



Lowndes High School Georgia Bridgemen Band Booster Meeting July 19, 2016

I. Welcome from Booster President Matt Hart at 6:04 PM.

Mr. Hart welcomed all new band parents to this busy meeting.

II. Director's Comments: Jon Bowman

Mr. Bowman shared he wanted to be respectful of time and would start immediately. He also asked parents to contact him during regular work hours. Also, parents should check the website before asking for information. Many introductions were made so parents could meet LHS and middle schools directors Robert Maynard, Dr. Jeff Grant, Phil Mika, Alan Drew, and Jacob Fortner. Also, he introduced and thanked the additional staff and college interns present for giving their time these next two weeks.

- The show this year is titled “Yours truly” and comes from the salutation of a letter. A young man and young woman exchange letters through college, wartime and their reunion. This is a very challenging show and students will need to work hard on their marching and music skills.
- The Bridgemen show has been written for 386 students, but all band students will have a role in the show. No student is cut from band and all participate in pre-game, parades, but slots on the field are based on student ability. Who will earn the spot? The students who know the music and are on time will earn spots. It is not based on class rank. Middle school directors will also give their input from participation in middle school events, and students may not have spots if they have not paid their band fees. If students have no payments and have no fundraising efforts, it is a problem. Band is reflection of real life, and students must be prepared. All students should be memorizing music and working on their marching skills. Some sections have extra spaces, so students may be placed in those slots. All students are expected to be early- not just “on time” to events.
- Contests this year are set for October 1st in Tampa, FL and 22nd in Gainesville, FL. These are mandatory events. October 1st will be a long day as students

will march in the Honeybee Parade before the competition. October 8th is fall break and students will be off for the weekend. Battle of the Border, our annual competition at LHS, is set for October 15 and is also a mandatory event for students.

- Pick-up policy: please pick up your child on time after events. Late pick-ups are worst during home games. No student should be left more than thirty minutes after any event. If it is a reoccurring problem, students will not participate in events the next week. It is not fair to the students or chaperones to be waiting for parents.
- Parents were reminded that band fees are due in full tonight. All treasurers will be available after the band meeting if parents need to make payments. Fees must be paid for students to participate in camp. . Returning band students fee is \$250/\$200 per additional student. Fees go up to \$275/\$225 after tonight's meeting.
- Uniforms should have been picked up at White Weddings. Please see Tamara Oglesby if you have not been measured. Students will be fitted for jackets on Friday after pictures are taken. Vests and bow-ties should be picked up tonight.
- Students have done a good job of turning in health forms this year. All students must have a current health form on file to participate.
- Great job this week of students wearing proper clothing and athletic shoes to camp. All horn players also need flip folders and pencils for music. These can be purchased at Toads and Teacups.
- Students have been great at the mall this week. They will continue to eat lunch on their own, but dinner will be provided each night next week of camp.
- Students will give their head chaperones \$20 on the Parkview game trip. This will cover two meals and bus snacks/drinks during the band season. More snack money may be needed if we make it to the play-off games and have trips to Atlanta.
- Picture day is this Friday, July 22. Students must be dressed and at the stadium with instruments by 7:30 AM. Freshmen should wear black socks and athletic shoes. They can take them off for the picture. Pants should touch the top of shoes when hemmed.

- July 29 is the annual band dance from 7:00-10:00 PM in the LHS cafeteria. It is optional but is a fun night for the kids. The dance has a DJ and plenty of food and drinks. Only current students may attend the dance.

III. President's Comments: Matt Hart

- Band statements are sent monthly via email on file. Note that an amount preceded by a negative sign indicates your account has a credit. Please see Laurie Abney tonight if you are not receiving statements for your student. Also, make sure all payments have the student's name on the memo line of the check. Checks should be made out to "Lowndes High Band Boosters" and mailed to P.O. Box 2712 Valdosta, Georgia 31604-2712. Do not mail any payments directly to LHS or drop off at the office. Payments can also go in the locked box in the band room. Payments should be made tonight to treasurers Laurie Abney, Lane Sayre, or Teresa Paulo.
- Note that student payments must be current for students to participate in leadership positions, winter guard, or indoor percussion. Students with outstanding fees will not be eligible for end-of-year awards or receive transcripts. Students cannot graduate unless fees are paid.
- Many fundraising opportunities are available to help your student with fees. Boston butt sales, discount cards, football program ads, annual golf tournament, and volunteer hours with Wild Adventures all are available. See Dawn Spray tonight to purchase discount cards.
- A great fundraiser, Drive One for Your School, is August 6 from 9:00-4:00 at Langdale Ford. Almost 600 drivers participate last year. Our thanks go to Langdale Ford for sponsoring this event each year. For each eligible driver your student will earn \$20 in his/her account. One driver (must be 18 or older) per household, and drivers must bring a valid driver's license to participate. Many volunteers are needed to run table and concession stands. Please sign up tonight to help.
- Band sponsorships are available and appreciated! Levels of sponsorship range from \$1200 Director level to \$400 Section Leader level. Please visit the band website for more information on each level.
- An auxiliary fundraiser is Sunday, August 7. The painting event is \$30. RSVP by July 31 to participate.
- Chaperone meeting will be Tuesday, July 26 at 6:30 PM. All bus drivers, chaperones, and nurses must participate. Please bring a copy of your driver's license to attach to your Lowndes County volunteer form.

- Volunteers are also need to assist with picture day and uniforms. Committee chairs are here tonight and welcome your help.
- Many important dates are on the Bridgemen calendar. **Please visit the website for updates and events.**
 - July 18-21 Pre-Camp 9:00-5:00/Auxiliary 12:00-8:00
 - July 19 Mandatory Parent Meeting
 - July 22 Band pictures 7:30
 - July 25-29 Band Camp 9:00-9:00
 - July 26 Parent Chaperone meeting 6:30
 - July 29 Band Dance 7:00-10:00
 - August 6 Drive One for Your School fundraiser
 - August 8 Bus Sign-up after practice
 - August 19 Lowndes vs. Valdosta @Valdosta
- Students practice each week until 5:00 PM on Mondays and 6:00 PM on Tuesdays/Thursdays. Practice is M-T on contest weeks. No band practice on the first day of school.
- Spots for the Chicago trip on November 20-25 are still available. This is an amazing opportunity for your student to march in the McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade, see the Magnificent Mile, Willis Tower Skydeck, Wrigley Field, Soldier Field, and Chicago art museums. Students will also see a Broadway show/Blue Man Group and enjoy a Dinner Cruise on Lake Michigan. Meals include all breakfasts, three dinners, and a special Thanksgiving buffet on the trip home. Students are responsible for lunches and spending money. Visit the website for forms and turn in ASAP. Total cost: \$1300. Students should have paid \$850 to date.

IV. Vice-President's Comments: Brian Spray

- Discount cards are ready and are a great way to help your student earn \$. Cards are \$10 each, and \$5 of each card is credited to your student's band account. Cards are available tonight or parents can text Dawn at 229-375-8654.
- Both students and parents are reminded to park in the main parking areas and not at the band barn during camp. This area gets very congested.
- Be looking out for the golf cart/cooler raffle for 2016.
- Parents are asked to send finger foods and snacks to the band dance next Friday. Food can be stored in the small dining area.

- The band store will open at 3:00 PM each day of band camp and close at the end of practice. Chaperone shirts can be ordered next week.

V. Final Comments: President Matt Hart

- Mr. Hart shared the 2016-2017 committee chairs. Parents may contact them via contact information is on the website. Freshman parents are encouraged to participate. Please see Tania Gordon-Murdaugh to sign up for events.
- Special thanks go to Northside Baptist Church and First Baptist Church for providing meals for rookie camp and Monday night's band camp dinner. Thanks also to the Medicine Shoppe for their support and providing supplies to our nurses.
- Karmen Browning, photos chair, shared that picture forms are ready tonight, and pictures can be ordered online. Picture forms will be distributed with the theme shirts.
- Note that information is available via Facebook, Remind texts, email and www.georgiabridgemen.org.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Next band booster meeting: Monday, August 22 @ 6:30