

**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.

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**COMMUNICATION**

A key element of a successful band program is communication. Laingsburg Band 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 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.

**BEHAVIOR/PREPAREDNESS**

**Your behavior is crucial to the success of our band. Individual members are expected to learn and master the music assigned within a reasonable time frame, well before the concert performance date.**

In order for rehearsals to run smoothly and efficiently, students should be on time, prepared, and have a positive attitude throughout the class period. students should **NOT TALK FOR ANY REASON** and **NOT PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT OUT OF TURN FOR ANY REASON**. If you have a question, do not ask your neighbor; rather raise your hand to ask the question to Mr. Cousineau.



## 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 to students who play in the Concert/Marching Band. An exception may be made for a student playing a non-traditional band instrument (guitar, drums, 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. 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 development of the student throughout the year will determine whether they are able to perform at the CMU and State Jazz Festivals. 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.

## 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.

### 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.**

## 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 3 minutes after the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell (tardy bell).

**Rehearsal begins at this moment.**

Read the instructions on the board.

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.



#### 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.

#### 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 for rehearsals and/or performances.  
 Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and festivals on a regular basis.

**"WE REHEARSE COLLECTIVELY TO ACHIEVE WHAT NONE OF US  
 ARE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH INDIVIDUALLY"**

#### LAINGSBURG BANDS "LOOK TO THE P.A.C.K."

1. **Prepared-** Students should come **PREPARED** to class daily with their instrument, music, pencil and anything else needed to be successful during rehearsal. This also includes having music prepared for written/playing quizzes, challenges, and concerts/parades etc... Student participation and attendance is essential for the overall success of the band. Please refer to the school handbook regarding the attendance policy.
2. **Accountable-** Students should remain seated and quiet throughout rehearsal, raise their hands if they have a question/comment, and should refrain from playing their instruments out of turn.  
**TALKING, GUM CHEWING, AND DISRUPTING CLASS WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED GRADE**
3. **Character-** If the teacher is working with an individual student/section, the rest of the band should review their music, fingerings, etc. This is not a time to socialize/move around. **IF YOU ARE NOT HELPING, YOU ARE HURTING**
4. **Kindness-** Students should refrain from using any language that is not appropriate including any slurs, profanity, and negative comments. **FOCUS ON BUILDING UP, NOT TEARING DOWN!**

## THE GRADING/POINT SYSTEM

The student's grade will be determined on a point system. Points are awarded for having completed requirements of the class. The absence of points reflects the incompleteness of class requirements. The class requirements that determine a student's grade are as follows:

*Performance Attendance	40%
Playing or Written Tests/Quizzes	10%
**Daily Participation	40%
***Enrichment Activity	10%
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>



### \* PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

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!

### \*\*DAILY PARTICIPATION

At the beginning of each day, each student is given 20 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.**

### \*\*\* ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY

Each marking period, each student is expected to enrich their appreciation of music by attending a musical performance outside of school. Some such performances might include: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Musicals or Band and Orchestra performances at Wharton Center or on MSU's campus. The goal is to gain exposure to great music. Other genres of music may also be acceptable, see Mr. Cousineau for approval first!

If you cannot make it to a performance, then there are other options, such as a CD report, or another report on a composition or composer, etc... The rubric for this report is available from Mr. Cousineau. A student may also satisfy this grade by taking **private lessons** on their "main" instrument and/or giving private lessons to a middle school band student - see Mr. Cousineau for specific details!

**ALL WORK AND INTERACTION IN LAINGSBURG BANDS IS  
BASED ON A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF**

## RESPECT AND TEAMWORK

As you have already read in the handbook, Band is a “real class” and a full year commitment. Each student will have to earn grades, and the grades count toward their grade point average. The grading policy is outlined in the handbook, but there may be times where a student’s may receive point deductions for various reasons.

### **Section 1: Rehearsals**

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.

**Possible Deductions**

Absent from rehearsal/performance/ (unexcused...see policy).....	20 points
<i>(A make-up assignment is offered to students having an EXCUSED absence from a rehearsal/performance.)</i>	
Tardy to class .....	5 points
No music, books or coordinate sheets in class/rehearsal .....	(per item) 5 points
No music in performance.....	10 points
No instrument or equipment .....	-10 points
Chewing Gum.....	5 points
No pencil in class/rehearsal.....	-5 points
Equipment/Music not put away.....	-10 points
Improper dress for performance (Student will not be allowed to perform.).....	20 points
<i>(May result in student being removed from that performance and/or excluded from future band events.)</i>	
Disruptive in rehearsal or performance.....	at discretion of Director
<i>(May result in student being removed from that rehearsal or performance and/or excluded from future band events.)</i>	

**Section 2: 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.

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### **Section 3: 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 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.

### **Section 4: 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.

### **Section 5: 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 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 and return it to school NO LATER than **Friday, September 9th**.

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...

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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

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

**CALENDAR****September**

7th - Home Football Game

14th - Home Football Game

23rd - Band on the run (Marching band)

28th - Home Football Game

**October**

15th - MSBOA Marching Festival

19th- Home Football Game

**November****December**

18th - H.S. Winter Concert (Concert/Jazz)

TBD - WLNS Holiday Special (Concert Band)

TBD - Potter Park (Jazz Band)

**January****February**

8th - CMU Jazz Festival (Jazz Band)

9th - Jazz Band Dinner Dance (Jazz Band)

16th - H.S. Solo & Ensemble

**March**

TBD - MSBOA Concert Band Festival

TBD - State Jazz Festival

18th - Mother/Son Spring Fling

24th -28th DISNEY TRIP

**April**

Desserts With Young Artists (Jazz Band)

**May**

16th - H.S. Spring Concert

21st - Band Awards

27th - Memorial Day Ceremony

TBD - Springtime Parade (Marching Band)

**June**

2nd - H.S. Graduation

(All dates subject to change - Times and locations TBD)

