

LAINGSBURG WOLFPACK BANDS

Letter From The Director

The purpose of the Middle School 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.

If a learner is struggling to achieve in the class, the teacher will discuss options with the child and the parent(s). If the child decides they no longer would like to be in band, a note from the parent(s) explaining why is needed. It is vital that he or she remains in the class the entire first year, giving the child the opportunity to fully experience all that we do in band. Often frustration is relieved after a few months of playing an instrument.

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 15 minutes per day. Daily practice is essential to musical growth!

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COMMUNICATION

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 regularly to keep up-to-date on information regarding the band. **Please let me know if you cannot receive emails, as a “hard copy” will be made available to your student.**

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.

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.

6 th Grade Band	7/8 Grade Band
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black dress pants (NOT JEANS) - Black dress shoes (NO SNEAKERS) - Black Socks - A White Collared Dress Shirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black Dress Pants (No skirts) - Black Socks/Nylons - Black Dress Shoes - Red Polo Shirt (Provided)

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 2nd 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! Students are given a pad lock at the beginning of the year, and this is collected at the end of the year.

IMPORTANT: NO STUDENT IS TO GIVE HIS OR HER LOCKER COMBINATION OUT TO ANY OTHER STUDENT OR TRADE LOCKS WITH ANOTHER STUDENT. IF SUCH AN ACTION OCCURS, HE OR SHE WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE PRICE OF A PADLOCK REPLACEMENT!

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.

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 class requirements that determine a student's grade are as follows:

DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE
Daily participation grade -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 NOT excused, they will lose their points for that day.	40%
Performance Attendance (required)	40%
Playing quizzes/tests/written work	20%
TOTAL	100%

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 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.

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 the Honor Roll. The grading policy is outlined in the handbook, but there may be times where a student may receive point deductions for various reasons.

Possible Deductions

Absent from a rehearsal.....	-5 points
Tardy to class	1 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>	

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!

PLAYING TESTS and QUIZES will be given periodically throughout the semester. Band members are encouraged to take these quizzes either (1) OVER THE TELEPHONE via VOICEMAIL by calling 517-618-1810, or (2) in person, by arranging a time to take the quiz with Mr. Cousineau or (3) at an arranged time during the class period.

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.

FORMAT FOR CALLING IN QUIZZES USING VOICEMAIL

1. Have music prepared and ready to perform. If you need music, keep it close to the telephone. Have instrument out and ready to play.
2. **Dial 517-618-1810**
3. Listen for the voicemail announcement
4. After the beep, leave this information *verbally*:
 - Your Name, Grade, Band, and instrument you play
 - The Page Number, Quiz Number, and Name of Song you are playing
5. Once you have finished, hang up the phone.
6. If you wish to re-take the quiz at anytime during the semester, repeat steps 2-5.

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.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

E-MAIL

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO MR. COUSINEAU

CALENDAR

November

2nd-3rd - Chair Placements (HS Band)

December

11th - HS Winter Concert (HS Gym)

12th - MS Winter Concert (HS Gym)

February

2nd - CMU Jazz Fest (HS Jazz Band)

3rd - Winterfest (HS Jazz Band)

10th - MSBOA Solo & Ensemble (HS Only)

March

9th - MSBOA Band Festival (MS/HS Band)

22nd - Mother/Son Dance (HS Fundraiser)

April

19th - Desserts With Young Artists (HS Jazz Band)

23rd - HS Spring Concert (HS Gym)

24th - MS Spring Concert (HS Gym)

May

17th - HS Band Awards (HS Cafeteria)

28th - Memorial Day Performance (HS Band)

30th - Cedar Point (7/8 Bands)

June

3rd - Graduation (HS Band)

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