

# LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK BANDS

## Letter From The Director

The purpose of the LHS Band is to enrich and expand the repertoire of tunes and knowledge of instrumental music in the concert setting. Through this process, students will become familiar with all the major and minor scales, simple and complex rhythms as well as various styles and forms of music. Percussion students will also be expected to become familiar with rudimentary studies, specifically the 40 standard rudiments. The goal of this ensemble-based class is to prepare music for performances through an understanding of balance, rhythm, harmony, style, theory, history and form. There will also be opportunities for participation in many different honors bands and solo and ensemble.

The single greatest factor that will determine the success of any individual is attitude. It takes intense dedication to attain goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice daily.

A good band is built on discipline. Discipline is order. Because the band members are constantly on display, each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. The student should remember that he/she represents his/her organization, school, and community, whenever he/she performs or appears publicly. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students.

Take the time to listen to your child play. It is a very rewarding experience. Remember, our goal is 30 minutes per day. Daily practice is essential to musical growth!

A key element of a successful band program is communication. Laingsburg Bands maintains a website that has all the information needed for participation in the Band Program. This is a very convenient resource if you have misplaced this handbook, the yearly calendar or any other forms that have been passed out in band during the year. Please visit the website: [laingsburgbands.com](http://laingsburgbands.com) regularly to keep up-to-date on information regarding the band.

Students and especially parents are highly encouraged to sign up for electronic bulletins by providing the band director with an e-mail address. E-mail communication is the primary method of communication used by Mr. Cousineau. In addition, e-mails will be used for providing updates about assignments, tests, concert dates, parent association news, and general information about the band program. Please let me know if you cannot receive emails, as a "hard copy" will be made available to your student.

Thomas Cousineau  
Band Director  
Laingsburg Community Schools  
517-651-5091  
[thomas.cousineau@laingsburg.k12.mi.us](mailto:thomas.cousineau@laingsburg.k12.mi.us)  
[laingsburgbands.com](http://laingsburgbands.com)

#### CURRICULUM GOALS

- Teach music through its actual performance
- Foster leadership skills within each student
- Provide students a means for self-expression and a healthy social experience
- Develop performance skills on individual instruments
- Provide for the musical needs of the student, school and community

#### PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

**MARCHING BAND:** This class is open to students who have had prior instrumental experience **and** who have met satisfactory performance, participation and behavior standards. The group meets everyday during 6th hour. The main focus of the Marching Band is to perform at the Varsity Football games, providing support and encouragement. Physical activity is a major component of the ensemble. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, evening concerts, band festivals and invitationals.

**CONCERT BAND:** This class is open to students who have had prior instrumental experience **and** who have met satisfactory performance, participation and behavior standards. The group meets everyday during 6th hour. The main focus of the Concert Band is to learn music through performance while gaining an appreciation for the fine arts. Students are expected to be able to perform a wide range of literature, while demonstrating mastery of skills specific to their instruments. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, evening concerts, and band festivals.

**JAZZ BAND:** Jazz Band is available only to students who play in the Concert/Marching Band. An exception may be made for a student playing a non-traditional band instrument (guitar, drum set, bass, and piano) at the discretion of the band director and administration. The Jazz Band is a high expectation, high output class that meets during zero hour and has several performances throughout the year. Everyone is encouraged to participate however, due to the nature of the class, your involvement will be re-evaluated each marking period and prior to festivals/competitions. Jazz Band meets after school one day a week (See section on rehearsal schedules.). Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and are subject to removal from the group if they abuse the attendance policy. The focus is to introduce students to the basic techniques of the jazz idiom. As this is a smaller ensemble, members are held to a higher level of performance, participation and behavior. The Jazz Band may perform at school assemblies; evening concerts throughout the year; festivals, and it is also available to perform short concerts for the public.

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

- \*Be in the band room by the time the 2nd bell rings(tardy bell)
- \*Be in your seat (not walking around the room, or standing near your seat etc...)with your instrument (including sticks, mouthpieces, reeds, etc.) no later than 2 minutes after the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell (tardy bell).

#### **Rehearsal begins at this moment.**

- \*Read the instructions on the projector/TV.
- \*Have and utilize a PENCIL at every rehearsal. Pens damage music, so please do not use them.
- \*Treat each other with respect.
- \*Prepare your INDIVIDUAL music and drill OUTSIDE of class so the ENSEMBLE may excel during rehearsal. Ensemble success is predicated on the integrity of individual preparation.
- \*PRIVATE LESSONS are strongly encouraged. A list of private instructors in the area is available upon request.
- \*At the end of rehearsal, instruments and music should be put away in their designated location as well as any trash. Finally, chairs and stands should be set for the next rehearsal.
- \*Drummers set up necessary equipment needed for rehearsal, and put away all equipment at the end of the rehearsal.
- \*At the end of class, remain in seats, even if the bell has rung. The director will dismiss the class.
- \*Keep all music in your music folder and have your name written on each piece of music.

### **BAND LOCKER ETIQUETTE**

Students will receive a locker and lock to house their instruments during the school year. These are meant as places to keep the instruments during the day, NOT OVER NIGHT! Instruments should be taken home each night to practice!

### **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

School owned instruments may be available for those who require them. These instruments are different from self owned instruments because YOU DON'T OWN THEM! Since they are borrowed from the school, they must be returned in the same condition they were checked out in.

**DUTIES OF THE BAND STUDENT**

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Early is on time -- on time is late.
- When the director steps on the podium, all talking and playing should cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a good attitude.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- Become responsible and assume responsibility for your own actions -- Admit when you are wrong!
- Read and play through music with insight -- have musical expectations.
- Make an honest attempt to learn and improve daily.
- Have the proper respect for those in authority.
- Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions for special trips.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program

**DUTIES OF THE BAND PARENT**

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Keep the musical instrument in good repair, and keep supplies (reeds, oil etc...) in the case.
- Notify the teacher if your student will be absent from any performances.
- Help you child balance their busy schedules of sports, academics, band, drama, work, etc....
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, and festivals on a regular basis.

**THE GRADING/POINT SYSTEM**

DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE
<b>Daily participation grade</b> -To receive all 5 points each day a student must satisfy the following: 1. Arrive on time (warming up, etc....) 2. Have instrument/music (in good working condition) 3. Have a positive Attitude 4. Has excellent effort and is prepared (musically) 5. Displays rehearsal etiquette (no talking/phones, playing out, etc...) - If a student misses and is <b>NOT</b> excused, they will lose their points for that day.	40%
<b>Performance Attendance (required)</b>	40%
<b>Playing quizzes/tests/written work</b>	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*DAILY PARTICIPATION**

At the beginning of each day, each student is given 5 points for participation. Participation points are necessary due to the higher volume of students involved in band. Students can maintain these daily points by making sure to:

1. Follow the classroom expectations and duties of the band student.
2. Add more to the rehearsal than is taken away.

points will be recorded at the end of each rehearsal.

**Possible Deductions**

Absent from a rehearsal.....	-5 points
Tardy to class .....	5 points
No music, books or coordinate sheets in class/rehearsal .....	(per item) 1 points
No instrument or equipment .....	-1points
Chewing Gum.....	1 points
No pencil in class/rehearsal.....	-1 points
Equipment/Music not put away.....	-1 points
Disruptive in rehearsal or performance (at discretion of Director).....	-5 points
<i>(May result in student being removed from that rehearsal or performance and/or excluded from future band events.)</i>	
Absent from a performance/ (unexcused...see policy).....	50 points
<i>(A make-up assignment is offered to students having an EXCUSED absence from a rehearsal/performance.)</i>	
Improper dress for performance (Student will not be allowed to perform.....	50 points
<i>(May result in student being removed from that performance and/or excluded from future band events.)</i>	

Performances are EXTREMELY important. If, for reasons excused OR unexcused, a concert date is not met, the grade must be made up by writing a paper or project assigned by Mr. Cousineau.

Absences from a performance must be reported at least 1 week in advance to the director so appropriate measures can be taken to ensure a successful performance. That is how important each member of the band is to the ensemble!

**Rehearsal**

The success of a band depends upon how well it rehearses. How well a band rehearses depends upon the effort, conduct, and cooperation of each of its members. Rehearsals are for learning. Rehearsal time is valuable, and every moment must be used to its full advantage.

1. Before the formal rehearsal starts, warm up your instrument softly by playing long tones, arpeggios, and scales. Percussionists are responsible for obtaining and setting up the correct percussion instruments for rehearsal.
2. All band members must be in the band room and in their appropriate seats prepared for attendance at the designated time, as stipulated by the director.

3. When the director, drum major, or band officer steps up on to the podium, all talking and playing should cease. Full attention must be given to the direction and/or information given from the podium.
4. The student should always bring a pencil, notebook, instrument, music, and other appropriate supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.) to every rehearsal.
5. Gum, food, and pop, are not permitted in the rehearsal or performance areas at any time. Water is always appropriate.
6. The rehearsal room and storage areas must be kept orderly at all times. This is each member's responsibility.
7. All band members should be respectful of personal property at all times. Students should play and use only the equipment they personally own or have been given permission to use.
8. Band members should strive to achieve their full musical potential in each and every rehearsal. When a strong work ethic and a positive attitude are present at every rehearsal, the sky is the limit.

### TESTS AND QUIZZES

Playing QUIZZES and written TESTS will also be given with plenty of time for students to practice their parts. I encourage any student who is having problems in any way to see me after class or after school, or schedule an appointment for an appropriate time so that I may help you with the quiz or musical speed bump. Parents are welcome anytime to stop by after school and talk as well. Don't be a stranger!

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE YOUR QUIZZES!!!!!! WE MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO DO ALL THE QUIZZES AT THE LAST MINUTE IF YOU WAIT, WHICH MAY RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE GRADE OR A ZERO.**

### **Public Appearances (Performances)**

Each band member is required to attend all scheduled performances. Students should always plan to arrive on time at all performances. All public appearances and special rehearsals will be announced by the director and/or written on the board. Listen carefully to all announcements and note time, place, dress, and other details. When the student appears in public as a member of the Laingsburg Band, he/she is representing himself/herself, his/her organization, his/her school, and his/her community; each student also represents former band members who have worked hard to gain the much-deserved respect. The student therefore should conduct himself/herself in such a way that will reflect credit upon himself/herself, the band, and the community.

## **CONCERT DRESS**

Concerts are **formal** events. As a result, every student is required to be in the proper band uniform for **all** performances. **Any student not wearing the regulated uniform at the time of a performance will not be permitted to participate in that performance.** The following is a list of the required concert dress for each performing group. **The band uniform is a physical manifestation of your pride in yourself and our organization.**

### **Marching Band**

Black MARCHING SHOES - Black Socks - Marching T-Shirt - Full Uniform

### **Concert Band**

Black SHOES (NO sneakers) Black Socks - White Tux Shirt - Tuxedo

### **Jazz Band**

Black SHOES (NO sneakers) Black Socks - Black Pants (NO stripes) Black Button Down Jazz Shirt (LONG sleeves)

\*Items provided by the school --- must be returned at the end of the school year.

## **School Equipment**

Most students provide their own instruments. However, tubas, bassoons, and bass clarinets are types of instruments that are not typical for a parent to purchase. When a student has been asked by the director and wishes to play a “school owned instrument,” the school will provide an instrument for the student. Any student using school equipment shall be held fully responsible for the equipment checked-out. A contract must be filled out before the instrument is released to the student. The contract states that the student is responsible for the instrument while they are using it. School equipment is not to be used by anyone except the student it is assigned to. School equipment is only to be used for school functions unless permission is obtained from the director. All school owned instruments, as well as personal instruments, should be stored in their proper cases and places.

## **Music**

Music is costly and should be treated with respect. Never mark music with ink! All music is distributed using a check out system and is expected to be returned in the same condition in which it was given. There will be a fee for lost or mutilated music.

Concert folios contain the names of students and are numbered for the music storage cabinets. Each student receives his/her own folder, which contains his/her music. This folder may be taken home. When not in use, the music folder should be stored only in the music storage cabinets or the student’s locker, not in instrument cases or practice rooms.

The music library is off limits to everyone except librarians and the director. Any music, such as Solo and Ensemble music, must be properly checked out and checked in through the director and/or music librarian.

### **Auditions, Challenges, and Playing Tests**

Auditions, challenges, and playing tests may be held at various times throughout the year. An audition is a playing examination, which may include:

1. A prepared etude
2. Sight reading
3. Scales as determined by the director.

Auditions can be compared to semester and final exams.

A challenge is a playing test initiated by the students or director used for determining a chair placement and/or soloist when necessary.

From time to time, playing tests are administered. The purpose of a playing test varies. A test's purpose may be to motivate a section (saxophones, flutes, etc.) to practice a particularly difficult part of the musical selection. However, the most important purpose for the playing test is to assess the ability of the student on a particular objective.

## LAINGSBURG BANDS PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

Parents, thank you for going over the handbook with your son and/or daughter, and for your support of your child and our program. Please fill out this sheet (Google Form) NO LATER than **Wednesday, August 28th**.

I have gone over the band handbook with \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name)

We will adhere to school policy stating that Band is a "real class" for which students are expected to perform at a high level. We are familiar with all aspects of the band handbook, and will adhere to the attendance and grading policy regarding required materials, class schedule and requirements, as well as rehearsals and performances. We will also adhere to the uniform policy as well as.

### PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

I am interested in opportunities to volunteer my time AFTER school to assist with concert set-up, bus and building chaperones, fundraising etc...

I am interested in opportunities to volunteer my time DURING the school day to assist with library organization/handing out music, instrument inventory etc...

I do NOT want pictures of my son/daughter appearing on the Laingsburg bands web page.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO MR. COUSINEAU**

**CALENDAR**

**October**

25th - HS Chair Placements Due

31st - Halloween Parade (MS)

**November**

8th - MS Chair Placements Due

16th - Pie Sale: Pie Building (MS/HS)

**December**

TBD - Grand Ledge Armory (HS Jazz Band)

7th - Winterfest (HS Jazz Band)

16th - HS Winter Concert (HS Gym)

17th - MS Winter Concert (HS Gym)

**February**

7th - CMU Jazz Fest (HS Jazz Band)

8th - MSBOA Solo & Ensemble (HS Only)

29th - LEAF Reverse Raffle (HS Jazz Band)

**March**

6/7th - MSBOA Band Festival (MS/HS Band)

21st - Jazz Band Dinner Dance (MS/HS Jazz Band)

25th - Mother/Son Dance (HS Fundraiser)

**April**

18/19th - MSBOA Jr High All Star Band (7/8)

**May**

4th - HS Spring Concert

5th - MS Spring Concert

14th - HS Band Awards (HS Cafeteria)

TBD - Springtime Parade

25th - Memorial Day Performance (HS Band)

TBD - Cedar Point (7/8 Bands)

31st - HS Graduation

**July**

19th-24th - HS Band Camp