

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the Limestone Band Boosters, **Welcome** to the 2018 Marching Rockets! We are looking forward to another great season of music and education.



This packet contains the information that you need to start your year right. If you have any questions about the information in this packet or about your student's finances, please contact the Director or one of the Booster officers. Their contact information can be found on LimestoneBands.com, under Band Boosters » Officers. We appreciate your open and honest communication.

Forms to Return

Please carefully read the remaining information in this packet, and **fill out and return the attached forms** (i.e., the documents with a checkmark ✓) by the date listed on each form. Each form has important information that allows us to serve your student as he/she participates in the Marching Rockets. The most important form is the **Commitment Form**, which must be returned by May 1, 2018 along with your first payment (see below) to secure your spot in the Fall show.

Band Fees & Other Expenses

The cost of the band program is shared between the district's taxpayers, the Band Boosters, and the individual student. This year's basic Band Fee for each student will be **\$325.00**. The fee helps to pay for items that directly affect the student's success, such as band camp expenses and additional instructors. It also includes one Pep Band shirt, which will be used throughout the year. Finally, the fee includes the costs for the trip to the Bands of America competition.

There are other expenses that apply to certain individuals or groups within the Marching Band:

- Marching shoes (~\$40) – required for all marchers (except pit and Color Guard). Returning students may be able to use the prior year's shoes. A small quantity of extra shoes (and a limited selection of sizes) may be available. Whether the person needs new shoes will be determined during Uniform Fittings. The fee will be charged to the student's account after that.
- Gloves – required for all marchers (except pit, drumline, and Color Guard). One set (3 pair) of gloves is included with the marching shoes fee. Additional sets can be purchased for \$6. The fee will be charged to the student's account after Uniform Fittings.
- Color Guard uniforms (approximately \$150, with the band program paying 50%, up to \$75).
- The first set of mallets and marching sticks is provided. If they break, the student is responsible to replace them. Students must purchase their own set of concert sticks.
- School-owned instruments are provided and maintained by the school district. If repairs are required (other than "normal wear and tear"), that cost is the student's responsibility.
- Students will be responsible for most meals at competition and any snacks, souvenirs, et cetera.

We know that this is a significant expense, so we offer two ways to help you deal with the costs: a payment schedule and fundraisers. And, if your family has a financial hardship, please talk to the Director. He or she will work confidentially with you to make sure you can participate in the marching band.



Payment Schedule

The payment schedule allows you to spread the Band Fee across several months. Of course, it is greatly appreciated if you can make a full payment up front, since the expenses come in early, too. For the same reason, all payments are non-refundable.

Payment	Due Date	Minimum Due	
1	May 1, 2018	\$100.00	Initial commitment to reserve your spot in the Fall show
2	July 13	\$75.00	2 nd payment
3	August 17	\$75.00	3 rd payment
4	September 14	\$75.00	Final balance due

You can make checks payable to Limestone Band Boosters, and place it (with the payment slip) in a sealed envelope in the lockbox in the band room. Or, mail it to:

Amy Hauk, Treasurer
Limestone Band Boosters
4201 S Airport Rd
Bartonville, IL 61607

Or, to make a payment from your Charms* student account balance, email your instructions to Treasurer@LimestoneBands.com. You can add money to your Charms account using a credit card via PayPal. (A convenience fee applies.)

*We use **Charms Office** (www.charmsoffice.com) to track your individual student account. Detailed information about Charms, including how to set up your account, can be found later in this packet.

Fundraisers Available

To help offset your individual costs and to provide extra benefits to the entire band, the Band Boosters organize a variety of fundraisers throughout the year. With a little effort, you can cover your entire band fee and other expenses. And since your balance rolls over from year to year (and to any younger siblings when you graduate), you can even save enough for the quadrennial Disney trip.

The payment schedule starts very soon, so you may want to start on two of the fundraisers right away. See the information about the Kroger Community Rewards program and the Scrip gift cards in this packet. These fundraisers are great because you get rebates for making purchases that you are probably already making, and 100% of the rebate for these programs goes into your student account. The March-a-Thon fundraiser, which starts with rehearsals in July, will also go directly to your student account.

Thank you. We look forward to having you as a part of the Limestone Marching Rockets.

The Band Booster Officers