



## LSSU Pep Band Update

Despite the challenges brought upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic, this semester has brought significant and exciting changes to the pep band. As of the fall of 2020, the LSSU Pep Band is now considered a sort of "hybrid club sport". This places the band under the department of club sports, which means that the band has a stronger, more direct connection with the university, allowing the band to have more access to resources and an improved ability to coordinate for events, both athletic and non-athletic. This new, tight relationship will allow the pep band a tool to succeed, as well as provide the university with a stronger, prouder pep band.

With these changes, the pep band will truly be entering a new era. Lake State hockey fans can expect a bigger, louder, more prideful band, and LSSU students and faculty can expect a stronger presence from the band around campus. The pep band is also moving within Taffy Abel Arena. This new era will instate new traditions, as well as solidify traditions that currently exist. The band will have an updated, more uniform look, and will sound better than ever given the support the band is receiving from the department of club sports.

As members of the band, we may be biased; however, we believe that having a strong band is vital to the atmosphere and spirit at athletic events and elsewhere on campus. A loud, good sounding band has the power to inspire passion in people. A strong band can energize a crowd and create unity through students and faculty in the form of school spirit. After all, the one thing we have in common as students, faculty, and fans is Lake Superior State University, and the band exists to proudly embody the spirit of LSSU in the form of music.

As of this semester, we have not gotten into the routine of rehearsals, and it is because of our self-imposed COVID-19 precautions. However, we have just recently ordered bell covers which, combined with social distancing, masks, and proper ventilation, will allow us to rehearse while limiting the potential spread of COVID-19. Given the nature of wind instruments, it is evident that band rehearsals are higher risk-- this is ultimately why we opted not to rehearse until we have taken every step to make rehearsals safe. We believe that, once our bell covers arrive, we will be able to rehearse safely. The safety of our members and our audiences are far more important than anything else.

We cannot overstate how excited we are for this new era for the pep band; incredible things are in store!

Brendan Adams  
President, LSSU Pep Band