers (this is just a partial list, there may be more added):

1. Tag Day. Students canvass the Lakota district in groups of four with a parent chaperone. The funds collected are placed in the uniform fund.
2. Fruit Sale. The money goes to the Upbeat Club. 10% - 20% of the amount you sell goes into your student account.
3. Homearama (when available). Money earned from Homearama goes directly into your student account.
4. Kroger/Meijer Rewards Cards. Use these cards to give a percentage of your purchase to Upbeat at no additional cost to you!
5. Scrips. See the bands' website for information on the Scrips program.

### **Home Games Cookie Schedule**

At home games, the East band invites the visiting team to the home side for refreshments and cookies. Our band members each supply the cookies (2-dozen) and one two-liter of clear soda. Store bought is acceptable, (but the directors really like homemade cookies!). Here is the cookie list:

Aug. 26	West High	Flutes, Clarinets
Sept. 16	Hamilton(freshman night)	Saxes, Guard
Oct.30	Mason (homecoming)	Trumpets, Horns
Oct. 21	Princeton (senior night)	Percussion, Field Commanders
Oct. 28	Lakota West	Trombones, Baritones, Sousaphones

### **2012 Memorial Day Parade**

The 2012 Memorial Day Parade is part of this season's marching band's responsibilities. Be sure to mark your 2012 calendar. Everyone that is in town that day is expected to be at the parade. **THIS INCLUDES ALL SENIORS!**

### **Wrap-Up**

Our hope is that this handbook covers most anything you need to know about the Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks. Certain unforeseen circumstances must be handled with basic common sense. Communication with the directors and student leaders is essential. Let's make this edition of the Lakota East Marching Thunderhawks a memorable one!!!

**These Documents are due at Pre-Camp:**

1. Lakota Emergency Medical Form
2. Lakota Medication Permit (School Copy. This for prescription medication)
3. Lakota Medication Permit (Band Use Only. For Over the Counter medication i.e. Tylenol)
4. Thunderhawk Marching Band Contract
5. Lakota Board of Education Substance Abuse Marching Band Guidelines
6. WSU Play it Safe and Release Form
7. Lakota East Upbeat Club Information Form

**\*\*After reading the entire contents of this handbook,** please download and fill out the forms. Remember both you and one of your parents must sign the marching band contract.

**The staff is looking forward to a great year of musical growth!**

P.S. Parents, please fill out the Lakota East Upbeat Club online information form.