



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212

Dear Leyden Music Families and Students,

My name is Jake Walker, and it is with great excitement and anticipation that I introduce myself as the new Music Department Chair and Director of Bands at Leyden High Schools! First and foremost, I am thrilled to join this incredible community and continue the tradition of excellence that has been established in the music program under Mr. Bryan Miller for the past three decades. Mr. Miller has been incredibly kind and supportive in helping me with the transition over the past several months as he prepares for retirement. While his shoes will be impossible to fill, we will strive to honor his legacy by continuing to pursue musical excellence in the next chapter of the Leyden Band program.

I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I have already received from the Leyden community over the past few months. It is clear that Leyden High Schools have a vibrant and dedicated group of students and staff, and I very much look forward to working with everyone!

A little about myself: I am joining Leyden as a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I completed my Master's degree in Wind Band Conducting in May 2024. At UW, I worked as a graduate teaching assistant for the UW band program, teaching courses in marching band, wind ensemble, concert band, university band, and undergraduate conducting. Before my graduate studies, I was a 5th grade band director in Huntley, Illinois. In that role, I also served as the Assistant Marching Band Director at Huntley High School and Crystal Lake South High School in Crystal Lake, Illinois. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Northern Illinois University in 2019.

As the new Music Department Chair and Director of Bands, my goal is to build on the strong foundation already in place. I am committed to providing a high-quality music education, offering a wide range of musical opportunities, and supporting each student in their musical journey. Whether it's in Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Digital Music Production, String Orchestra, or Jazz Ensemble, there is a place for everyone to explore their musical interests and talents. I am looking forward to expanding these opportunities in the Spring of 2025 as we introduce a new music elective. Stay tuned!

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www.leyden212.org

Many of you have likely heard that Mr. Mike Vashuur has announced his departure from the Leyden band program. We wish him the absolute best in his new position in Mount Prospect! With his departure, we have already begun the process of hiring a new assistant band director. This process will take some time, but we hope to have a candidate selected very soon!

For those students wishing to participate in marching band, we will be kicking off the 2024 season in a matter of weeks! For any sophomore, junior, or senior band student who wants to be part of the leadership team, we will be meeting on June 3rd and June 5th from 12-5:30pm in the East Campus Band Room. I encourage as many of our students to attend as possible. Student leadership is the backbone of our music program. We will also be discussing new drum majors and section leaders at this leadership training.

The entire marching band will host its first full ensemble rehearsal of the 2024 season on Thursday, June 6th from 6:30-9:30pm at the West Campus. Any student choosing to participate in marching band needs to enroll in the summer school class. Please complete this ASAP by visiting [MySchoolsBucks](#). After enrolling, please fill out the [2024 Leyden Marching Band Student Information Form](#). These details are crucial for us to know what instrument you will play, contact information, and more.

Communication and collaboration with parents and guardians are vital to our program's success. I encourage you to be involved, stay informed, and share any ideas or concerns you may have. I will be sharing further opportunities for parents to get involved later this summer!

In closing, thank you for entrusting me with the opportunity to lead this outstanding music program. I am excited about the journey ahead and am committed to making this a memorable and rewarding year for all of our Leyden music students. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or to introduce yourself!

Following this welcome message, you will find important details regarding our marching band program, such as the schedule, attendance policy, and what to expect. Students who will not be participating in marching band will receive information about our curricular ensembles later this summer.

Sincerely,

Jake Walker
Music Department Chair and Director of Bands
Leyden High Schools District 212
jawalker@leyden212.org

2024 Leyden High School Marching Band Schedule

Reference recordings, instructional videos, and parts posted for you at: www.leydenband.org

<u>Date</u>		<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
6/3	M	Student Leadership Team Meeting (EL Band Room)	12:00-5:30PM
6/5	W	Student Leadership Team Meeting (EL Band Room)	12:00-5:30PM
6/6	Th	First Full Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
6/17	M	Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
6/19	W	Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
6/24	M	Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
6/26	W	Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
7/22	M	**Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	5:30-9:30PM
7/23	T	Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
7/24	W	Extended Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	2:30-9:30PM
7/25-27	Th-S	Band Camp (Schedule Coming Soon)	ALL DAY
8/7	W	Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
8/9	F	**Summer School Marching Band Class Rehearsal	5:30-9:30PM
8/12	M	Institute Day Performance (free breakfast!)	7:00AM
8/15	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
8/22	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
8/23	F	Football Blue/Gold Scrimmage Game Performance	TBD
9/5	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
9/6	F	First Home Football Game Performance	TBD
9/19	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
9/21	S	NIU Band Day Trip (DeKalb)	ALL DAY
10/3	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
10/5	S	Second Home Football Game Performance (Homecoming)	TBD
10/6	Su	Franklin Park Fall Fest Parade Performance	TBD
10/10	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
10/11	F	Third Home Football Game Performance (MS Band Night)	TBD
10/12-14	S-M	Cedar Point Tour	TBD
10/24	Th	Marching Band Rehearsal	6:30-9:30PM
10/25	F	Fourth Home Football Game Performance (Senior Night)	TBD

***Extended rehearsal to accommodate student led sectionals*

Key Information and Links

-Marching Band Class meets at West Leyden, Entrance 1

-You must fill out this form to be in our class: [2024 Marching Band Student Information Form](#)
This is separate from enrolling in the summer school portal. Please make sure you have completed both items.

-If you need an instrument, please fill out the [2024 Marching Band Instrument Rental Form](#). Mr. Walker will be in contact with you regarding the rental process. You will hear back by the June 6th rehearsal. *Note: Sousaphone, Drumline, and Colorguard students do not need to fill this out.*

-General class information, reference recordings, and instructional tutorials:
www.leydenband.org ***(Please note that Mr. Walker is working on taking over the website domain. The site is not updated as of May 2024. Stay tuned!)***

-Link to student absence form: [2024 Marching Band Absence Request Form](#)

-Link to band fundraising form: [Band Fundraising Form](#)
(Keep this form handy! We will have fundraisers in the near future.)

-Link to registration and tuition assistance payment plan: [Registration and Tuition Assistance](#)
* = Tuition assistance program installment payment due dates

-The student leadership team will check in regularly throughout the season before the start of select rehearsals. This will be communicated once the season begins for participating students.
Incoming Freshman students will not participate on the leadership team.

-Drumline and colorguard members may follow a slightly altered schedule, typically rehearsing earlier than the start of full ensemble rehearsals. This will be communicated accordingly.

-Outstanding performance opportunities occasionally arise during the marching band season. In such cases, new information will be shared as soon as possible. **Please note that the Marching Band meets regardless of weather conditions. Indoor activities will take place during inclement weather.**

Marching Band Attendance Policy

Marching band students are expected to attend all classes to keep up with your peers and for you to bring value to our band. Your attendance is also critical for you to earn class credit, a quality grade, and be eligible for enrichment opportunities like trips and tours.

We understand occasionally significant conflicts occur, forcing a student to miss a class or part of a class. The [2024 Marching Band Absence Request Form](#) is to be submitted prior to any such unavoidable absence. It takes the place of parents calling the school to report a student's absence during the school year.

In case of any emergency absence, please inform your section leader in real time. Then fill out the absence form at your first available opportunity.

A separate Absence Request Form must be submitted for **EVERY SINGLE** class date (or portion thereof) you will miss. This means you have to fill out a separate form for **EACH** absence date.

Please note filling out this form does not mean that your absence from class is excused.

--It does mean you have correctly followed the procedure to communicate the class absence

--If your absence is excused, you have the opportunity to make up the absence for full credit

--Perfect attendance means you attended all classes

Work is not an acceptable reason to miss class. Please work out any conflicts NOW!

FAQs

Do I have to participate in marching band, and why should I join?

Marching band is a voluntary ensemble at Leyden High Schools, but it is a major component of the Leyden Band Program. By joining, you'll make lasting memories with friends, have opportunities to travel, and perform exciting music. This season, we have two trips planned: NIU Band Day and a tour to Cedar Point!

What instruments are in the marching band?

The marching band includes flute/piccolo, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, mellophone, trombone, baritone, sousaphone, drumline (snare, bass, tenors, cymbals), and colorguard.

How do I register for marching band?

Marching band is offered as a summer school class. To participate, sign up through the summer school portal, [MySchoolBucks](#). It's important to register as soon as possible.

What is the cost to participate in marching band?

The tuition for marching band is \$125 per student. Tuition assistance plans are available for those who qualify. Payment can be made through [MySchoolBucks](#) or with a school cashier.

How long is the marching band season?

The season includes several evening rehearsals throughout the summer to improve music and marching skills. In July, we will hold a week-long band camp to start learning the pregame and halftime show. We will also perform at select school functions during the school day. We have trips planned for September (NIU Band Day) and October (Cedar Point). The season ends in late October.

What do I need to bring to the first marching band rehearsal on June 6th?

At our first rehearsal, which will be indoors at West, you won't need outdoor apparel. Bring your instrument (unless you need a rental), instrument supplies, a pencil, and a positive attitude. Mr. Walker will introduce everyone, discuss the upcoming season, handle instrument rentals, and begin rehearsing music.

I need to rent an instrument for marching band. How do I handle this?

If you need an instrument, fill out the [2024 Marching Band Instrument Rental Form](#). Mr. Walker will contact you by our June 6th rehearsal regarding availability. Even if you don't have your instrument by then, you should still attend. Equipment for sousaphone, drumline, and colorguard members will be provided, so these members do not need to fill out the form.

What if I have a conflict and have to miss a rehearsal?

To request an absence or tardy for any summer rehearsal, fill out the [2024 Marching Band Absence Request Form](#). Mr. Walker will respond shortly after your submission. Note that not all requests will be excused.

Will I have enough time to participate?

Marching band students typically do very well academically and manage the busy schedule effectively. While the schedule can occasionally be overwhelming, it provides valuable learning experiences for managing high school and adult life. Most summer rehearsals occur after 5pm to avoid conflicts with other sports and activities. With hard work and good time management skills, you will excel. If you are involved in other activities and have concerns about conflicts, please discuss them with Mr. Walker for assistance.

Additional questions can be emailed to Mr. Walker at: Jawalker@leyden212.org