

LINCOLN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2015-2016

June 5, 2015

Dear Lincoln Community High School “Railer” Band Member,

Congratulations on being a member of the RAILER BANDS.

The band is the largest organization at Lincoln Community High School. With 60 members+, the band attracts some of the most talented and active students in the school. Band members are involved in numerous clubs and service organizations on campus. They are Class Officers, National Honor Society members, Academic Honor Students, members of all our athletic teams from Basketball to Track, and they hold after school jobs. So when you join the band at Lincoln Community High School you become a member of a very special family that derives its strength from its diverse and active membership.

Read all the information carefully, ask your parents to read it, and then go over it with them. **Take time now to put the enclosed dates on your summer and fall calendars.** Preparation is one of the keys to success, so plan now for next year.

Being a member of the “Railer Band” offers you the opportunity to continue being a part of setting a marvelous tradition for the years to come. Traditions are important to organizations such as ours. Our tradition is one of exciting, fun and great performances all over central Illinois. Hard work is the secret behind this tradition and it will take a maximum effort from you to maintain superior standards set by those before you.

It will be the marching band’s goal to support our football team by attending and performing at every Friday night home football game, and to place in the top three of our class at the five competitions we elect to enter.

Towards that end, please allow me to welcome you to this musical family and charge you to meet the challenges that are before you. With the right attitude and a commitment to try your hardest, you will reach goals you never before dreamed possible. As you grow, our band family will grow.

Should you need to ask any questions concerning the enclosed materials, don’t hesitate to email me at swaar@wildblue.net or dswaar@lchs.k12.il.us. If you can’t reach me at the office please feel free to call me at (217) 737-5973.

Musically Yours,

David Swaar, Band Director

**Mandatory Meet the New Parents and New Freshmen:
Tuesday, June 16th at 6:00 PM, High School Band Room**

Marching Band Summer Mini Camps 2015

EVENT	DAY	DATE	TIME
Mini Camp	Tuesday	July 7th	9-12
Mini Camp	Thursday	July 16th	9-12
Mini Camp	Wednesday	July 22nd	9-12

PRE-SEASON BAND CAMP

BAND CAMP is a very important time set aside specifically to work on marching fundamentals and to get a head start on our pre-game and halftime shows. We start practicing about the same time as the football team. It is very important that all band members be present for band camp. This usually means sacrifice on all our parts in terms of summer jobs, vacations, and school shopping. However, only sacrifice and commitment on *everyone's* part can produce a top-notch marching band. Every attempt has been made to put our camps as close to the start of school as possible.

WHAT TO WEAR: This year we are going to wear our black marching shoes during camp, provided they have been delivered. They have a specially designed heel to promote the roll step and should help us to learn to march better and learn quicker. **NO FLIP FLOPS OR BARE FEET.** Also, I'd like to try and have everybody in white shirts or white t-shirts. White is obviously cooler in the sun and with everyone in the same color, it will be easier to see formations.

BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

Mandatory Attendance

Times subject to change

DAYS	DATE	AM	PM
Tues – Fri	Aug 4th – 7th	8-12	1-5
Mon – Fri	Aug 10 - 14	8-12	1 -5
Sat	Aug 15	9-12	1-4

LCHS BANDS GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICY

Marching Shoes – Cost of the shoes for all band members is approximately \$38.00 Current students; if you have a pair that does not fit anymore we can order a new pair for you.

Band Shirts – All band members will be given a red Lincoln Railer Pep Band shirt. This is the official uniform of the pep band, and doubles as a hot weather uniform for marching band.

Uniforms - Will be fitted during band camp. The band boosters will help size and hand out uniforms. They will do the best job they can to fit everybody in the best possible way. However, don't expect the fit to be like you wear your current clothes. There will have to be some adjusting.

Avoid Conflicts. Be aware of the weekends of **September 12th, September 19th, September 26th, October 17th, and October 31st.** It is very difficult for other students, and many other problems occur when we have to perform in competition with “holes” out on the field. Marching Band is a team effort and the whole team needs to be there.

Unannounced performances All performances that are given to you now on the “Band Calendar” will be required performances. As requests for band to perform come in, the band staff will evaluate whether we are able to perform based on known conflicts. When an extra performance is pending, students will be asked to identify conflicts with the date. If we confirm that we are able to perform, requests to be excused from that performance will be handled on an individual basis.

Fundraising – All student members are expected to participate in all fundraisers. Profits from each member's individual effort will be set aside into an account for their use for events and trips. At the end of their senior year any money left over will be rolled over into the booster's general account. Students are not allowed to use this money for personal use.

In addition to student fundraisers, the boosters will have several dinner fundraisers to help pay for drill, camp staff, flag instructor, equipment, music, costumes, and to help provide meal money and a pizza party for any overnight trips taken. They also pay for bus driver rooms and help defray expenses for chaperones on extended trips.

Music– All instrumentalists will be provided with a packet of music. Music *must be memorized* so start practicing now. Even though music is to be memorized everyone will need a lyre. They are available at The Music Shoppe in Normal.

Upgrades-We are recommending that the following instruments try to step up to a new mouthpiece rather than the stock mouthpiece that came with the instrument. The Music Shoppe in Normal has some great prices. Some of these items are 50% off. Check them out online or call. 1-800-322-5019

The following mouthpieces are ***highly recommended*** upgrades. They will facilitate better tone, more projection, play easier and help produce the same sound from each player within their section.

TRUMPETS: Bach 3C megatone or standard 3C mouthpiece.

TROMBONES/BARITONES: Bach 6 ½ AL megatone or standard 6 ½ AL mouthpiece.

CLARINETS: VanDoran B45. Great mouthpiece, easy to blow and plays in tune.
This mouthpiece will need an M-O Ligature.

SAXOPHOES: Eugene Rousseau Classic 4 mouthpiece with an M-O Ligature.

We know these upgrades can be expensive, but feel they are well worth it and should help eliminate some of the frustrations we incurred last year as far as intonation and tone quality are concerned. Nothing beats practice though.

All reed players are expected to have two working reeds at all times. High school players should be playing on medium hard (3) strength reeds by now. Having a quality reed helps to assure a good sound. VanDoran reeds are highly recommended and are available at almost 50% off retail (by the box) at the Music Shoppe in Normal.

LCHS BANDS GRADING POLICY

Policy for 2015 – 2016 Season

Band is considered an academic class and will receive full credit and count toward a student's grade point average.

Attendance: 45% of grade

Due to limited rehearsal time, it is imperative that we make the most of each rehearsal. Each member of the LCHS Band has an obligation to fellow band members to be at all rehearsals on time, prepared, and with all necessary equipment. . *It is your responsibility to clear all performance dates on your social, personal, family, and work calendars. You have the schedule far enough in advance to avoid 99% of conflicts.*

- All band students must abide by the Lincoln Community High School attendance policies.
- Attendance is required at all rehearsal, sectionals, and performances, including summer band camp.
- Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases:
 - Medical emergency or personal injury
 - Death in the family
- Examples of unexcused absences and tardies include but are not limited to:
 - Work
 - If you have given your employer your schedule, and they still schedule you to work, I will need a note from your supervisor stating that they have received your schedule and they could not schedule around it.
 - Over-sleeping
 - Transportation not arranged
 - Anything deemed unexcused by the Assistant Principals
- All anticipated absences and tardies are to be reported by the parents in writing to the Director. A form is available on the band's web site. www.railerbands.com. E-mail notification will only be accepted when followed by the submission of the written form.
- Notification in writing must be made to the Director for any anticipated absence:
 - Rehearsal/Sectionals – at least one week in advance
 - Performances – at least four weeks in advance
 - Also in all cases of excused absence, time must be served in work related to the band (music library, uniform preparation, practice, etc.) equal to the time spent by band members at the activity. Tasks will be assigned by the band director and will be scheduled at the director's convenience.
- Unexcused absences and tardies from rehearsals may result in but are not limited to:
 - Grade reduction
 - Make-up assignments
 - Loss of performance status
 - Expulsion from the Band Program
- No automatic excused absences will be given for athletic contest participation, and excused rehearsal absence credit will not be given automatically for athletic practice commitments. The student must take the time and planning necessary to make sure the director and the student's parents are informed prior to the 28 day limit.

Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student's grade being lowered 3 letter grades for the grading period.

Please note that this lowered grade supersedes all other components of the grade for the grading period.

RUBRIC				
GRADE	F or D	C	B	A
ATTENDANCE	Unexcused absences from practices and/or performances. Consistently late for events.	Occasionally excused misses of practices and/or performances. Late occasionally.	Misses very few practices and has perfect attendance at performances. Always on time.	Near perfect, to perfect attendance at practices and performances. Always on time.

Attitude: 30% of grade

Displays a positive attitude, willing to take on new challenges and willing to learn from new experiences. Team player, helping group achieve common goals. An attitude of "whatever it takes".

RUBRIC				
GRADE	F or D	C	B	A
ATTITUDE	Never works at 100%, always distracted and talks consistently during rehearsals. Often is publicly critical of the project or the work of other members of the group. Often has a negative attitude about the task(s).	Often works at less than 100%. Lacks focus and talks often during rehearsals. Occasionally is publicly critical of the project or the work of other members of the group. Sometimes has a negative attitude about the task(s).	Often works at 100%, focusing on task at hand. Sometimes talks during rehearsals and occasionally helps when asked. Rarely is publicly critical of the project or the work of others. Often has a positive attitude about the task(s).	Always works at 100%, focusing on the task at hand. Doesn't talk during rehearsals and helps other when needed. Never is publicly critical of the project or the work of others. Always has a positive attitude about the task(s).

Ability: 25% of grade

Student are judged on whether or not they are playing to their full potential, taking into account for previous educational background, natural ability, and willingness to work on own time.

RUBRIC				
GRADE	F or D	C	B	A
TONE QUALITY	The tone is often not focused, clear or centered regardless of the range being played, significantly detracting from the overall performance	Tone is often focused, clear and centered, but sometimes the tone is uncontrolled in the normal playing range. Extremes in range are usually uncontrolled. Occasionally the tone quality detracts from overall performance.	Tone is focused, clear and centered through the normal playing range of the instrument. Extremes in range sometimes cause tone to be less controlled, Tone quality typically does not detract from the performance.	Tone is consistently focused, clear, and centered throughout the range of the instrument. Tone has professional quality
Rhythm	The beat is usually erratic and rhythms are seldom accurate detracting significantly from the overall performance.	The beat is somewhat erratic. Some rhythms are accurate. Frequent or repeated duration errors. Rhythm problems occasionally detract from the overall performance.	The beat is secure and the rhythms are mostly accurate. There are a few duration errors, but these do not detract from the overall performance.	The beat is secure and the rhythms are accurate for the style of music being played.
Pitch	Very few accurate or secure pitches.	Some accurate pitches, but there are frequent and/or repeated errors.	An occasional isolated error, but most of the time pitch is accurate and secure.	Virtually no errors. Pitch is very accurate.
Practice	Student's performance indicates there is very little practice outside of class	Student's performance indicates some practice outside of class, but with little attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates regular practice outside of class with some attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates regular and sustained practice outside of class, with great attention to areas of difficulty.
Dynamics	Attention to dynamic levels is not obvious	dynamics levels fluctuate but can be discerned.	Dynamic levels are typically accurate and consistent.	Dynamics levels are obvious, consistent, and an accurate interpretation of the style of music being played.
Phrasing	Phrasing is rarely consistent and/or rarely sensitive to music style.	Phrasing is usually consistent and occasionally sensitive to the style of music being played.	Phrasing is usually consistent and sensitive to the style of music being played.	Phrasing is always consistent and sensitive to the style of music being played.
Note Accuracy	Wrong notes consistently detract from the performance	A few inaccurate notes are played, detracting somewhat from the overall performance.	An occasional inaccurate note is played, but does not detract from overall performance.	Notes are consistently accurate.
Articulation	Few secure attacks. Markings are typically not executed accurately.	Attacks are rarely secure, but markings are often executed accurately as directed by the score and/or the conductor.	Attacks are usually secure, though there might be an isolated error. Markings are executed accurately as directed by the score and/or the conductor.	Secure attacks. Markings (staccato, legato, slur, accents, etc.) are executed accurately as directed by the score and/or the conductor.

LINCOLN RAILER BAND BOOSTERS

Having a son/daughter in the band or any of its auxiliary groups automatically makes you a member of our parent support group. The following is a note from our boosters.

Parents,

Welcome to the LCHS Band! The Lincoln Railer Band Boosters are instrumental in fitting uniforms during the mandatory band camp, attending and/or chaperoning the band competitions in the fall, enjoying their performances, and more. Traditionally, we organize three fundraisers for the students benefit during the school year. Proceeds from these enter directly into the "Student's Account," which help to offset the expense of the band trips. Band Boosters also have the opportunity to sponsor the concession stand at all home Boys Varsity Basketball games. This project has proven to be very successful (and fun), but is not possible without the support of ALL parents. Proceeds have resulted in some wonderful extras for the students such as money to help pay for meals while on the spring band trip, new flags and Color Guard costumes, and scholarships for summer band camps. We're pleased to have planned and supported trips that allowed the band to compete at the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, play on the steps at the Capitol in Washington, DC, march in parades at Disney World, and perform concerts at many other places in the U.S. and Canada.

We welcome all parents to our meetings and encourage you to attend. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on and what's coming up. We try to hold our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of holidays. Please consult the band calendar, included with this mailing, for our scheduled meetings. We hope you will join us and share your ideas, talents, and good times with us!

The Boosters have voted to collect dues from each family in the amount of \$10.00.

In order to be a more effective group, the Lincoln Railer Band Boosters will be setting up a reference file on parents who are available to help the band, as well as contact information to help keep you informed. Please complete the information below and return it to the band office, or send it with your son or daughter to pre-season camp.

BOOSTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Please Print

Parent/Guardian

Student

Name(s): _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Work Phone: _____

_____ Other Phone: _____

E-mail

Address: _____

I can serve in the following way(s):

_____ Work in the Concession Stand (All parents are urged to work *at least one game.*)**

_____ Chaperone Competition Trips

_____ Chaperone Spring Tour

_____ Uniform Mom (Checkout, repairing, turn-in)

_____ Seamstresses or Competent sewers for guard costumes and related materials (flag, banners etc.)

_____ Ways and Means (fundraising for both student accounts and Booster treasury)

_____ Telephone Committee

_____ Help during school hours

_____ Have truck/van available for special needs

_____ Available to help set up marching pit during games and/or competitions (please specify)

_____ Special abilities: Electrician, Carpenter, Welder, Doctor, Nurse, EMT, Videographer, etc.

Please indicate the best time to reach you by phone. _____

Please return with Shoe Order Form!

**Dates of basketball games available on the Band Website: www.railerbands.com

You do not have to specify a date to work, but if you have a known conflict we will try to avoid scheduling you for that game.

Name: _____

ORDER FORM FOR MARCHING SHOES

SHOES (Mandatory for Band Members Only)

To determine the shoe size it is recommended that you order the same size as you would for your child's dress shoes.

Men's Size _____ \$38.00@ _____

Women's Size _____ \$38.00@ _____

Gloves (order next size smaller than usual) XXS XS S M L XL \$2.50@ _____

Booster Dues (Everybody) _____ Per Family \$10.00 _____

TOTAL _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LCHS BAND BOOSTERS

HEALTH QUESTIONNAIR
2015-2016

Name of Student _____ Parent's name _____

Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Emergency Phones 1) _____

2) _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MEDICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE STUDENT:

1) Please list any serious illnesses:

a) _____

b) _____

2) Is the student subject to fainting spells? Yes _____ No _____

3) Does the student have any chronic illness? Yes _____ No _____

If yes please list. _____

4) Does the student take any regular medication? Yes _____ No _____

If yes please list. _____

If student takes medication with him/her on the tour, please keep it in the original bottle with label attached.

5) Is the student allergic to any drugs or medicines? Yes _____ No _____

If yes please list. _____

6) Has the student had a tetanus vaccine? Yes _____ No _____

Booster _____

Please give the date of the most recent vaccine _____

Consent To Receive Treatment

As parent or guardian of _____,

I authorize treatment of the above mentioned student by a qualified physician or nurse in the event the student would require medical treatment. I understand that should a serious of life-threatening medical emergency arise, initial treatment of the student may be rendered by an individual, trained in first aid, if in the opinion of that individual, delay might endanger his/her life, cause disfigurement or undue comfort. On the Medical Information Form I have listed any allergies, ongoing medical treatment, or medical problems which might influence treatment of the student. I will be responsible for charges incurred for the student's treatment. This permission is granted with the understanding that except in a serious medical emergency, a reasonable effort will be made to inform me prior to treatments.

SIGNED: _____

Parent or Guardian

Address: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Insurance Company & Policy # _____

ALL STUDENTS

Most of the music is available at the following websites. Follow the directions below and you will be able to listen and play along.

Directions:

1. Go to www.arrpubco.com
2. Click on Theme Show
3. “Sound of Simon Opener”
4. “Sound of Simon Production”
5. “Sound of Simon Closer”

2015–2016 Band Handbook

We have read and understand the material presented in the Band Handbook.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parents: _____ Date: _____