



A Parent's Guide to the Lake Dallas Falcon Band

Updated June 2020

This is a supplemental guide for informational purposes only. A formal Band Handbook is available on the Charms website.

Lake Dallas High School
3016 Parkridge
Corinth, TX 76210
940-497-4031

Band Hall - 940-497-1417 (Mrs. Kennedy)

Mascot - Falcon
School Colors - Kelly Green and White

<http://www.ldhsfalconband.org>

Directors:

Denise Kennedy - Director of Bands: Dmkennedy@ldisd.net

Frankie Burke - Associate Director of Bands / Percussion: Fburke@ldisd.net

Dallas Bayless - Assistant Director of Bands: Dbayless@ldisd.net

Meagan Benavidez - Color Guard Director - ldfalconcolorguard@gmail.com

Is there a band website?

The Lake Dallas Falcon Band has its own website! Check the band's website for current information and updates. Go to: www.ldhsfalconband.org.

Is the band on Twitter?

The Falcon Band Tweets! Twitter is used to get important information out quickly to band members and parents. It is most often used to announce contest results as soon as they are known, inform parents when buses have left a site, and when they have arrived at a site. Our twitter address is: @LDFalconBand.

Is the band on Facebook?

The Falcon Band also has a public Facebook page! Facebook, like Twitter, is used to get important information out quickly to band members and parents. It is most often used to announce contest results as soon as they are known, inform parents when buses have left a site, and when they have arrived at a site. Be sure to "like" Lake Dallas High School Falcon Band on Facebook!

What is Remind?

Remind is a way for the Falcon Band Directors and the Band Boosters to send reminders or last minute announcements by text message, without having access to your personal phone number. While we make general or public announcements through Twitter and Facebook, Remind is used to send specific information to our members. For example, if we have a location change for our marching rehearsal, we would send a message to the marching band members.

We have Remind sign up options for multiple groups, including the Band Boosters!

Falcon Band (All Jr/Sr members) Text: @ldhsband1 to 512-865-4850
Falcon Band (All Fr/So members) Text: @ldhsband2 to 512-865-4850
Wind Symphony (4th period band) Text: @falconwnds to 512-865-4850
Symphonic Band (1st period band) Text: @falconsymb to 469-267-6531
Concert Band (5th period band) Text: @falconconb to 512-865-4850
Jazz Ensemble 1 Text: @falconjazz to 512-865-4850
Jazz Ensemble Too Text: @ldhsjazz2 to 469-267-6531
HS Percussion LD Text: @falconperc to 210-625-8131
Color Guard Text: @falconcg to 512-865-4850
Band Boosters Text: @laked to 832-564-3244
Falcon Band Leadership (*Section Leaders/Drum Majors/Band Council/Service Leaders ONLY*) - Text: @falconldrs to 512-865-4850

How can I keep up with my student's financial account?

We use Charms as a data management tool for the band. You can log onto Charms at any time to see the most current status of your student's financial account.

www.charmsoffice.com

parent/student login = LakeDallasBand

Student's password = (This is for 1st time login only. Members will select a unique password upon login)

11th & 12th Graders - former lunch code or student ID#;

9th & 10th Graders & New Members - LDISD username (grad year+first letter first name+last name).

Add charmsoffice.com to your contact list so that our emails don't end up in your spam folder.

Include your login info so that you will know how to access at a later time.

What is the Lake Dallas Band Booster Club (LDBBC)?

The Lake Dallas Band Booster Club (LDBBC) is the parent and community support organization for the band. The main purpose of this organization is to help the band directors and band members achieve their goals as a performance group. The booster club provides the extra support, both financial and volunteer, that the band needs to compete at the highest level.

What is the structure of the band?

There are 7 parts to the Lake Dallas Falcon Band

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ Wind Ensemble | ➤ Percussion |
| ➤ Symphonic Band | ➤ Color Guard / Winter Guard |
| ➤ Concert Band | ➤ Marching Band |
| ➤ Jazz Band 1 & 2 | |

A student's concert ensemble placement is determined by audition in the spring. During the fall semester (marching season) all of these parts meet together for rehearsals, after school on Tuesday of each week and before school the rest of the week. During the school day each member will rehearse with their assigned concert group during their assigned class period.

In the spring each group will meet during their assigned class time, the difference being that percussion students will now meet with their assigned band instead of with their marching section (battery and front ensemble).

What is Color Guard?

The Color Guard is an integral part of the visual performance of the marching show. Selection is based on tryouts in the spring. The group is under the direction of the Color Guard Director and is governed by the Falcon Band Staff. The Guard augments the marching show by incorporating flags, rifles, and a variety of props. The Color Guard has their own individual competition season in the second semester called, Winter Guard. See Winter Guard.

What is "Falcon Band Hype Day"?

This will be the first time that the returning and new members will meet as a group. It is designed to teach the fundamentals of marching and the "hype" the Falcon Band. It is held for three to four hours usually in early to mid-May after school or on a Saturday at LDHS. Students will meet their new leadership team for the first time and begin functioning as the Falcon Band for the upcoming season. The Band Boosters often host a "get to know you" picnic following Hype Day activities. All students AND parents are invited to attend!

What is Percussion Summer Camp?**

This is an additional camp for the percussion group. It is held for one week in early June from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Due to the COVID closures, June Drumline Camp 2020 will not take place.

What is the Music Mini-Camp in June?**

This camp is for the full band and is all about the music. The music for the new show is introduced, warm-ups are reviewed and select stand tunes are taught to the incoming freshmen. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members. This camp is held the 2 weekdays following Lake Dallas' graduation. Your student needs to attend both days. If they cannot attend due to a scheduling conflict, you must contact a director. This can affect their ability to earn a marching spot in the fall.

**Due to the COVID closures, Music Mini-Camp 2020 will not take place.

What is Summer Band Camp?

The end of July / beginning of August marks the start of the marching season. Summer rehearsals are all about learning the band's marching show-music and drill. UIL rules dictate when a high school program can begin working on marching drill. This date fluctuates based on the start date of school, so summer camp will usually begin on or around the last week of July. The kids will be learning show music and drill, in addition to the pre-game show and all of our stand tunes for the season. Attendance at this camp is mandatory. Speak to the directors about any concerns.

Our 2020 rehearsal schedule is (barring any changes due to district COVID protocols):

- Week 1 - July 27 – July 31, 2020
 - Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. with a lunch break from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - First Saturday in August (Aug. 1)- 7:00 am to 11:00 am, Competition Members Only
- Week 2 - August 3 – August 7, 2020
 - Monday through Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Week 3 - Monday, August 10, 2020 (one day only), 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Things to know:

The kids must wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

They also must bring their Falcon Band water jug (filled with ice & water).

Closed toe athletic shoes are required (with good arch support).

White t-shirts and athletic shorts must be worn in ALL outdoor rehearsals.

Lunch is from 11:30- 12:30 daily. Students may bring their lunch or leave campus with parent permission.

What is Band Registration?

It is a chance for the PARENTS to get all of the information they will need to navigate through the band year. This is when all paperwork must be completed and when you pay your band fees (or at least make a partial payment). You will have the opportunity to meet your section parents face to face. Stations will be set up so you can learn about fundraising opportunities, sign up for Game Night Meals, sign up to chaperone, size for gloves, shoes, hats, and marching uniform, purchase spirit wear, get locker assignments, and so much more.

Is attending Band Registration important?

YES. Band Registration is usually held the Saturday before Summer Band Camp.

What are band fees, also referred to as registration fees?

Band fees cover the cost of putting your student on the competitive marching field, in addition to providing additional teaching staff and opportunities throughout the school year. The school district only covers a portion of the cost of yearly UIL activities, school-owned instruments, and their marching/concert uniforms. This means football games and one UIL marching competition. On State Marching Competition years, there could be up to three UIL competitions. The Lake Dallas Falcon band competes in approximately 3-4 other highly prestigious marching competitions each season.

Additionally, the Band Booster organization raises approximately \$60K each year. These funds help offset some of the expenses incurred by the band department. Their efforts allow the band fees to be significantly less than they would be without their financial help.

Band fees cover clinicians, some master classes, drill techs, contest entry fees, solo and ensemble entry, marching gloves, and many other items that combine to fund this competitive program for our students. Please see the published payment schedule for a detailed breakdown of what is covered by your band fees.

How much does it cost?

This will vary from year to year based on the involvement of your student. The base cost for band fees is \$360 for new members, \$310 for returning members, \$550 for new color guard members* and \$325 for returning color guard members*. (Students are given multiple opportunities to raise money through fundraising options). Families may make payments according to the published schedule or they may pay their fees in full on registration day. Other items that your student may need that are added to your band fees would be instrument rental, Region audition fees, accompanist fees and more. Some of these items are startup costs and do not need to be purchased every year.

*This price is subject to change as we get closer to band camp. Determining factors are inflation and final cost of the fall costume.

What is the Parent Performance?

Each year, the band program schedules a special performance of the contest show for our parents, friends and families. Often, our parent volunteers are not able to see the band perform because of their volunteer duties. We provide this performance so that our parents may see the competition show and spirit show without the distraction of the football crowd or those pesky judges. And because it's local, everyone should attend! The parent preview is scheduled on Friday, September 18, 2020.

What is a Freshman Liaison?

This is a parent who has agreed to be a contact point for the Freshman parents. This parent is someone you can go to with questions or concerns. They will help you the best they can or point you in the right direction. This is a parent that has been around at least one year and understands how confusing or intimidating things can appear especially to a first-time band parent. The Freshman Liaison will be determined by the band booster organization. Contact information will be distributed separately.

When are rehearsals once school starts?

Once school starts, the practice schedule during marching season can be rather hectic. Early morning practices are held four mornings a week beginning at 6:45 a.m. One day a week (unless it's a short week), all members get a late morning, meaning they come to school at regular time. This allows students to go to tutorials, do makeup work, or catch up on sleep! On Tuesday of each week there is an additional late practice held after school from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. If there is a holiday on Monday, then the early morning rehearsal takes place on Tuesday, in addition to the afternoon practice. Check the calendar in Charms for details.

Will the band know the entire show by the first football game?

No. Our shows are very intricate with many working parts. Each week of the marching season you will notice new parts and/or additional choreography. After the first three or four games the basic outline of the show will be complete but we will continue to "fill in" and add choreography and more interest. It is a fun and intriguing thing to witness.

Does the band perform at pep rallies?

Yes, pep rallies are held every home game Friday during football season except for homecoming week. For Homecoming, we will participate in two pep rallies. The community pep rally begins with a parade through the streets around the middle school, and ends with a pep rally in the Lake Dallas City Park. This takes place in the evening and the band is required to march and perform. There will also be a pep rally on the Friday of Homecoming week. You can call the school office for the exact start time of the pep rallies.

Does every band member march in the competitive show?

The marching shows are designed for a specific number of band members and color guard members. This number is somewhat less than the number of members in the band. The marching spots will be assigned by the directors during the first week of summer band camp after they have had the opportunity to watch the students march and listen to them play. The members who are not assigned a marching spot will become alternates. Alternates are allowed to challenge for a marching spot. They must know the spot that they are challenging and have completed all of their pass off requirements. The challenge process continues until competition season begins, when spots are finalized.

Alternates that do not earn a competitive spot will be utilized to handle props on the field, when props are part of the show or will serve as Character Performers. The others will be expected to know all of the music or guard work for the show in the event that they are moved to competitive position. When a band member can't march because he/she is ill, he/she becomes ineligible because of low grades, or for any other reason, a director may use an alternate to replace him/her on the field. Alternates are expected to be at two rehearsals per week and all band functions.

Did I see the band perform in shorts at a football game?

Yes. The band members usually wear khaki shorts, Green Falcon Band t-shirt, black belt, white socks and athletic shoes to the first few games of the season. The temperatures are usually so hot that this is more comfortable for the students. Many of the other bands in our area also follow this policy.

How do I get football tickets and how much do they cost?

Band members do not need tickets to the football games. Parents will need to purchase tickets for all football games. There are two ways that you may purchase football tickets.

1) You can purchase tickets at the gate, but the lines are usually long!! The cost at the gate is \$8.00 for each ticket.

3) Tickets may be purchased at the school from the athletic office. See the Lake Dallas Athletics website for hours tickets may be purchased.

These prices are based off of the 2019 season and are subject to change! Please contact the LDHS Athletic Office to confirm pricing.

Prices:

Students: \$5.00

Adults: \$7.00

Gate Purchase: \$8.00

What do we need to know about caring for the marching uniforms?

Professional cleaning of the uniform is included in your band fees. Students will be responsible for making sure that the marching uniform is hung correctly, following each performance. By taking care of the uniform, it keeps it from being wrinkled and allows the members to look their best for every performance.

FYI: the marching uniform pieces are:

- Jacket – self explanatory
- Bibbers – the overall style pants that are worn under the jacket
- Gauntlets – Removable cuffs that are worn over the jacket
- Gloves – black gloves to be worn when playing the instruments. For some instruments these must be worn during practices also.
- Shoes – must be purchased through the band department to insure uniformity
- Socks – must be black and be at least calf high
- Hat – self explanatory
- Plume – tall black feathery adornment that is attached to the hats just before performances

- Show shirt - t-shirt with a logo representing the year's show theme. This shirt was included in your fees and belongs to the band member. It is worn when we travel as a group and on game days.
- Compression shirt - black moisture wicking shirt with a logo. This shirt is to be worn with the bibbers and under the jacket at all performances.

*Jacket, bibbers, hat, gauntlets, hats, and plumes will never come home

Do not cut or alter any portion of the school-owned uniform.

How do we care for the Color Guard costume?

Instructions for the care of the Color Guard costume will be provided by the director.

Tell us about the Friday night football games.

On most Fridays, from the end of August until the beginning of November, there will be a football game. Watch the calendar, because occasionally our games are on Thursday.

On game days, the students will be given a set time to meet in the band hall. There will be an inspection of uniforms, costumes, music, and equipment before the buses are boarded for away games and before walking in formation to the stadium for home games. The meeting time is usually very soon after school ends and the students should have already eaten dinner (see Game Night Meals).

The end of the football game does not mean the band is released. If we are at home, the band waits until the stands are almost empty before they walk in formation back to the band hall. If we are at an away game, all members must board the buses and return to Lake Dallas. Once in the band hall, there will be a meeting where the directors give critiques, half time show film may be reviewed, and instructions are given. If you are picking up your band student, please be very patient. This is one of the hardest things for the new band parents to understand. We recommend having your student call you when they are released.

What if the football team makes playoffs?

If the football team makes the playoffs, the band is expected to play at the play-off games. This usually includes a game during Thanksgiving break, so plan accordingly. The schedule for these games will be different from the regular season so watch for directions to come from the band directors.

What is "Game Night Meals"?

As we mentioned, there is not much time between the end of the school day and the time the band members are to report back to school for inspections etc. on the night of a football game. The band boosters offer the service of serving dinner so the kids can eat at school and not rush back and forth to home or to a restaurant. This meal is optional and is an additional fee. There will be an opportunity to sign up and pay for this meal plan at Band Registration.

What if it rains at a football game?

Raingear is provided for the band members during a game or competition. The band is expected to attend the game even if it is raining. The district's safety regulations will be in effect so if there is lightning detected, the game will be delayed, paused, rescheduled, or called completely.

What is Winter Guard?

Winter Guard refers to the competition season for the Color Guard that follows the Marching season. These contests are held indoors and separate routines for groups as well as individuals are learned and performed. There are additional costume fees associated with the winter guard season.

What are Marching Contests?

Besides football games, the fall is all about the marching competitions for the Lake Dallas Falcon Band. These competitions are held on Saturdays. They are comprised of UIL, and other marching competitions. Most of the competitions are in the DFW area with the notable exception of the UIL State competition, which is held every other year in San Antonio. For the local contests, the students will meet at the band hall at an instructed time; they will rehearse, and then load the buses to travel to the competition site. Many competitions have a preliminary contest; they announce winners; and then have a finals competition for those bands that qualify. After the final awards are announced the band will reload the buses and return to the Lake Dallas band hall. Once again, we recommend that you wait for a phone call from your student telling you that they have been released before you go to the school to pick them up or watch for a message on Twitter.

This all means very long days for our band kids! Hydration and nutrition are always a top consideration. You will be notified when a sack meal needs to be sent or if a meal is being provided. For those who choose, contest meals may be purchased as part of the Game Night Meal package. We highly recommend that you volunteer to chaperone one or more of these trips. It is truly amazing to see what it takes to put on one of these shows and to see how amazing our students are. You will have a newfound respect for your student and how hard he/she works.

What are the UIL Regional and State Marching Competitions?

The University Interscholastic League--UIL--governs the state marching contests. The UIL has strict rules concerning the conduct and procedures to advance to the state competitions. The schools in the state of Texas are divided into classes based on student population. Lake Dallas High School is "class 5A", the class for the medium-large schools. In order to make the state competition more manageable, class 1A, 2A, 3A and 5A schools have their marching competitions in odd numbered years, i.e., 2019, 2021, and 2023. The 4A and 6A schools hold their marching competitions in even numbered years.

Every year the UIL contest begins with the regional marching competition, which will comprise of one performance. Lake Dallas is in Region 2. The bands are given a rating of Division I, II, III, IV, or V. These are not 1st, 2nd, 3rd place awards. All bands receiving a Division I rating proceed to the Area competition on State years.

Division I bands from 3-4 regions gather at the Area competition. It is during this competition that the bands advancing to State will be decided. All bands perform in prelims with a select number of bands performing again in finals. In a state year, a predetermined number of bands (based on a ratio of bands receiving Division I ratings in the Regional Marching Contest, and the number of bands competing at the Area Marching Contest) will get to make the coveted trip to State. The State contest is usually held in San Antonio and is held on a Tuesday in November for class 5A.

Should the band qualify to compete at the State contest, the district will excuse the absence of our students from class and will pay many of the expenses for this trip. You can find more information on the UIL web site. The address is www.uil.utexas.edu.

Do the band members who play percussion have extra competitions?

Yes. The Lake Dallas Falcon Percussion also competes in percussion competitions. These are in addition to the full marching band competitions. You are encouraged to attend these contests and cheer on our great percussion group. Each group is also ranked against other groups in their division and trophies are awarded at the end of the night.

What is concert season?

Concert season takes place mostly in the spring semester but begins immediately following marching season (mid-November). Concert season is the time when most musical training takes place and each band's performance rating during the UIL concert contest is the basis for evaluating the entire band program. Band members will be placed in one of three bands based on the number of students enrolled and their playing abilities. Concerts and contests are held throughout the spring semester.

Are private lessons necessary?

YES, if you want your young musician to perform at a high level. Private lessons are not required, but strongly recommended. They are offered on every instrument, pending instructor availability and are conducted at Lake Dallas. Our instructors are professional players or advanced-level university students who are contracted through the LDISD Band Program. Private lessons are \$20 per session. Students with the benefits of private lessons not only elevate their own playing ability but the musicality of the band as a whole.

What are sectionals?

Fall sectionals occur once per week during the marching season. They are typically scheduled and run by a member of the student leadership team, with supervision by a staff member. Attendance at all Fall sectionals is required and positive participation factors into a student's marching band grade.

Spring sectionals are held during concert season. This is an extra rehearsal each week for the students and is assigned by instrument. It is very helpful for the directors and clinicians to have the opportunity to work on music with one section at a time. Spring sectionals are scheduled by the directors and are mandatory.

What are All-Region, Area, & State try-outs?

This is an individual contest. Individual band members of the Wind Symphony (formerly Wind Ensemble) and the Symphonic bands are strongly encouraged to tryout. Pre-selected tryout music is available to all students beginning in late July.

Region Concert Band tryouts are held in November & December in two phases. The students passing the first round of tryouts will perform with the All-Region band. If a student passes the second round, they attain area status and therefore are eligible to compete for the All-State band. This competition is usually held in early January. Band members who become All-State musicians assemble in San Antonio in February to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association convention. The bands and orchestras

made up of these wonderful musicians represent the top 1/2 of 1% of the high school band members in the state of Texas. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve.

What are the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contests?

These contests give the band students another opportunity to progress musically. Participation in this event is mandatory for Wind Symphony members and is highly encouraged for Symphonic Band members. The contest is usually held in February. Each member will choose a piece of music with his/her lesson teacher/director that is appropriate to their level of play. The students are given a rating of I-V, I being the highest level. If a student chooses a piece of music from an approved list, performs that piece from memory, and receives a rating of I, that student will have the option of progressing to the State UIL solo competition usually held in late May. Grades will be assigned for participation and for rating received. See the band handbook for grading details.

What is the LDISD Solo and Ensemble Contest?

Participation in this event is mandatory for any band members who do not participate at the UIL Solo and Ensemble contest. The contest is usually held in April. Each member chooses a piece of music with his/her lesson teacher that is appropriate to their level of play. Ensembles are organized by the students and directors. The students are given a rating of I - V. The highest rating that can be earned is a I (superior rating). The entry fee for this contest is included in the yearly registration fee. Accompanist fees for the LDISD Solo contest are an additional cost. Grades will be assigned for participation and for rating received. See the band handbook for grading details.

What is the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Evaluation?

The UIL Concert Evaluations are held in April. The concert bands travel to a local high school where they perform and are critiqued and graded by UIL judges. Each band performs their concert music followed by the sight-reading portion of the evaluation. If you have never been to this event, you will be amazed during sight-reading. The band is given music that neither they nor their directors have seen or heard and have approximately 7 - 10 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a "one-time-shot" at their performance. These contests are open to the public and are fascinating to watch.

What is the Spring Trip?

The Lake Dallas Falcon Band offers its members the chance to travel on a spring trip based on a 3 year rotation. The trip is generally in conjunction with a performance of some kind. The band has traveled to Galveston, Corpus Christi, Disney World, Memphis, Washington D.C., and San Antonio. This trip has an additional fee and is not mandatory but is encouraged. The directors try to rotate the trip from year to year. One year it is an in-state trip, the next year it is an out of state trip, the 3rd year is typically only a Senior trip or no-trip. Be aware that this rotation may change without notice.

What is the Band Banquet and End of the Year Dance?

A Band Banquet is held each spring near the end of the school year. It is a time to gather and celebrate the year, but more importantly to thank the senior members for the time they spent with the band and wish them good luck in their future endeavors. Tickets are sold to the band member's parents and siblings. Band members, grades 9-11, must purchase tickets at a drastically reduced rate. Band Seniors are special guests and do not need to purchase tickets. The attire for this event is dressy but not formal.

Following the band banquet, the band boosters sponsor an End of the Year Dance, affectionately titled "Brom" (Band Prom). This event is professionally DJ'd and lots of fun for the kids.

Does the band perform at graduation?

The Wind Symphony is expected to perform for this ceremony. Select members of the Symphonic Band may be asked to perform, as well. Transportation is provided.

What are spring auditions for?

Late April and early May are very busy times for all band members. Auditions for fall band placement, drum majors, section leaders, band officers, and color guard all take place at this time. Results are given before the end of the school year.

Is spirit wear available?

Yes, Spirit wear is available for parents and other fans. We have shirts, caps, tote bags, and much more. These items will be for sale at most parent meetings and during the first half of all home football games. It is a great way to show your support for the band. Spirit wear may be purchased through the band booster organization.

What do I need to purchase on my own?

You will be responsible for purchasing the following items on your own:

- Flip folder and refill pages
- Instrument Lyre (winds only)
- Plain white t-shirts for marching rehearsals
- Black belt for informal uniform shorts
- Low-profile white socks for informal uniform
- Black socks for marching uniform (at least calf high)
- Khaki shorts for informal uniform
- Cleaning supplies for instruments
- Valve oil, slide grease, reeds
- Brass Only - batting gloves and a black hand towel
- Metronome & Tuner

Where can I find more information?

More information about the band, including policies on grading and attendance, is in the Lake Dallas Falcon Band Handbook. This can be found online at www.charmsoffice.com.