

Dear Eighth Grade Band Students and Parents:

The Band staff would like to welcome you to the Lake Braddock Senior High Band Program. We look forward to continuing to provide you the best possible instructional program for you and your parents. The multifaceted program has many opportunities and possibilities for your continued growth as a musician. **There is a place for everyone regardless of skill level. From beginning band through the most advanced concert ensembles, jazz groups, marching activities and small ensembles, there are great opportunities for everyone.**

The history of the Lake Braddock Band is one of continued excellence reflecting the dedication of hard-working students, parents, and faculty. At a special concert in May 1995, the Sudler Flag of Honor was awarded to the Lake Braddock Symphonic Band. The Sudler Award identifies, recognizes, and honors high school programs that demonstrate high standards of excellence over a period of several years. Lake Braddock is also the first school in the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive 27 consecutive Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) State Honor Plaques.

From learning basic music skills to performing quality music at such prestigious events as the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Bands of America Concert Festivals, and the American Bandmasters Association Conference, students have the opportunity to develop their individual skills as a part of a group of exceptional young people. As students progress through the program, they will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of concert, small ensemble, orchestra, jazz, and marching groups. Each year we also travel with the groups to music festivals in exciting locations such as Orlando, Chicago, New York, and Atlanta.

We are looking forward to you joining our Lake Braddock Band Family. The Lake Braddock Bands are made up of a very diverse group of students. They participate in all aspects in our school and community. The students carry various academic loads ranging from Advanced Placement classes, students in ESOL courses, as well as the basic skills programs all offered here at LBSS. Our students are also enrolled in FCPS Academy Programs, Dance Programs, Scouts, and Church Groups. We even have a high number of students that reach Eagle Scout each year while in the band program. Band students are also very active with the LBSS Sports Program. We have or have had members in every sports team offered here at LBSS. Most importantly, there are a lot of really nice people who work hard and have a great time learning music and enjoying the benefits of their efforts.

We invite you to visit our website at www.lbband.org for more information and details about the Lake Braddock Band Program.

Finally, as you begin to select courses, we know that the scheduling process can be a bit confusing. Please contact us any time you have questions or need assistance. We have years of experience with helping students set up their ideal schedule for their own individual needs. It has allowed them to participate in the band as well as the other

wonderful opportunities and organizations at Lake Braddock. We ask the rising 9th grade students to sign up for any one of the concert bands on their course request sheet. After spring auditions, typically held in April, we will meet with the guidance counselors to assure your student is placed in the correct ensemble.

The band staff, after many years of watching students mature through these experiences in the band, can give you a long list of things you can expect to learn and enjoy as a part of this group. However, we would like to close with a few comments from our former band students we have extracted from their letters and essays over the past years.

“As a result of playing in band, I was able to learn how to manage my time and to accomplish difficult tasks with proficiency. The skills and values I learned from you have facilitated my first year of college, by the end of which I will have earned over 90 quarter hours, making me a junior.”

“As an 8th grader, I viewed high school with some trepidation. For one thing, I was concerned that my playing skills might be inadequate or the expectations a stretch. What I found was a huge group of instant friends ready to help me succeed. Twelve years and a PhD. later, I still view these people as my best friends, and my four years in the Lake Braddock Band as the most exciting adventure of my life. The music was thrilling, the travel exciting, and the real friends I made, priceless. It still intrigues me that the most fun activity I ever participated in taught me the most about life.”

“Music has taught me more than any of my other classes, and what I learned is just as important. Through music, people learn and grow in imagination, creativity, discipline, and social skills. Most important, they learn about what makes them human. These skills and qualities make us who we are and help us to understand each other.”

“Band taught us the importance of discipline and responsibility, respect and cooperation, and the rewards of excellence. The music was fun and fascinating.”

“I think the most important thing I learned was to take pride in what I do and to never settle for anything less than my best effort.”

“Pep band taught me the lighter side of life. Playing songs to excite the crowd at football and basketball games was fun, but the real reason I participated was to be with my closest friends, all of whom I met in band.”

We are excited about another great year ahead of us and we wait with anticipation for you to join us. Again, please contact us if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

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