



LEON HIGH SCHOOL

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LION STEEL BAND PROGRAM
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January 19th, 2023

Dear Lion Steel Parents and Students,

Welcome to Spring 2023! The purpose of this lengthy letter is to outline all of the activities we have coming up in Q3 (Jan 4 – Mar 10) and Q4 (Mar 20 – May 24). A hard copy of this letter was sent home with each Lion Steel student on Friday, January 20th, 2023. **All Lion Steel students and parents/guardians should thoroughly read and save this entire letter to ensure you have the important information about all of our events for Spring 2023.** The letter and the information outlined here is also available on our Lion Steel Program website (lionsteel.leonperformingarts.org), which will be updated regularly with the forms, links, schedules, and other relevant documents you will need for all of our upcoming events. Here is what we've got planned:

Quarter 3 (Jan 4 – Mar 10)

Tuesday, February 14th: Lion Steel Valentine's Lime Dance/Party, Leon HS Cafeteria (6 – 7:30p)

- This show involves **Canboulay (2nd period), Bacchanal (4th period), and Jouvert (5th period) ONLY** – 1st and 3rd period bands will not perform, but are encouraged to attend. The GoFan ticket link will be available on our website soon.
- The detailed schedule for the day will be posted on our website and sent via Remind soon, but students in Canboulay, Bacchanal, and Jouvert should plan to move instruments to the cafeteria and set up between 3:45 – 5:30p.
- The dance/party will begin around 6pm and will conclude around 7:15p. All students performing in this show must plan to pack and move instruments back to the steel portable between 7:15 and 8:00p.
- **PARENTS! WE need volunteers** at the event to help check GoFan tickets, to sell merchandise, and to help with refreshments. We'll meet to organize the volunteers about 1 week prior to the concert (tentative short meeting for volunteers Feb 6th or 9th). If you want to volunteer for this event, please complete the LCS Volunteer Form (if you haven't already at <https://volunteers.leonschools.net>) AND RSVP to help here - (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAA2FA2FCC52-lion>).

Saturday, February 18th: Panorama Finals, streaming live in the Lion Steel Portable (7 – 11pm)

- This is an **optional event and is open to all** Lion Steel students; parents are encouraged to attend (note: to attend, parents must fill out volunteer form – <https://volunteers.leonschools.net>)
- Pizza and snacks will be provided! **Anyone who wants to attend:**
Please RSVP here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAA2FA2FCC52-panorama>

*****Wednesday, March 1st: Lion Steel Q3 Concert***** “Pan Rocks – The Sunshine State Edition,” featuring: guest artist [Tracy Thornton](#), Raa Advanced Steel and Matanzas HS Blue Steel, LHS Gymnasium (6 – 7:30p)

- **This performance involves ALL Lion Steel Students – this is the required end-of-quarter graded concert performance.** The GoFan ticket link will be available on our website soon.
- The full concert-day schedule will be posted to our website and sent via Remind, but all students should plan to move instruments and set up during and after 7th period (1:50 – 3:50) until the pre-concert dress rehearsal (4:00 – 5:30p).
- All students **MUST** help with packing up instruments and moving them back to the steel portable after the concert is over (approximately 7:30 – 8:15p).
- Attendance/grade checks will occur at three points throughout the event: 1) when we begin moving the instruments at 1:50p, 2) at the beginning of dress rehearsal at 4:00p, and 3) after the last equipment is returned to the portable at approximately 8:15p. Students must be present for all three to earn a passing grade for this required performance event.
- **PARENTS! WE need volunteers** at the event to help check GoFan tickets/distribute wristbands and to sell merchandise. If you want to volunteer for this event, please complete the LCS Volunteer Form (<https://volunteers.leonschools.net>) AND RSVP to help here – (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAA2FA2FCC52-lion1>).

Quarter 4 (Mar 20 – May 24)

Mar 31 – Apr 1: FMEA Steel Band Festival, at Matanzas HS, overnight

- This overnight performance trip involves students in **Canboulay and Bacchanal only**.
- A separate letter for this trip will be distributed to students in Canboulay and Bacchanal at the beginning of February. A trip meeting for parents and students will be scheduled for the week of March 6th (date/time/location tbd).
- *Preliminary Itinerary Highlights:* We depart Leon HS early morning on Friday, Mar 31 (lunch on the way); both bands will perform afternoon/early evening at Matanzas HS for adjudicator [Josanne Francis](#) (U of Delaware, Steel on Wheels, NIU, etc); have dinner and hang out near hotel/beach after. We return to Matanzas HS early morning on Saturday, Apr 1 to rehearse/perform a mass-band tune with adjudicator and all other participating steel bands; have lunch and stay to watch the rest of the bands at the festival in the afternoon; depart to return to Leon HS (dinner on the way home); unpack the equipment truck and dismiss/parent pick-up at approximately 11p.
- **PARENTS! WE need volunteers** for this overnight trip. If you want to volunteer for this event, please complete the LCS Volunteer Form (<https://volunteers.leonschools.net>) AND RSVP to chaperone here - (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45ABAA2FA2FCC52-fmea>). NOTE: Chaperones for this trip will need to be fingerprinted through LCS (if not already) – additional information about this will provided after signing up to chaperone via the link above.

Apr 19 OR 20: Lion Steel @ Cascades Park, time tbd

- This off-campus performance involves **Canboulay, Bacchanal, and Jouvert only**, and will feature the advanced Leon Community Steel Band, "Stainless." This show will be **free** and open to the public and members of the 1st and 3rd period steel classes are encouraged to attend with their parents/families.
- The schedule for this show date will be posted to our website and sent via remind, but students who are performing for this show will need to pack instruments in the truck during 7th period (1:50 – 2:45p) and plan to meet at Capital City Amphitheater at Cascades Park at 3:45p to set up the stage. After the show, all students involved will need to help pack instruments back in the truck and then return to Leon to unpack the truck and depart/parent pick-up.

Apr 28 – 30 OR May 5 – 7: Jazz Fest in New Orleans, overnight trip

- This is an optional non-performance trip **open to senior and junior students in Canboulay and Bacchanal only** (and their parents/guardians). Senior and Junior students in the Leon Guitar program and Leon Keyboard program will also be going on this trip to Jazz Fest.
- There will be a separate trip letter for this event that will be available on our website and distributed to students in class during the last week of January. The trip fee, payment schedule, hotel and transportation information, and all other details will be posted to our website and sent to all students/parents who are interested in going on this trip. RSVP here as soon as possible to receive the information, help decide which weekend we'll go, and get on the trip list – (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45abaa2fa2fcc52-jazz#/>).
- **Parents who are interested in going on this trip:** Please complete the LCS Volunteer Form (<https://volunteers.leonschools.net>). NOTE: Since parents who will attend this trip will be considered official chaperones, you will need to be fingerprinted through LCS. Additional information about this will provided after RSVPing via the SignUp Genius link above.

*****May 10: "Las Lap" Lion Steel Q4 Concert*****, Leon HS Auditorium (7 – 8:15p)

- **This performance involves ALL Lion Steel Students – this is the required end-of-quarter graded concert performance.** It is free and open to the public and our Leon Community Steel Bands will open the show at 6:30p.
- The concert-day schedule will be posted to our website and sent via Remind. All students will move instruments and set up in the auditorium during the school day.
- Attendance/grade checks will occur at two points throughout the event: 1) at 6:15p before the show starts (this is the call-time) and 2) at the end of the concert. Students must be present for both checks to earn a passing grade for this required performance event.

May 11: Senior Awards, Leon HS Auditorium (time tbd)

- This on-campus performance involves **Canboulay only**. The schedule will be posted on our website and sent via Remind. All Canboulay students are required to help pack and move instruments after our performance at the awards is complete (time tbd).

May 15 – 19: Auditions for Lion Steel 2023 – 24 and summer pack-up

- The Lion Steel 2023 – 24 Audition letter and materials packet will be distributed to students in-class at the end of April. We'll conduct auditions from May 15 – 19 during school, in each class period. Results will be posted to our website by May 22nd, 2023 so that students and parents can plan their next-year's academic schedule accordingly to include Lion Steel!

Other information and notes:

- **All Parents/Guardians:** If you are not already signed up for the Lion Steel Remind group, **PLEASE text "@lionsteel" to the number 81010 to get signed up as soon as possible.**
- Parent Volunteers: If you'd like to volunteer for more than one event this Spring, you only need to fill out the LCS Volunteer Form once (not once for each event). BUT, I need to you RSVP for each event via the specific event SignUp Genius link.
- Our extra-curricular steel band, "**Pan Groove**," will rehearse this Spring on an as-needed basis instead of weekly as we did in Fall 2022. Students who are interested in playing off-campus gigs and events (other than those listed above) will be invited to do so as the program receives requests. Students who want to stay in-the-loop with Pan Groove can sign up for the Remind group by texting "@pg22-23" to 81010.
- Don't forget that you can follow our program on Instagram (@leonlionsteel) and on [YouTube](#) (@lionsteel3530) to access all of our content, photos, and performances.
- If you are looking for opportunities (for your student) to play pan during **Summer 2023**, check out the camps at FSU and Birch Creek listed on our website – <https://leonperformingarts.org/lionsteel/summer-2023-steel-pan-camp-opportunities/> for more information on how to sign up.

Thank you for reading this letter! As you're now aware, we have a BUSY Spring 2023 planned and we'll have fun JUMPIN' UP both on-campus and off with all our Lion Steel students and parents! If you have any questions as we move through Q3 and Q4, please reach out to me via Remind or at my school email (included below and at the top of this letter).

Cheers,

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Director of Steel Bands
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