



Lynn Lucas Middle School
Lynx Band Handbook

2023-2024

This form is due by Friday, August 18, 2023

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LLMS Band Vision Statement:

Through a family atmosphere of mutual respect and belonging, WISD band students will experience a dynamic learning environment that results in sustaining a tradition of excellence. Students will be successful by achieving the highest musical standards resulting in a life-long love for music, a sense of pride, and self-confidence.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be on time to every rehearsal/sectional.
(*"On time" is typically considered arriving at least 10-15 minutes prior to when you were told to be there. Start time isn't show up time, start time is start rehearsal time.*)
2. Bring all materials to every rehearsal/sectional/class.
3. See band hall expectations matrix.
4. Be responsible for your 20 square feet.

Required Materials

1. Your instrument.
2. Appropriate mouthpiece, sticks/mallets, or reeds.
(*Reeds can only be purchased before OR after school. Students must have at least 4 good reeds in their reed guard at all times!*)
3. Band Binder (included in band fee)
4. Pencil & highlighter on music stand.
5. Tuner/metronome with pick-up microphone
 - a. We suggest the Korg TM-60 with pickup in **black** (this way it blends into the music stands during our concerts)

Uniforms

All students MUST wear the appropriate concert attire. The directors will inform students if a concert requires the **Formal** or **Informal** Uniform:

Formal Uniform (*NOT for beginner band!*)

Girls: Concert Black

- Example: black $\frac{3}{4}$ length or full length sleeve shirt (not low cut), black dress pants (NOT LEGGINGS), long black socks/tights, closed-toed black flats or heels (pending director approval).

[Black Dress Shirt](#) [Black Dress Shirt \(different option\)](#) [Black Dress Pants](#) [Black Flats](#)

Boys: Concert Black

- Example: tucked in black dress shirt (button down), black dress pants, black belt, long black socks, black dress shoes.

[Black Dress Shirt](#) [Black Dress Pant](#) [Black Belt](#) [Black Dress Shoe](#)

Informal Uniform

Band t-shirt, blue jeans, and closed-toed shoes.

Grading

Daily Grades - 40%

- Participation:
Students earn 30 points per day for being prepared for class, on time, and putting forth their best effort. Evidence of a student not fully participating, misbehaving, or not following the rules listed in this handbook will result in a deduction of points.
- Practice Cards:
Students are required to practice 120 minutes/week. Students will obtain a parent/guardian signature at the end of each card to monitor their progress. If there is not a parent signature, it will result in 30 points off. Students will also be required to fill out the self reflection portion of their practice card as a portion of their grade.

Major Grades - 60%

- Playing Tests:
Playing tests are graded using a rubric to ensure consistency and are, in most cases, announced prior to the exam giving students ample time to prepare. Playing tests can be administered either in class or in sectionals. Both Chair Tests and Pass-Offs will be used to evaluate student learning and performance readiness.
- Performances
All performances as indicated on the LLMS Band Calendar are considered to be major grades unless otherwise indicated.
- Sectionals Attendance
Organized and focused band rehearsals for students to advance their musicianship. Students enrolled in either Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band will be assigned one after-school sectional per week. Sectionals are required and students will be assessed a grade for them each week. **Students missing sectionals for a doctor's appointment must bring a doctor's note the following day.** In the event that sectional times/days must change out of necessity, parents and students alike will be given as much advanced notice as possible before changes take effect. If there is a conflict, we must receive written notification (email is fine) of the student's absence at least 2 days in advance.

****Exceptions: Students involved in multiple school activities will be required to adhere to the compromise and sharing agreement established between the band directors and their specified coach/club sponsor. Students cannot pick and choose which after-school practices/sectionals to attend for any LLMS club, sport, or activity that they have elected to be a part of.****

UIL Rules

Grading After-School Rehearsals and Events:

May a (fine arts director, coach, or academic sponsor) teacher or extracurricular sponsor responsible for posting a student's grade give points or subtract points from a grade when a student (excels in or) does or does not (fully) participate in an extracurricular activity? The teacher of a class is responsible for assessing students for promotion based only on "academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level" (TEC §28.021). The board of trustees of a school district may adopt a policy governing methods of assessment in the district. Unless prohibited by local policy, if a student is enrolled in a class in which participation in extracurricular activities is a reasonable expectation of the class, the teacher may consider the student's participation in the extracurricular activity when assigning the grade for the grading period during which the extracurricular activity occurred. A student may not be failed in a class solely on participation in the extracurricular activity component of the class.

The student should be made aware of the requirement to participate in extracurricular activities prior to or upon enrollment in the course.

An exception to this provision is that a student who is ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity as defined in 19 TAC §76.1001 (a) shall not suffer a grade penalty for failure to participate in the extracurricular activity or public performance.

<http://www.uil-texas.org/files/tea-uil-side-by-side.pdf>

Basics of No Pass, No Play:

- **Must be passing all courses.**
- Students lose eligibility for a three-week period, which is defined as 15 class days. Exception: one but only one of the three school weeks may consist of only three or four class days, provided the school has been dismissed for a scheduled holiday period. Two class days does not constitute a school week. Exception: Thanksgiving if schools are on holiday Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- School week begins at 12:01a.m. on the first instructional day of the calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week (excluding holidays).
- Ineligible students must wait seven (7) calendar days after a three-week evaluation period and the grading period to regain eligibility.
- Students may regain eligibility an unlimited number of times throughout the school year. Passing means a minimum grade of 70 on all courses.
- **Note: Spring break can't be part of the 3-week evaluation process.** All students are eligible during spring break.

Finances

Any monies collected from students/parents for supplies, attire, school-owned instrument fees, trips, or fundraisers will be turned in to the Willis Band Boosters for deposit. When turning in money please follow the guidelines below:

- Ensure that all monies are properly secured in an envelope with the student's name, class period, and total amount indicated on the outside.
- All checks must be made out to WILLIS BAND BOOSTERS.
- No cash refunds will be made. Students who become ineligible for events either forfeit their monies, or in special cases, may have a portion of those monies refunded back into their individual CHARMS account. This will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- All student accounts can be monitored through CHARMS Office Assistant at charmsoffice.com.

Charms Office Log-in Instructions:

- Go to <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/parents.asp?username=LynnLucasBand>
- Enter the student area password. This is your student's school ID number. If it does not work, please email the band directors to reset your students' password. Once you change your password, write it down somewhere so you don't forget it!

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are one-on-one tutorial sessions for students on their instrument each week with a highly qualified instructor. Lessons typically last 30 minutes and are arranged between the instructor and parents. The band directors will work to ensure that there is an instructor for each instrument. A private lesson can occur either during the student's ensemble rehearsal or after school on designated days. ***The band directors highly recommend private lessons for students to advance their playing confidence and musicianship.***

If you are interested in signing up your student for private lessons, please fill out the following form online:



School-Owned Instruments (SOI):

Students will be issued school-owned instruments based on whether their instrument is deemed to be unrealistic for rent or purchase. These instruments are Oboe, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion. Students in these sections are expected to sign agreement forms AND pay the Willis ISD SOI fee. The fee covers cleaning and maintenance, however it does not cover abuse or neglect.

Student Sharing/After-School Expectations:

It is the policy of the LLMS Band that all students have the opportunity to participate fully in the middle school experience. It is the responsibility of any student electing to participate in multiple clubs, sports, or activities to make a full commitment to each group and make every effort to participate at the expected level by the teachers/directors/coaches/sponsors involved.

- The band directors will be working out a compromise for all shared students to ensure that they can fully participate in both activities. Students are expected to adhere to the compromise as agreed on by the directors, coaches, and sponsors and may not elect to skip one for the other. Any students found skipping events or practices for either activity may be subject to either disciplinary action or be penalized in grades/games/performances/rewards.
- It is the responsibility of the student to stay up to date on all events and practices for the activities they are involved in. Likewise students must inform teachers, directors, coaches, or sponsors of any potential conflicts with the agreed on compromise well in advance (not the day of!!!)
- School activities carry a higher priority than non-school affiliated activities.
- Please use the list below as a guide to help you understand which events take priority:

Priority 1 (highest): Concerts/Games/Performances

Priority 2: Team Practices/Sectionals/After School Rehearsal

Priority 3 (lowest): Club Sport Practices and Games/Other out-of-school Activities

Communications:

LLMS Band Website: <https://lynnlucasband.weebly.com/>

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lynnlucasband/>

Instagram – <http://www.instagram.com/lynnlucasband/>



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Handbook Acknowledgement Form

The handbook can be found on www.lynnlucasband.weebly.com

2023-2024

Class Period: _____ Instrument: _____

Please read the following acknowledgements below and sign at the bottom showing your understanding and agreement. Students must have this acknowledgement on file in order to participate in the LLMS Band program.

Students: Please initial each box

- 1. I understand what is expected regarding band rehearsal both inside and outside of school. I will make every possible effort to have the required materials and to prepare for rehearsals through individual practice.
- 2. I understand that band is a full year commitment and that schedule changes will not be permitted without director approval at any point throughout the school year.
- 3. I understand the grading policies as outlined in the LLMS Band Handbook regarding participation, practice cards, sectionals, playing tests, and performances.
- 4. I understand that I must be academically eligible as outlined by UIL in order to participate in certain events throughout the year.
- 5. **Only Students With School-Owned Instruments:** I acknowledge that if I have been entrusted with the use and care of a school-owned instrument, I will use it and care for it appropriately. Any damage beyond normal “wear-and-tear” will be my financial responsibility.

We have read and understand the Lynn Lucas Middle School Band Handbook, and I/we agree to abide by its expectations and policies.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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