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Welcome to the Legacy Lightning Family!

Congratulations! You and your student are now part of one of the most successful, dynamic, and inspiring high school communities in the state of Colorado - the Legacy Lightning Band Program.

The season ahead will be full of effort, excellence, camaraderie, and unforgettable memories. Whether you're brand new or returning, this guide is designed to help you support your student - and the program - right from the start.

Our Mission

The Legacy High School Lightning Band program strives to give all participating students a comprehensive education in all aspects of instrumental music while also instilling important life skills necessary for becoming productive members of society and lifelong connoisseurs of music.

Our students don't just perform—they grow into capable, confident young adults.

What Makes Legacy Special

This program's long tradition of success is built on three pillars:

- **Incredible student performers**
- **The most talented instructional staff in the state**
- **The active participation of all parents**

The success of this program isn't just about talent or tradition. It's built on a culture of *participation*. Every parent has a role. Every student gets better. And together, we create something extraordinary.

Communication is Key

There's a lot to keep up with—especially at first. The best way to stay informed is to:

- Read the **weekly email**
 - Sent every Sunday evening via CutTime
 - If you are not receiving these, contact communications@legacybands.org
- Use the **Band Calendar** on the Legacy Band website
 - <https://legacybands.org/calendar>
 - This is a Google calendar managed directly and updated several times each week by Dr. Ebert; please consider subscribing.

Encourage your student to keep a calendar. Marching band is the perfect training ground for time management—but they will need your help getting started.

Practices

Practice Timeline

- **Spring (April–May):** Weekly practices begin
- **Summer (June–July):** Sectionals, two 3-day band camps
- **Band Camp (Late July–August):** Mandatory daily practices
- **Fall (School Year):** 2 or 3 weekday practices + Saturdays

Practice Guidelines for Students

- Fuel and hydrate yourself starting at least 24 hours before practice
- Arrive **15 minutes early**
- Wear athletic clothes, including comfortable athletic shoes - clothes that you can move in, stretch and bend in; prepare for weather changes and bring jackets and additional clothing as appropriate

And bring:

- Water - recommend at least a half-gallon water jug
- Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
- Yoga mat or towel for stretching
- Snacks
- Instrument-specific supplies

Marching band is physically demanding - fitness and hydration matter!

Absences & Attendance

It is important that every student make every effort to attend every band practice. Band is a group activity and our success largely depends on the whole group practicing together.

Absences must be submitted in advance using the **absence form on the band website**. (See the Resources menu item on <https://legacybands.org>.) Excessive absences can impact performance eligibility. Band camp and competition rehearsals are mandatory.

Instrument Use By Section

- **Woodwind & Brass:** Use your middle school beginner instrument--be aware that marching season can add wear and tear to your instrument
- **Large Instruments & Percussion:** Provided by the school at reasonable rental rates which cover repairs
- **Color Guard:** Practice equipment will be provided

Sectionals

These are small-group summer practices often called by section leaders and hosted at their homes. These are meant to not only practice music and marching drill but also to build teamwork and section camaraderie. These are both fun and important for the growth of our band community!

Band Classes & Concert Season

Students enrolled in any band class (Concert, Symphonic, Symphonic Winds, Wind Ensemble, etc.) are automatically part of the marching band unless excused by communication with and approval from the Band Director.

- **Fall:** Marching band focused but incorporates overall instrumental and performance skills. What we teach in marching band season supports our concert season.
- **Winter/Spring:** Concert season and includes Winter Guard and Winter Percussion programs. We continue music instruction focusing on technique and musicality.

Performances & Competitions

Marching competitions begin in **mid-September** and include:

- Marching band festivals - these are all-day (Saturday) marching band activities typically with about 20 other bands hosted at local high schools
 - Detailed performance schedules will be posted
- Our own Legacy Marching Festival
 - <https://legacybands.org/legacy-marching-festival/>
 - Our largest event and fundraiser, hosted at Adams 12 5-Star Stadium
 - Staffed entirely by Legacy band parent volunteers
- Colorado Regional Competition
 - Hosted at Centaurus High School
 - Monday of Fall Break (10/12)
- Colorado State Competition
 - Providing Legacy qualifies at Regionals
 - Hosted at Air Force Academy Stadium in Colorado Springs

- It's a long, emotional, and unforgettable day with secret traditions and lots of spirit. You'll hear more as the date approaches.

All performances are on the band calendar at <https://legacybands.org/calendar>

Uniforms & Dress Code

Provided by the **school**: These are owned by Legacy High School and are stored at the school except when taken home to clean (instructions will be provided).

- Marching Uniform (jacket, bibs (pants), raincoat, shako, & shako wrap)
- Concert Dress or Tuxedo (jacket, pants, tuxedo shirt, cummerbund, & bow tie)

Provided through the **band bundle**

- Show shirt: This is a required part of the marching band uniform and will be worn under the marching jacket
- Gloves (color guard too)

Purchased through **Cut-Time**

- Legacy Band Polo: Worn with khakis when the marching uniform is not used ie. pep band performances and travel
- Dinkles (marching shoes) and jazz shoes (guard) bulk order goes out after fittings late July/early August

Purchased through **apparel link**

- Additional show shirts for students (recommend students have two but not required) and family.
- Spirit Wear

Purchased independently

- Khaki pants and/or shorts (to be worn with band polo)
- Solid black long crew socks - no grey heels please (required for marching and concert attire)
- Black tennis shoes (**guard only**- for parades)

Meals & Dietary Needs

Meals are provided at:

- **All-day Saturday practices** (typically lunch)
- **Football games & competitions** (lunch and/or dinner as applicable)

We serve complete, balanced meals and do our best to accommodate dietary needs. However, **specialty diets are complex and personal. If your child has unique allergies or dietary restrictions, we ask that you join the food team. Your expertise is vital—we need your help to ensure every student is nourished and safe.**

The Meal Plan is included in the Marching Band Bundle, which is \$200 for 2026-27 school year. We encourage you to purchase this, so that your student is taken care of at meal times that happen during marching band rehearsals and performances.

Money Talk: Budget and FRG

Our band program receives very little funding from the District. Without fundraising, we could not have the premier band program in Colorado that we strive to be each year.

Expenses

Marching Program	\$60,625
Instructors	\$85,500
Winter Guard, Winter Percussion	\$25,000
Transportation	\$17,150
Events	\$6,200
Admin, misc	<u>\$12,545</u>
Total	207,020

Income

FRG	\$78,000
Fundraisers, sponsors	\$40,750
Festivals	\$52,000
Marching bundle	\$27,000
Apparel, misc.	<u>\$16,650</u>
Total	\$214,400

Fundraising Goal (FRG) (\$650)

Our band budget represents about \$1300 spent per student. Every student has a fundraising goal (FRG) of \$650, which only represents half of the funds spent per student. Funding includes instruction, transportation, props, uniforms, show design, and more. It's what lets us offer a world-class experience at a public school. Compared to the fees to participate in most other sports and extracurricular student activities, it is quite reasonable.

FRG can either be paid to the band directly or by participating in one or all of our many fundraising opportunities such as our summer Palisade peach sale, fall holiday wreath and butter braids sale, and RaiseRight gift card program. All funds collected no later than **4/30/27**.

We offer many and varied ways to achieve your FRG:

- Peach sales in July
- Wreaths and Butterbraids sales in November
- RaiseRight gift card program year-round
- Online fundraising opportunities throughout the year

Can our family receive financial aid to offset expenses?

The Legacy Band Boosters is committed to making this program accessible to ALL students, regardless of financial situation. Financial need is addressed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Dr. Ebert or the Finance Team (finance@legacybands.org) with questions or concerns.

Our other fundraising

Legacy Marching Festival, Winter Guard and Winter Percussion Festivals, Craft Fair, Tag Day, Mattress Fundraiser, and corporate sponsorships are all events and fundraisers that allow us to keep FRG reasonable for our families. As you probably suspected, all of these fundraisers require volunteers and participation to be successful.

Marching Band Bundle (\$200)

Includes the meal plan, show shirt, and marching/color guard gloves. Funds to be collected by **8/15/26**.

Other (Items vary by student. Amounts TBD)

Band polo, marching or color guard shoes, color guard tracksuit, percussion stick fee, winter percussion or winter guard costs, honor band registration and hotels

The Boosters - That's You!

All Legacy Band parents are members of the **Band Boosters**, which is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the state of Colorado. The Booster Board is the elected governing body for the Boosters; the Board creates and manages the Boosters budget, organizes logistics, fundraising, communication, and volunteers on behalf of the Boosters organization. Board meetings are monthly and open to all boosters - all band parents. *Get involved—your voice matters.*

Volunteering: No Sidelines Here

This program is driven by volunteer power. Opportunities include:

- **Prop construction & logistics**
- **Uniform support**
- **Food prep and serve**
- **Fundraising coordination**
- **Festival staffing**
- **Chaperoning & transportation**

From building props to making sandwiches, fitting uniforms to organizing fundraisers, this is an all-hands-on-deck kind of community. This isn't just about helping, it's about showing your student that what matters to them matters to you, too. You'll find what you get out of volunteering far surpasses what you put into it in terms of community and being a part of something bigger than its individual parts.

Final Thoughts

Marching band is more than a high school activity - it's a launching pad for growth and maturation. Your student will build time management skills, confidence, endurance, lifelong friendships, and self discipline. It will be overwhelming at first and at times throughout - there's a lot to learn, especially the first time through. But if you **read the updates**, **engage early**, and **ask questions**, it will all come together over time.

We're here for the music. We're here for each other.
And we're so glad *you* are here.

Terms

- **Bibs:** marching overalls/pants
- **Bigger Blue:** Our semi-trailer transports all of the percussion instruments, large brass instruments, show props and color guard props. Bigger Blue is used for all marching band performances and several Winter Percussion performances. When not in use, Bigger Blue rests in the secured Adams 12 School Bus Yard. (Our original, smaller trailer was Big Blue.)
- **BOA Grand Nationals:** Bands of America's highest competition located at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis
- **Cut Time:** Website used by the band for communication and financial management and transactions
- **Dinkles:** specific brand of marching shoes required for Legacy Marching Band
- **Drum Majors:** Conductors and leaders of the marching band
- **Instrument fee:** District fee for use of school instruments. Will show on school fees, not student ledger
- **Jacket:** marching uniform top
- **Meal Plan:** meals served by parents before football games, for Saturday lunches and for competition dinners
- **Pass-off:** performing marching music independently to show you have it mastered to earn your spot in the show.

- **Pit:** the non-marching percussion instruments, also called front ensemble, that are typically staged in front of the show.
- **Pit Crew:** group of parents who help load and unload Bigger Blue with all instruments and props for performances, and return to school. Needed for all football games and competitions.
- **Plume:** feather decoration for the shako. These should never come home. Please return it if found in the uniform bag.
- **RaiseRight:** purchase physical or electronic gift cards for your to use on everyday purchases. You can get started by reaching out to our RaiseRight coordinator.
- **Section:** group of students playing the same instrument.
- **Section leader:** Student in charge of instrument team. Bridge between Staff and section.
- **Sectional:** half practice, half party off site with your section. Important for team building and music mastery.
- **Shako:** hat worn for marching
- **Student Ledger:** Account or financial transactions of FRG and band fees
- **SW:** Symphonic Winds: The second highest band in our class offerings
- **WE:** Wind Ensemble: Our highest band
- **WG:** Winter Guard
- **WP:** Winter Percussion

