

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY®

UNIVERSITY BANDS

July 16, 2019

Dear Band Parent:

I am corresponding with you to let you know that I feel it is a privilege to have your young person in the marching band. I feel that your student is a part of God's answer to our petition for quality band members. I pray that your son or daughter senses the excitement of the Liberty University Marching Band and discovers how it can be an intrinsic part of his or her college career. To assist with your son or daughter's success at Liberty University, I am happy to introduce our Imbedded Student Accounts Representative: Ron Schafer. He is our designated representative to the School of Music and University Bands, and is able to address many student account issues, including your son or daughter's marching band scholarship. You can contact him by email at rrschafer@liberty.edu as you have need. Also, for academic/course scheduling needs, Angela Cage is our School of Music Advisor. You may reach her at arcage@liberty.edu as you have need.

I feel your student's participation in the marching band will enhance his or her life as a student and bring many memorable experiences. Along with the band instructors, officers and section leaders, I am going to do all that I can to help each member have a profitable semester at Liberty University in every way possible. Our band program is organized so that extra time is not required of its members. Unlike high school, we do not have extra rehearsals, and usually all band activities occur during regularly scheduled rehearsals on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 3:20 – 5:20 p.m. In addition, only one sectional per week will be chosen by each section at a time that will work for each section. Membership in the Liberty University Marching Band provides an important social and musical component in a student's university life. The marching band is an excellent avenue for creating lasting friendships, providing university identity, and maybe even finding a future spouse (it happens frequently!).

God has certainly blessed our marching band program over the years with many successful ventures, and we certainly give Him all the credit. Last year we had an exciting program that we performed in our own stadium at football games, traveled to North Stafford and performed exhibition at the Big Blue Invitational competition, performed exhibition for the VA State Cooperative Marching Band State Championship on in our own Williams Stadium, and travelled to the University of Virginia to support our football team. Again this year, we look to our Lord for continued success. Our plans include performing here at Liberty University in Williams Stadium, performing exhibition and hosting the annual State of Virginia Marching Band State Championship in Williams Stadium, travelling to one exhibition performance (TBA), and hosting our own Bands Of America Regional Competition at Liberty University.

The purpose of our band program is actually two-fold: (1) to present ourselves as "living sacrifices" for Christ as we seek to present quality entertainment at football half-time shows, and (2) help each individual grow spiritually through Christian camaraderie. Music performance is a life-long experience—it does not end when a student completes high school! I would like to solicit your support for our program by encouraging your son or daughter to remain in the marching band during his/her tenure as a student at Liberty University; the considered experiences can be extremely valuable. I am so impressed by this realization that not long ago our Marching Band Spiritual Theme was "Life Lessons I Learned In Marching Band." This fall, our spiritual theme is "*Edify the Band of Christ.*" I am excited to see what spiritual growth, awareness and change will occur as we explore this Biblical theme. I would also like to invite you to attend one of our rehearsals or half-time shows if you have the opportunity.

A means of attending a Liberty University Marching Band performance is by participating in **Band Parents' Day**. Our thirty-first annual Band Parents' Day is scheduled this year on Saturday, September

28, 2019, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend. This is always one of the highlights of the marching season, and I am inviting all band members' parents and their families to participate. Your day will be filled with activities that will give you an excellent idea of the varied schedule involved during our typical game days. We will begin with check-in at 12:00 p.m., followed by an early Luncheon Banquet in the new Montview Alumni Ballroom at 1:00 p.m. **New: Due to new stadium safety restrictions, parents and families will not be able to access the stadium on Saturday for our sound check and practice, which follows the banquet. Instead, you are certainly welcome to attend our Friday afternoon rehearsal, if you are able, held on our regular practice field.** Following our uniform distribution, you will participate in our devotional period with Jonathan Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church. Our time together will focus on the spiritual theme of the season. We will then attend the football game in Williams Stadium, where Liberty University will face New Mexico State University, and you will have reserved seating with the marching band. Our day will conclude with our march back to the Band Room after the game.

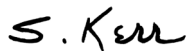
The cost for the entire day's activities on Saturday is \$32.00 for each adult, \$20.00 for youth ages 6-18, and free for children to age 5. Band members who are planning to attend the banquet will be charged \$20.00. Please know that the cost is based on group pricing discounts, and we are not able to offer portions of the weekend "a la cart." We usually have 500+ persons in attendance for the day, so don't miss out! Please order your tickets by **August 28, 2019** on our website at www.liberty.edu/bandparents.

VERY IMPORTANT this year: Band Parents' Day and College For A Weekend are the same weekend (also, this is not LU Fall Family Weekend). **Please make your hotel reservations now. Hotel rooms will fill up soon!** You can find current information for local hotels at the following link on our website: [Visitors Guide](#).

I hope your schedule will allow you to attend this exciting event. Our past Band Parents' Days have been a time of renewed fellowship among family members. Read thoroughly the information on our www.liberty.edu/bandparents website, and if you have any further questions, call me at the number indicated below. Feel free to dress in casual attire for all the events of the day.

Please allow me the opportunity to be of assistance to you as you may have need throughout the semester. And, if you have any questions concerning our band program, feel free to contact the band office at (434) 582-7363 or (434) 582-2363, or email at amhurley3@liberty.edu or spkerr@liberty.edu.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stephen Kerr
Director of Bands

THANKSGIVING/POST SEASON PLAY: The final regular season football game will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2019. This is two days after Thanksgiving Day! **All band members are required to participate.** Also, if the football team is then selected for post-season play-offs, ***and if*** Liberty University hosts this first round play-off game, all band members will be required to perform for this event. Band members have been informed about this on our website, but I wanted to be sure you had advance notice, too. Again, all members are required to perform at this event as a part of our regular schedule. So, will you please keep this in mind when making travel arrangements for your son or daughter? You may view our fall calendar at www.liberty.edu/band, and navigate to Marching Band and Schedule.