

Hello Leyden Marching Band Students & Families!



Can you believe it's almost time to kick off the marching band season? It's hard to believe, but we are excited to welcome you to another exciting season!

I want to share some very important details with you. First, mark your calendars—the 2025 season will begin with a **student/parent kickoff meeting** in the **West Leyden High School Auditorium on Thursday, May 15, at 7:00 PM**. At this meeting, we will discuss key topics, including student expectations, rehearsals, performances, and much more. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

This packet includes the **2025 season schedule**, which features new events, a return to Cedar Point, and a condensed summer schedule to accommodate vacations. Please note that this schedule can change between now and the start of the season. While we do not anticipate this, please understand that it may be necessary!

Before the marching band season begins, please complete the following steps (For now, all Marching Band information can be found in the [2025 Leyden Marching Band Folder](#)):

1. Register for Summer Marching Band via [MySchoolBucks](#) and pay the **\$95.00 registration fee**. [This document](#) outlines how to create an account if you are new to MySchoolBucks.
2. Tuition assistance is available for any student needing it, but you must email Mr. Walker to request it.
3. After registering, you will receive an email from **Mr. Walker** contains the "**Marching Band 2025 Student Information Form**." This form is **separate** from the MySchoolBucks registration and will only be sent after you complete registration. Every student and family must submit this form!
4. Once you submit the student information form, you will be added to the **2025 Leyden Marching Band Schoology page**, where all communication from the directors will take place. *You will not be added to the Schoology page until all of the above steps are completed!*
5. Start practicing your instrument, grab your sunblock, and spread the word to your friends!

Spring Pre-Season Events

→ Drum Major Candidates

We will hold three **drum major training sessions** and a **drum major audition day** for any student interested in becoming a drum major for the 2025 Marching Eagles. A drum major is the lead student conductor of the marching band, responsible for conducting performances, assisting with rehearsals, and serving as a role model and leader for the band. Candidates must be entering grades 10-12; incoming 9th graders are not eligible.

Drum Major Checklist:

- In addition to auditioning, candidates must [submit an application](#) no later than **Thursday, April 10th**.
- Training sessions will take place on **April 8, 10, and 15** from 3:15-4:30 PM at WLHS. These sessions are a great opportunity to learn what it takes to be a drum major!
- Auditions will take place on **April 17 from 3:15-5:30 PM at WLHS**.
- Any student not selected as a drum major is eligible to apply for a student leadership position in May.

While the training sessions are optional, they are highly encouraged for anyone planning to audition. These clinics will cover all audition components and provide instruction on conducting and leadership fundamentals.



→ Student Leadership Team Candidates (Section Leader)

Students entering grades 10-12 who are interested in joining the **student leadership team** (Section leader) must [submit an application](#) and participate in an individual interview with the directors. A section leader is a student leader in the marching band responsible for guiding their section in music and marching, running sectionals, and setting a positive example through leadership and dedication. Incoming 9th graders are not eligible.

- Applications are due by **Monday, May 5th**.
- Interviews will take place on **May 11 and 12** at WLHS, beginning at 3:30 PM.
- Individual sign-up slots will open on **May 6** on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Results will be announced by **May 16**



→ Drumline/Front Ensemble Members

The drumline is the marching percussion section of the band, providing rhythm and energy through snare drums, tenor drums (quads/quints), bass drums, and cymbals. The front ensemble, or pit, consists of stationary percussion instruments like keyboards, auxiliary percussion, and electronics, adding melodic and harmonic depth to the performance.



Three **spring clinics** will be held to determine instrument placements and prepare for the upcoming season.

- **Clinic dates:** April 21, 28, and 30 from **6:30-8:30 PM at WLHS**.
- Attendance is **required** for all students planning to participate in the drumline or front ensemble, and this includes incoming 9th grade students.

While no students will be cut from the section, instrument placement is crucial for a successful season. These clinics will cover fundamental techniques, cadences for the season, and overall skill development.

→ Colorguard Members

The colorguard enhances the visual aspect of the marching band performance through choreography and flag work, bringing music to life with movement and color.



Two **spring clinics** will be held to prepare for the upcoming season.

- **Clinic dates:** April 21 and 28 from **6:30-8:30 PM at WLHS**.
- Attendance is **required** for all students planning to participate in **colorguard**.
- Learn basics and routines.
- No experience is necessary.

→ New Members (Incoming Freshman/New HS Members)

- ◆ Our first rehearsal will take place on Monday, June 2nd from 5:30-8:30pm at WLHS.
- ◆ We will teach you the basics and introduce you to our leadership team!



We look forward to welcoming our 2025 **Marching Eagles** soon! In the meantime, feel free to reach out to our directors with any questions.

Mr. Walker (Jawalker@leyden212.org)

Ms. Wilkes (Cwilkes@leyden212.org)

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

April 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Drum Major Clinic #1 3:15-4:30 pm WLHS	9	10 Drum Major Clinic #2 3:15-4:30 pm WLHS Drum Major Application Due!	11	12
13	14	15 Drum Major Clinic #3 3:15-4:30 pm WLHS	16	17 Drum Major Auditions 3:15-5:30 pm WLHS	18	19
20	21 Drumline/Front Ensemble/Color Guard Clinic #1 6:30-8:30 pm WLHS	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Drumline/Front Ensemble/Color Guard Clinic #2 6:30-8:30 pm WLHS	29	30 Drumline/Front Ensemble Clinic #3 6:30-8:30 pm WLHS			

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

May 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Section Leader Applications Due!	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Student Leadership Interviews 3:30-6:30 pm WLHS	13 Student Leadership Interviews 3:30-6:30 pm WLHS	14	15 Marching Band Kickoff Meeting 7:00pm WLHS	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Leyden - Last Day of School</i>	24
25	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28	29 Student Leadership Camp 9am-4pm WLHS Instrument Check-Out 4pm-6pm WLHS	30 Student Leadership Camp 9am-4pm WLHS Instrument Check-Out 4pm-6pm WLHS	31

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

June 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 New Member/Student Leadership Rehearsal 5:30-8:30 pm	3 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	4 New Member/Student Leadership Rehearsal 5:30-8:30 pm	5 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Drumline/Front Ensemble/Color Guard Sectional 5:30-8:30 pm	24 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	25 Drumline/Front Ensemble/Color Guard Sectional 5:30-8:30 pm	26 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	27	28
29	30 Drumline/Front Ensemble/Color Guard Sectional 5:30-8:30 pm					

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

July 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	2 Drumline/Front Ensemble/Color Guard Sectional 5:30-8:30 pm	3 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	4 4th of July Parades (Hinsdale and Glen Ellyn)	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Band Camp 1-9:30pm (Dinner provided)	29 Band Camp 1-9:30pm (Dinner provided)	30 Band Camp 1-9:30pm (Dinner provided)	31 Band Camp 1-9:30pm (Dinner provided)		

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

August 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Band Camp 1-9:30pm (Dinner provided)	2 Band Camp 1-6pm Preview Performance
3	4 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	5	6 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	7	8 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-9:30 pm	9
10	11 Institute Day Performance 7:00am (Breakfast provided)	12 <i>First Day of School</i>	13	14 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	15	16
17	18 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	19 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	20	21 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	22 Blue & Gold Scrimmage Game	23
24	25 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	26 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	27	28 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	29 Game #1 v. HP	30
31						

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

September 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3	4 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	5	6
7	8 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	9 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	10	11 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	12 Rehearsal (ALL) 5:30-7:30pm	13 Chicagoland Marching Band Festival Performance
14	15 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	16 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	17 WLHS FA Showcase Performance	18 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	19 Game #2 v. York	20
21	22 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	23 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	24 ELHS FA Showcase Performance	25 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	26 Game #3 v. Proviso East (HC)	27
28	29 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	30 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass				

2025 Leyden Marching Band Calendar

October 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	3 Game #4 v. Addison Trail	4
5 Franklin Park Fall Fest Parade	6 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	7 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	8	9 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	10 CEDAR POINT TRIP Departing after school	11 CEDAR POINT TRIP
12 CEDAR POINT TRIP Return in the evening	13 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	14	15	16 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	17	18
19	20 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: Brass West Students: WW	21 Sectionals 2:45-3:45 pm East Students: WW West Students: Brass	22	23 Rehearsal (ALL) 6:30-9:30 pm DL/FE report 6pm	24 Game #5 v. Hinsdale South (Senior Night)	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Leyden High School Marching Band

FAQs

How Can I Join Marching Band?

Marching band is an extra-curricular opportunity that is offered as a summer school class at Leyden. To sign up, visit the summer school registration portal, [MySchoolBucks](#). Registration is now open until June 1st, 2025!

What Instruments Are in the Marching Band?

Our marching band features a wide variety of instruments, including:

- **Woodwinds:** Flute/piccolo, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone
 - **Brass:** Trumpet, mellophone, trombone, baritone, sousaphone
 - **Percussion:** Drumline (snare, bass, tenors, cymbals), front ensemble (mallets/auxillary)
 - **Colorguard:** Flags
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What Is the Cost to Participate?

The tuition for marching band is **\$95 per student (due by June 2025)**. If you need assistance, we offer payment plans for those who request it. Payments will be processed through the school cashier at LHS. Contact Mr. Walker with any questions or concerns.

How Long Is the Marching Band Season?

The season includes several evening rehearsals throughout the summer, focusing on music and marching skills. We also hold a **week-long band camp** in late July or August to learn the pregame and halftime shows. Our performances include select school functions, daytime and overnight trips, marching festivals, parades and more. The season concludes in late October.

When Will I Know the Marching Band Schedule For the 2025 Season?

The 2025 Marching Band season schedule is now posted in the "[2025 Leyden Marching Band](#)" folder.

I Will Need to Rent an Instrument. How Do I Do That?

Instrument check-out nights will be on **Thursday, May 29th and Friday, May 30th** from **4pm-6pm** at WLHS. No appointments are needed. Students needing an instrument will need to stop in in order to receive their instrument. There is no cost to rent. This will only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Note: Equipment for sousaphone, drumline, front ensemble and colorguard will be provided, so these members do not need to submit the rental form. These students will **not** need to attend the instrument check-out night.

Will I Have Enough Time to Participate?

Absolutely! Marching band students typically excel academically and manage their schedules well. While the schedule can sometimes be demanding, it provides valuable skills in time management, cooperation, and discipline. Most rehearsals take place after 5 pm to avoid conflicts with other activities, especially once the school year begins. If you have concerns about scheduling conflicts with sports or other commitments, talk to Mr. Walker for assistance. We have several football, volleyball, baseball, and tennis players who are in marching band. **We will find a way to make it work for you!**

I Want To Be On the Drumline, Front Ensemble, or Colorguard...How Can I Participate?

The drumline, front ensemble, and colorguard will be hosting spring clinics for anyone interested in joining these sections! Each clinic will take place at West Leyden High School from 6:30-8:30pm.

4/21/2025 Marching Band: Drumline/Front Ensemble/Colorguard Clinic #1

4/28/2025 Marching Band: Drumline/Front Ensemble/Colorguard Clinic #2

4/30/2025 Marching Band: Drumline/Front Ensemble Clinic #3

I am interested in being in Concert or Symphonic Band...How Can I Participate?

Concert and Symphonic Band are elective classes offered during the school day. Symphonic Band is the highest level concert ensemble offered at LHS. Students entering their 9th grade year should enroll in Concert Band II, however any student that wishes to be considered for Symphonic Band placement should contact their director to receive audition materials.

I heard there are Jazz Bands At LHS?

Yes! We offer three extra-curricular Jazz Ensembles at LHS: Studio Jazz Ensemble (audition required), WLHS Jazz Ensemble (no audition), and ELHS Jazz Ensemble (no audition). The Jazz Ensembles begin rehearsing in November of each year, once a week after school. Studio Jazz Ensemble is the top jazz ensemble made up of students from both ELHS and WLHS and requires an audition to be admitted. Auditions will take place in October. WLHS and ELHS Jazz Ensembles do not require an audition. Sign-ups will take place in October. Instrumentation includes: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, piano, and drumset.

Does LHS Offer Any Other Music Opportunities?

Yes! We also offer the following extracurricular opportunities: Pep Band (performs at basketball games) and Percussion Club. Pep Band and Percussion Club both begin in November. No audition is required to participate. Leyden also offers Digital Music Production as a music elective. Contact Mr. Walker for further details!

Additional Questions?

If you have any further questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Walker at jawalker@leyden212.org.



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Leyden High School
Music Department



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