**Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School**

**“THE Pride of Augusta”**

**Marching Band/**

**Auxiliary Handbook**



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**Welcome Letter**

First, I would like to congratulate you for being chosen to participate in the best band in Augusta **THE** Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School **“Pride of Augusta”** Marching Band. I want this year to be a successful and enjoyable year. This handbook was created as a guide for what things must be done in order for this to happen. Please keep up with this handbook as the requirements will be enforced.

Again, let me say congratulations and let’s have a great band season. If you need to contact me, please call or text (706) 823-6900 or contact me on the band app.

Sincerely,

Shanna Johnson EdS

Director Bands

**Band/Auxiliary Fees**

It is very exciting when your child makes the auxiliary in the area of her choice but even though she has been successful chosen, there are some financial obligations that must be taken care of in order for her to participate. The band/auxiliary must pay for everything that they wear. We try to keep the cost as low as possible while still maintaining the high standards that has made the “Pride of Augusta” auxiliary the best in Augusta. Parents are given the option to make payments in installments to help make their child’s dreams a reality. Parents have various situations that may arise where the full amount of the installment cannot be paid at once, but as long as the balance due is paid in full by the last installment date that is fine. The balance must be paid out by the last installment date because uniforms and all of the other necessities are ordered soon after the deadline. **No** merchandise will be ordered for your child if you have not already paid for it. This will cause your child to miss performances because she does not possess the same items as the rest of her team. The team will not be limited in what they are able to wear during performances if your fees have been paid for and received.

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**Attendance**

A lot of techniques and music is taught during practice. It is imperative that band/auxiliary come on time with an enthusiasm to learn. Practices are daily. Therefore, if a student misses 1 practice **without** an excuse in a week they **WILL NOT** perform/march in the game or parade.

**NOTE: We do however understand if students miss practice due to illness or are tardy to practice or must leave early due to tutoring, work or doctor’s appointment. Students will need to provide a note from the teacher/doctor to Ms. Johnson. When this is known, we will make arrangements for the student to catch up on the things they have missed.**

**Practice**

**All** practices are **CLOSED**. This means that even if auxiliary is practicing outside, everyone other than band members and staff are to remain in or around their vehicle until the end of practice unless you are requested. This helps the student to focus on the learning and not on everything around them. Auxiliary members are required to look presentable when they come to practice. Which means: No daisy dukes, bra shirts or cut up shorts. Presentation is extremely important on an auxiliary so we want to begin with practice. **NO CELL PHONE USAGE DURING PRACTICE.**

**Absence from Performance**

Performances are essential to the success of the band. The instructors work painstakingly to ensure every move in each routine/stand is original and cutting-edge. They provide the auxiliary with an opportunity to perform routines that are more complex than any other auxiliary in the area. If even one person on the line is absent from a performance when the routine has already been arranged, it can turn a potentially outstanding performance into a disaster. It is for this reason that if you know you will not be performing, please let the instructors know as soon as possible so that they can make the necessary adjustments.

**Excused absences:**

-Sick (with a note) If you attend school the day of practice and you are sick, then you will be expected to stay for practice as well. You will not be required to dress out or participate but it will be important for you to see any new dances so that the child will not fall behind.

-Doctor’s appointment (w/ a note) Try to schedule these appointments so they do not interfere with practice.

-Death in the family

-Anything identified as an excused absence in the Richmond County Student Code of Conduct.

**Performance Ready**

On the day of a performance, it is imperative that you show up on time with all of the necessary items to perform. These are a few essential items for all performances: stockings (no holes or runs), white pearl earrings (can be bought from any hair store), black bra (whether strapped or strapless and black underwear (thongs, seamless). Before each performance, there will be a uniform check by the sponsor to ensure that everyone has on the appropriate attire.

**Appropriate auxiliary performance attire**

**Uniform:** clean

**Tights:** without holes or runs especially visible holes

**Undergarments:** black **ONLY**

**Bra:** strapped (if uniform permits) strapless or no bra (**bra must not be visible while in uniform**) **Underwear:** bikini cut, thongs or no underwear

**Make up:** color(s) will be chosen by auxiliary sponsor and/or team captain

**Ear Rings**: white pearls

**Boots**: clean with no visible dark marks or make up stains

**Underarm**: shaved

**NOTE:** Girls may need to shave or wax other areas depending on the fit of the uniform.

**Hair**: well groomed: if you do not have a perm, please invest in wax styling stick. It holds your natural hair down so that it does not puff up when you begin to dance and sweat. If you have asthma, your pump is **required.**

**Tattoos:** Any tattoos that are visible must be covered up with makeup. **NO** tattoos will be visible during a performance.

**Nose rings**: colored rings must be taken out and replaced with a clear nose ring.

If you do not have the required items, you will either need to contact someone to bring you the correct items or you will be unable to perform **NO EXCEPTIONS**. It is important that everyone look the same from the hairstyle to the style of shoes. You will be told in advance what to wear so there will be no reason for any discrepancy.

At the performance, you will need to pay attention to your area captain in order to see what needs to be done. There should be no talking or playing. When you are in performance mode, you do not wave or speak to others in the community or on your line unless it is absolutely necessary. You are required to stay with your line for the duration of the performance. You are required to use the same transportation as the rest of the auxiliary. If you need to use the restroom or have any other emergency, you will signal your sponsor and she will come to you to handle it. If the band is out of town and your parent comes to the performance and wants to take you home with him/her, he/she will need to sign you out either with the sponsor/band director. The reason for this is because the school is responsible for you until you to get back to the school and are picked up by your parent(s).

**Appropriate Band Attire**

**Uniform:** LCL band uniform with appropriate band shirt underneath. Wear shorts or pants underneath for quick and appropriate change into clothes. Black band shoes with spats and black socks.

**Hair**

All hairstyles will be chosen by Auxiliary sponsor.  Member suggestions will be taken into consideration.  Each person will be given a picture of the hairstyle.  Laney's auxiliary does often wear hair extensions.  The hair added must be human hair **ONLY**. (**No** blends of human and synthetic).  100% human hair is a little more expensive but lasts a lot longer than the alternatives.  Because uniformity is the goal, everyone is required to add any additional hair supplies required to attain the hairstyle.  **ALL** hair must be natural colors. **NO** colored/bleached hair is permitted.  If hair style is not the required hairstyle for the week, the auxiliary member will not be able to perform, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.  Each section of the auxiliary is one line, the auxiliary combines to form one team, in one band.

**Hair for Musicians**

Make sure your hair is in a style that can fit under the band hat and under the band cap.

**Make-up**

Make-up is a part of the performance uniform. All girls will be required to wear make-up so that the girls look uniformed. Make-up will be put on by the captain and/or co-captain before the performance. If your child wears a certain foundation due to skin sensitivity or complexion, please ask her to bring it and it will be applied prior to any make-up. The make-up used is hypo-allergenic to avoid irritation. Color combinations will be chosen by the auxiliary sponsor or captain to coincide with the uniform.

**Nails**

Nails are allowed during a performance. However, the nails have to be your **natura**l color and length so they do not impair the wearer’s ability to do their routine. The goal is to reduce the chance of injury by the girl or others around her. They can have decorations on them but the decorations must be either white, silver or gold only. The reason for this is those colors match any uniform and are not so bright that they take away from the performance uniform.

**PDA (Public Displays of Affection)**

Public displays of affection (hugs, kisses) while in uniform should not take place. Keep in mind that you are representing not only yourself, but your band and your school and we want to make sure that you are always displaying the characteristics of a young lady. Unfortunately, people in the public sometimes take PDA’s out of context so keep this to a minimum. This includes hugging and talking to friends and family while in performance mode. There will be time enough for these things after the performance is over and you have been handed over to your parent(s) or other responsible adult.

**Demerit System Explanation**

To address some of the continuing issues we have had in the past, we are instituting a demerit system.

The auxiliary/band serves as representatives of Lucy C. Laney High School no matter where they are or what they are doing. They represent not only the school, but their band, the band director, their advisor, the coach, their line and when out of town represent Augusta. They must therefore conduct themselves in a manner that fosters school and personal pride. The demerit system was created to provide standards and expectations for students. This also provides parents with a clear list of consequences for unacceptable behavior practices.

 When ten (10) are earned, the auxiliary/band member will be unable to perform.

|  |  |
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| **Action** | **Points** |
| Out of School suspension | 10 points (automatic no performance) |
| Talking back, refusing to participate or follow directions, walking off during practice without permission (to captain, co-captain)**NOTE: if any of these behaviors are directed at the coach or auxiliary sponsor, the member will immediately be sent home and will be unable to perform that week.** | 3 points |
| Unexcused absence | 5 points |
| Late for game, parade, practice (without a note)-Use of cell phone during practice | 2 points |
| Failure to wear appropriate practice attire | 3 points |
| Late pick-up from practice or game (Maximum wait time 10 minutes without parent contacting auxiliary sponsor or band director) | 3 points |
| ISS (for reasons other than being late to class) | 5 points |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Out of School suspension | Talking back | refusing to participate | walking off during practice without permission | Unexcused absence | Late for game, parade, practice | Failure to wear appropriate practice attire | Use of cell phone during practice | Late pick-up from practice or game | ISS |
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**Grades**

Auxiliary members must maintain a minimum of a 70 in **ALL** classes in order to participate.  Band is an extra-curricular activity.  The primary responsibility of Lucy C. Laney High School and the Richmond County School System is to ensure that all students are college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school.  With this in mind, auxiliary members will be required to showtheirprogressreportsandreportcards.

**Internal Issues within Band or Auxiliary**

Any issues within the band or auxiliary (with someone else in band or auxiliary) are to be taken to the band director or auxiliary sponsor for resolution. The band/auxiliary is like a family (family business remains in the family). It will be discussed with the members who it concerns **only**. If the problem cannot be resolved, it will be handled by the band director.

**Uniforms**

Uniforms are chosen by the band director/auxiliary sponsor only and approved by the Richmond County School System in accordance with their Student Code of Conduct.

**Internet Policy:**

Social networking sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Tinder, Twitter, LinkedIn, Tumblr, Vimeo and Instagram can be an important part of a young person's life and also pose a serious danger.

Since participation in band is a privilege and not a right, every band member needs to accept responsibility for any postings on Web sites.

**Cyberbullying:**

Cyberbullying is [**bullying**](https://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/index.html) that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites. Cyberbullying comes in many forms:

-Threatening behavior using any form of technology.

 -Posting false comments or embarrassing photos on social networking sites.

-Creating a fake profile or website designed to cause harm to the victim.

-Any other online conduct geared to demean, embarrass or scare the victim.

-Threatening to post embarrassing photos, videos or comments unless the victim does what is asked.

Even if a child is not directly involved in bullying, they may be contributing to the behavior. Witnessing the behavior may also [affect](http://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/effects/index.html#bystanders) the child, so it is important for them to learn [what they should do](http://www.stopbullying.gov/respond/be-more-than-a-bystander/index.html) when they see bullying happen. Roles kids play when they witness bullying include:

* **Kids who Assist:** These children may not start the bullying or lead in the bullying behavior, but serve as an "assistant" to children who are bullying. These children may encourage the bullying behavior and occasionally join in.
* **Kids who Reinforce:** These children are not directly involved in the bullying behavior but they give the bullying an audience. They will often laugh or provide support for the children who are engaging in bullying. This may encourage the bullying to continue.
* **Outsiders:** These children remain separate from the bullying situation. They neither reinforce the bullying behavior nor defend the child being bullied. Some may watch what is going on but do not provide feedback about the situation to show they are on anyone’s side. Even so, providing an audience may encourage the bullying behavior.
* Cyberbullying can happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and reach a kid even when he or she is alone. It can happen any time of the day or night.
* Cyberbullying messages and images can be posted anonymously and distributed quickly to a very wide audience. It can be difficult and sometimes impossible to trace the source.
* Deleting inappropriate or harassing messages, texts, and pictures is extremely difficult after they have been posted or sent.

In short this means, there should be NO secret groups/pages where students say or display negative, inappropriate or derogatory comments/statements/pictures about other band members or be a part of a group/page that it is done even if you do not participate directly. If any of these things are named amongst the auxiliary, they will be dealt with immediately and may result in your dismissal from the band depending on severity of the offense.

**Cyberbullying Contract**

This contract serves to prove a student’s knowledge about the definition of and consequences for cyberbullying, and to inform parents of band policy regarding this behavior among students.

By signing this contract, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, (hereafter referred to as “Student,”) understands that:

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

Student pledges to uphold the following rules:

* To abide by the band’s policy concerning cyberbullying and harassment.
* To report incidents of cyberbullying to band director, auxiliary sponsor, trusted parent volunteer or school staff member.
* To stand up for victims of cyberbullying.
* To encourage others to treat all students with respect and courtesy.
* To help make the band a place where everyone feels safe, heard, and respected.

Student and Parent understands that any incidents of cyberbullying will result in the following consequences:

* 1 report of bullying:
	+ **Suspension for at least three (3) performances**
* 2 reports of bullying:
	+ **Suspension from all band related activities for a semester**
* 3 reports of bullying:
	+ **Expulsion from the band for the rest of the school year.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| (Child’s Signature) |  | (Parent’s Signature) |
|  |  |  |
| (Date) |  | (Parent’s Signature) |

**Parent Contact/Student Pick up Form**

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s): home:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cell:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Allergies:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Adults allowed to pick up your child:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Emergency contact if you cannot be reached:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return this page to your auxiliary sponsor.**

I/We, as parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge that I/we have read the Band/Auxiliary Handbook. In doing so, I/We understand and accept the guidelines as set forth in this document.

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, as a Band Member, Majorette, Ikette, Flag Girl or Banner Girl acknowledge that I have read the Band/Auxiliary Handbook. In doing so, I understand and accept the guidelines as set forth in this document.

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_