

Liberty High School Drumline Handbook 2017 – 2018



Congratulations on your decision to become part of the **Pulse of Liberty Junior Varsity/ Varsity** indoor percussion ensemble! In this handbook you will find the information necessary to get your experience off to a good start. Please read this handbook thoroughly and ask any questions you may have. We look forward to working with you as a new member of our team.

WHAT IS Drumline?

Drumline, formally known as “battery,” is a sport that is an element of **marching band** in the late summer and fall. It also is a stand-alone sport in **winter drumline**. The drumline, using various equipment such as keyboards, mallets, bass guitars, snare drums, tenor drums, and bass drums, performs their own marching show-esque show.

Drumline requires a combination of physical ability, strength, reflexes, memorization/mental capacity, and the emotional stamina to complete the exercise while managing the personalities of a large group of teammates and band members. Our equipment and props are always pushing the laws of physics with force and speed, action and reaction. All of this is happening with an incredible control of time.

Although this all sounds pretty tough, it’s a rewarding and worthwhile activity. All great accomplishments require hard work!

AUDITIONS

Auditions often begin with clinics to familiarize potential members with basic playing techniques, terminology, and choreography.

Potential members must attend all scheduled clinics unless arrangements have been made with the LHS percussion and band staff. Potential members will be checked out appropriate equipment at the first clinic and are responsible for taking care of and returning that equipment when asked to do so to avoid any charges being assessed to the student’s account.

The clinics give potential members the opportunity to show the staff what they are capable of. Potential members are encouraged to be on their best behavior and do what is asked of them to the best of their ability. The audition begins from the first step in the door for auditions.

Parents may observe clinics as long as they are not a distraction to the students or staff. However, auditions are closed to the members auditioning and judges only.

Selections are based on scores alone. If there is a dispute concerning selection to the team, a meeting can be arranged by contacting one of the instructors or the band director. During this meeting we can go over the score sheets.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF DRUMLINE MEMBERS?

The greatest single factor that determines the success of any organization is **attitude**. It takes dedication to reach goals. Students are expected to come to rehearsal with the right attitude of sincerity, concentration, and dedication to working hard to achieve success with his/her teammates. A good attitude and a strong work ethic make the difference between a successful organization and a mediocre group.

Members of the LHS Drumline are asked to make a commitment to the program through their time and effort. Members are required to commit to the rehearsal, payments, and performance schedule, and are required to show up on time and in appropriate attire. Members are also expected to dedicate time to practice outside of rehearsal.

Examples: mental practice with music before bed, stretching and conditioning, going outside and working on challenging maneuvers, and mild strength training

Members must always represent our team positively. Following school rules (dress code, attendance, conduct, etc.) is a must. Remember, the actions of our members are always a direct reflection of our organization.

Members are also expected to keep their grades up. It is the member's responsibility to maintain a their grade throughout the season. A student who receives an F on their report card may be asked to leave the group. Citizenship is also important. "N's" or "U's" are not allowed in order to maintain a spot on the Drumline. Members will be subjected to periodic grade checks and if grades are not adequate, the member will not be excused from class for any performance or activity during the school day. If the problem persists, the member may be benched until grades go up.

When members of a competitive group have pride, maturity, class, and style, it shows. Remember, it takes much longer to build a good reputation than to ruin one.

If a drumline member leaves the team for any reason whatsoever, that drumline member may not re-audition the following season. Please consider this decision very carefully before making it.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all practices and performances is **mandatory**. Excused absences will only be accepted when accompanied by a note from a parent or doctor. Absenteeism from drumline rehearsals is very difficult to recover from. Members are expected to take time outside of rehearsal to catch up. Participating in drumline counts for **high school credit**. One credit is awarded second semester and is called **Marching Band Semester II**. Percussion class is not required for Winter Drumline students. Students are graded on attendance, participation, proper attire, and proper materials. Students will lose their points for any given day if they are absent and/or not appropriately participating.

Conflicts with the drumline schedule are the responsibility of the student. The dates are scheduled on the band calendar, and an attendance contract/schedule/ payment schedule is given out far in advance so families can plan accordingly. A member's contribution reflects on the entire team and when a performer is missing during a show, it is noticeable.

General Attendance Rules:

1. An absence from class or a rehearsal for any reason will result in loss of participation points. Remember, this organization is providing high school credit and must be treated as such. Often, points can be recovered by scheduling make-up time with one of the instructors or one of the captains.
2. If a member is absent from the rehearsal before a performance, the member will not be allowed to perform. **There are no exceptions to this rule.** Many last minute changes and adjustments are made at this final rehearsal and a performer will not be ready if this time is missed.
3. **If a member has a conflict with another CCSD club or organization, the member must communicate this with the instructors at least a week in advance. Notice must be provided in writing through the Sound of Liberty Bands website. The conflict form can be located on the Contact Us page. If notice isn't provided, the absence will not be excused.**

CCSD policies regarding conflicts are:

- a. If it is two rehearsals/meetings, split the time between the two organizations.
- b. If it is a rehearsal/practice vs. a performance/game, the performance or game take precedence over the rehearsal or practice.
- c. If it is two performances/games, then the student chooses which to participate in without suffering any penalty.

However, if absenteeism due to participation in other activities is affecting the member's ability to perform at the level of the rest of the team, we will have to address the situation and ultimately do what is best for the team.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING REHEARSALS

At the beginning of rehearsals, we will stretch and condition as a group and warm up with some playing exercises with a metronome. We will go through some basic exercises and warm-up routines which all are expected to have memorized. If we can get through warm-ups efficiently, it will allow us more time to work on choreography. Everyone must participate in warm-ups, no exceptions.

After warm-up we will work on learning and/or cleaning choreography, music, or drill. Sometimes it will seem very repetitive, however, it is important that we are in unison as a team. Have patience with one another and the instructors. Listen for and follow instructions in order to allow this portion of rehearsal to go smoothly. Always show the captains respect and listen to instructions from them.

We usually end rehearsal with two to three run-throughs of what we are working on. This will give all members an opportunity to put all of the hard work together and become comfortable with the choreography in action. After run-throughs, all members are to help clean up the area we are work

in and put all equipment away. If we have additional props to move back to the band room, members must assist.

Drumline is a physically challenging activity. Throughout the season, members will work their abdominals, cardiovascular system, arms, legs and they will frequently be expected to run/jog. Members must be able to stay strong and perform throughout a rigorous four to eight minute show. Inhalers, if needed, must be available at practice. Always bring water to practice.

Proper Attire/Supplies For Practice:

1. Sweatpants, yoga pants, or workout pants or shorts/capris of some kind- NO JEANS (It doesn't matter how stretchy they are), NO SKIRTS
2. Comfortably fitting tank top, t-shirt, or sweater- NO BUTTON-UP SHIRTS
3. Athletic shoes or jazz/hip-hop shoes- NO SANDALS, NO HEELS
4. Make sure to have a sweatshirt or hoodie of some sort for outdoor rehearsals in the fall; know the weather and be prepared
5. Make sure to use sunscreen for any/all outdoor rehearsals
6. Bring a water bottle, always
7. Bring a healthy snack for breaks
8. 3 ring binder, page protectors, and all music

No Excuses Policy: During rehearsal, instructors and/or captains will often provide constructive criticism and feedback. The proper response is a simple "okay" unless the member does not understand what is being asked of them. Also, if a member is suffering an injury that is preventing them from participating fully, **they must have a doctor's note** in order to be excused from whatever the activity is that they are unable to do. Students who ask to sit out will be asked to be picked up from rehearsal. If the inability to participate is going to inhibit the ability to perform at the level of the rest of the group, then the member's position on the performance field/floor will be addressed in a meeting with the staff and could be replaced with an alternate.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON PERFORMANCE DAY

Members must show up on time and in full uniform and should expect to work hard. Many times members must find their own transportation to performance venues, but this year, we are getting bused to all events. All members are expected to have a great attitude, which will lead to a great performance. Only say positive things about other performing groups. HAVE FUN!

Members are expected to have all needed supplies/equipment on performance day: Mallets, equipment, instruments, uniform, show t-shirt, and money. Members must stay for the entire event unless prior arrangements have been made (at least one week in advance) with the instructors. If you leave a performance venue without permission, you may be dismissed from the LHS Drumline.

CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE TEAM

Many hours and many dollars have gone into making this program successful before you even became a part of it. We are building and setting new expectations that future drumline members will have to work hard to achieve. We are building a reputation as a respectable, polite and fun group. Members who are not working toward our success have no place in this group. *The LHS Drumline program reserves the right to dismiss any participant at any time for conduct that is deemed hurtful to the program, other members of the team, the instructors, or band director.* If at any time you feel something should be addressed, please see one of the instructors or the band director.

Profanity- We do not use profanity when in uniform, at a practice, or in the bleachers for any reason whatsoever.

Negativity- Every student, parent, and director is important to the success of this group. We follow the golden rule: If you don't have something nice to say, then don't say it. This includes social media. Keep negativity off of the Internet. It is unnecessary and unproductive. Do NOT bring negativity into rehearsal or performance. If you need a moment to think or cool off, speak up. Attitude is a critical part of everyday life in and out of drumline, so do your best to keep it in check.

Cell Phones/MP3 Players: KEEP THEM PUT AWAY- Most students have a cell phone in case of emergency. We spend many hours after school and students want to keep their cell phones with them. When you enter any rehearsal space, the ringer is turned off and the phone is put away. During rehearsals, phones should never be used. You may check your phone and send texts/calls during break time only. If a parent needs to get in contact with their child during a rehearsal, please contact one of the drumline instructors using Remind.

Rehearsal Etiquette- During rehearsal, no matter the location, stay quiet and listen for instructions. Never talk over an instructor or a captain. Treat instructors and peer leaders with respect even if there is a disagreement with what they are saying. The only people who should be correcting others are the instructors and the captains. Frequently, instructors will ask more experienced members to help newer members. Wait to be prompted by your instructor before offering assistance to others.

Drumline FEES

We understand that these fees may be a financial burden, however it takes money to run the program and provide these experiences for the members. There will be fundraising opportunities provided to help offset a portion of these costs.

\$500 Payment Total (Varsity)

Friday, December 1st - \$100 payment
Friday, January 12th - \$100 payment
Friday, February 9th - \$100 payment
Friday, March 9th - \$100 payment
Friday, April 6th - \$100 payment

\$225 Payment Total (JV)

Friday, December 1st - \$75 payment
Friday, January 12th - \$75 payment
Friday, February 9th - \$75 payment

This is a new adventure for us and it is exciting that we have the opportunity to compete two drumlines for the 2018 winter season! Please keep an eye on the Facebook page, website, and Google calendar for the most current information. Upcoming fundraising opportunities to help offset these costs:

1. Bagged candy sales
2. Winter show shirt fundraiser
3. More catalog sales

Important dates for the 2018 season

Saturday, February 10th ADLA Evaluation Clinic/ Show (Varsity only)

Friday, February 23rd ADLA Las Vegas Competition

Saturday, February 24th, WGI comp @ Liberty HS – volunteering

Saturday, March 17th, ADLA Las Vegas Competition

Saturday, March 24th ADLA Las Vegas Competition

Saturday, April 7th ADLA Las Vegas Championships

Saturday/ Sunday, April 14th and 15th, ADLA Championships, King HS, Riverside CA

GRADING POLICY

There is one performing arts elective credit awarded for participation in drumline for the after school **Marching Band** class. Following is the grade breakdown for each class.

Marching Band- Students are awarded 25 participation points per rehearsal for the Marching Band class, 200 participation points for each on-campus performance, and 250 points for each off-campus performance. If the student shows up on time, in proper attire, participates, follows our rules, and helps to clean up, the student will receive full points. Scenarios that might cause students to lose points are:

Loss of Credit:

Tardiness

- To class
 - Loss of 5 points
- To performance
 - Loss of 50 points

Unpreparedness

- Missing equipment for class
 - Loss of 5 points
- Missing equipment for performance
 - Loss of 50 points

Improper clothing/uniform

- Not appropriately dressed for rehearsal or class

- Loss of 5 points
- Missing uniform parts or not in proper uniform for performance
 - Loss of 50 points
- Missing proper attire to change into after performance
 - Loss of 50 points

Carelessness

- Returning late from break during rehearsal or leaving the practice floor or field without permission
 - Loss of 5 points
- Not helping to clean up after a rehearsal and/or leaving before being officially dismissed
 - Loss of 5 points
- Returning late from third quarter break during games or not following meeting instructions while at performance sites
 - Loss of 50 points

Conduct

- Any behavior issues which causes a distraction or interrupts the flow of rehearsal or class
 - Loss of 5 points
- Taking out a cell phone for any reason on the practice floor or practice field without permission from the instructor
 - Loss of 5 points
- Any behavior issues, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any conduct which can be construed as negative at a performance site
 - Loss of 50 points per offense

AWARDS IN Drumline:

Senior Cords- any senior who is a member of the drumline program, JV or Varsity for more than two years, with one of which being their senior year, they will be eligible to purchase the winter drumline cord.

Drumline Letter- Any student who remains in good standing, has an A, and little to no attendance issues will be awarded a letter. More details to come.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Rehearsals are open to parents only. You are welcome to observe rehearsal at any time, as long as you do not distract your child or any other member.
- Rehearsals begin and end at scheduled times as much as possible. If you are dropping off or picking your child up please allow 5 -10 minutes for them to get their things ready before rehearsal and/or put away their equipment at the conclusion.
- Please come to shows and competitions to support the band and drumline!
- Make sure your child has water and **healthy snacks** for breaks during rehearsal.
- Almost all costs associated with drumline are paid for up front early in the season. If your student decides to quit during the season, the parent and student may have to pay all fees.
- If you or your child has any questions or concerns about anything as the season progresses, please let me know. You are welcome to call, text, or email us any time. We will respond as quickly as possible to address your questions/concerns.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

School address: 3700 Liberty Heights Avenue, Henderson, NV 89052

School phone: 702-799-2270 x4040 (checked rarely)

Travis Whaley, band director: whaletb@nv.ccsd.net

Christopher Tactay, front ensemble instructor: ctactay@gmail.com

Max Mahoney, front ensemble instructor: maxmahoneylwe@gmail.com

Jorge Chavez, battery instructor: j.chavezlepe2@gmail.com

Stephen Buck, battery instructor: buckdacious04@yahoo.com

JR Agular, battery instructor: jragular99@gmail.com

Trevor Stojanovich, visual instructor: trevorstojanovich@gmail.com

Robert St. Luce, visual instructor: rstluce11@gmail.com

Band Website: <http://www.soundoflibertybands.com> - Please visit this site to stay current on important band and drumline information.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SoundOfLibertyBands/> - Please join this group to get updates on events going on with the band and drumline.

Remind 101 Texts: Please sign up for the remind texts by texting the number 81010 with this message: @2017pulse

Handbook Signature Sheet & Online Registration Instructions

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand this handbook. If you have any questions regarding items discussed in this handbook, please feel free to contact one of the instructors or the band director. All rules in the standard band handbook also applies.

Member Name _____ Student Number _____

Member Phone Number _____

Member Email Address _____

Grade _____ School Currently Attending _____

Parent(s) #1 Name Printed _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Parent(s) #2 Name Printed _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____