

LAKE
HIGH SCHOOL

BAND
HANDBOOK

2010-2011

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Part One: The Lake High School Blue Streak Marching Band

Part Two: The Lake High School Concert Bands

LHS BAND MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the LHS Band is to provide a quality music education to all students enrolled. The goal is to achieve quality by focusing on the individual performer. Concert band, marching band, jazz band, small ensembles, and solo experience leads to a well-rounded player. Performance opportunities, especially those through the Ohio Music Education Association, are encouraged for all. Additionally, through the band, students develop a sense of belonging, team work, time management, dedication, self esteem, leadership, cooperation, and responsibility.

GENERAL BAND ROOM RULES

- 1. NO GUM, DRINK, OR FOOD is permitted at any time.**
2. You are responsible for the cleanliness of your area in the instrument storage & band room. Do not leave anything other than your instrument & music in your storage locker. Close and lock cases.
3. Stay away from other people's instruments, music, and belongings. Do not use their instruments under any condition. Show respect for other people's items.
4. Vandalism will not be tolerated.
5. The office is for directors. If they are not in the office, please stay out!
6. Other than during band, students are not permitted in the music area without a pass signed by a director.
7. Please ask before using the phone. Then use it only for necessary calls.

BAND STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Lake Band has become known locally, statewide, and nationally for its fine performance, discipline, and attitude. As part of the Lake Band Program, your actions both in and out of uniform are a direct reflection upon the band, school, and community. Conduct yourself with dignity and pride at all times. The rules set forth in the school conduct code are in full effect throughout any performance or rehearsal.

The band directors have designed this set of consequences to meet any discipline problems which may occur. Depending on the severity of the infraction, any order or combination of consequences may apply. Consistent infractions will result in additional consequences including school given punishments.

Band Consequences

1. Verbal/written warning
2. Loss of free time or points deducted from Daily Participation
3. Disciplinary isolation from group.
4. Removal from rehearsal/performance
5. Conference
6. Detention/Mandatory Band Service Time
7. Loss of Leadership status within band
8. Performance Suspension: Student must attend the performance with the group but cannot participate in the performance.
9. Performance Expulsion: Students are not permitted to attend the performance as a member of the ensemble or as a spectator. Failure to accept this condition will result in the immediate referral to school authorities. Grades will not be affected by the missed rehearsals or performances during this time. Finally, students may not participate in any after school band activities for the duration of the punishment.
10. Referral to Administration/Legal Authorities
11. Suspension *
12. Expulsion *

* school given consequences

PART ONE:

**The Lake High School Blue Streak Marching
Band**

Grading Policy

Music Testing

Each tune worth 10 points...See testing
guidelines

Rehearsal Attendance

Total points: 50

Each unexcused absence = 5 points

Each unexcused tardy = 1 point

Performance Attendance

Total points: 200

Each unexcused absence = 50 points

Each unexcused tardy = 10

Participation Points

Total points = 100

No instrument = 5 points

Other offenses = 2 points

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE POLICY

By virtue of membership in the Lake High School Bands, you have accepted an obligation not only to yourself, but to the entire organization. Because it is our desire to achieve the finest possible results, attendance at all rehearsals and performances by every band member is mandatory. It would be unrealistic, however, to assume that absences due to illness, death in the family, and other valid reasons do not occur. With this thought in mind, the following policy has been instituted to explain and define the absence policy of the instrumental music department. These regulations have been designed to maintain the excellence of the Lake High School Band, and will help to ensure that membership in this group continues to be a worthwhile and educationally rewarding experience for all. Furthermore, it is assumed that any student who becomes a member of the Lake High School Bands recognizes his/her responsibility to fellow students of the organization and wishes to contribute his/her best effort at all times.

As band is a laboratory course with much of the work being done during rehearsal time, the rehearsals are an important part of the class requirements and cannot be made up. Failure to participate in a rehearsal without being excused will affect the student's Rehearsal & Performance grade for that grading period. In the same regard, being tardy to a rehearsal represents non-participation in part of that rehearsal. This will affect the students Rehearsal & Performance grade for that rehearsal.

A performance, when planned, organized, and evaluated as a culminating activity in a learning experience becomes a legitimate part of the music curriculum. The performance for the band is akin to the final exam in a class such as English, and will be treated as such. Failure to participate in a performance without being excused will severely affect the student's final grade for that marking period, just as a failure to take a final exam in the English class would effect the grade for that course.

Excused Absences from Performances or Practice

1. **Personal illness** - advance notice appreciated.
2. **Unavoidable family events:** Wedding, a death in the family
3. **Direct conflicts with other school activities involving participation** (not observation) will be resolved by the student, coach/advisor, and the director.
4. **Family Vacations:** Family vacations are defined as: 1) vacations with the student's **own family** only. 2) A week long family time out of town that **cannot be scheduled any other time during the year.**

IMPORTANT: Other than personal illness and a death in the family, directors must be notified by a parent **3 weeks** prior to the absence for it to be counted as excused. This will allow adequate rehearsal time for the band to prepare for the absence. Please also note that **work is never an excused absence**. The student must make their employers aware of our schedule as soon as possible in order to prevent conflicts.

ALL OTHER ABSENCES WILL BE RECORDED AS UNEXCUSED AND WILL RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF THE STUDENT'S GRADE, ELIMINATION OF ALL OR PART OF THEIR 3RD QUARTER PRIVILEGES, AND POSSIBLE PERFORMANCE SUSPENSIONS.

STUDENTS IN OTHER ACTIVITIES

Students who are involved in other activities must be constantly aware of conflicts which they may encounter. In the case of a band performance and a performance in another school activity (sporting event), students are expected to try to participate in both events. In this case, students are permitted to travel with a parent to or from the band event. When these conflicts arise, the director and coach/advisor should be notified in writing one week prior to the event. Students may not drive themselves to or from any performance.

Lake Blue Streak Marching Band Testing Procedures

How are we graded?

- All music is tested on a *pass-fail* basis
- A pass on the first attempt is an A; second attempt = B; third = C; fourth = D; fifth = don't bother

What do I have to do to pass?

- A **pass** is a MEMORIZED performance that is judged to have at least 90% accuracy of notes, rhythms, articulation, dynamics, and phrasing. In other words, a pass is something you would be *proud* to contribute to a Lake Band performance.

You mean I can't pass if I look at my music? Ever?

- That is correct. We perform from memory – you must show that you can do this.

What happens if I don't pass?

- Music not passed on its posted due date results in a *loss of third quarter privileges* until passed

OK...for instance... it's the night of our first game. *The Star Spangled Banner* is due today and I just KNOW I can't play it from memory. Is there any way I can avoid having to sit third quarter?

- Yes there is. You can choose to use your music on the first attempt – if you exhibit 90% accuracy as discussed above, you will keep your third quarter privileges **for that night only**
- **BUT** this is still recorded as a “no pass” (you must eventually play from memory to pass, and you've just wasted your first attempt).

How is the testing process going to work? Who do I play for?

- On the day BEFORE the due date, **squad leaders** will be expected to stay after rehearsal and play the tune for a director, much the same as last year. (If the squad leader is unavailable at this time, it is the squad leader's responsibility to make an alternate arrangement with a director).
- On the due date, *during rehearsal*, the required tune will be played by the band four times. The first time, only the squad leaders will play. Then, the squad leader will hear each of the other squad members in turn. Only the squad member who is being tested will play.
- Squad leaders will record who passed and who did not and report to the directors.
- If a student has failed to pass a tune, they may “appeal” to a director after that rehearsal if they feel that they should have passed. The director will listen to the student play the tune again and will make a final determination.

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OK, I failed my first attempt... how do I get another try?

- "Squadlings" can arrange any time to meet with their squad leader to try again. If the squad leader is willing, this can even be right before a game report time (to avoid sitting third quarter).
- Anyone can arrange to play for a director instead of a squad leader (obviously, squad leaders *must*). Directors will post sign-up sheets for available times. Once the times are filled, they are filled. Be on the ball. Plan carefully. Directors will NEVER be available on game-day Fridays after school for "last-ditch" efforts.

I'm a percussionist ... is the procedure different for me?

- Yes. No one needs to stay after rehearsal the day before the due date. During the due date testing procedure, all percussionists will play every time. A director will evaluate a different section each time and determine whether players pass or not. Any failures will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

USE AND CARE OF MUSIC

1. Do not fold, tear, or otherwise mutilate music.
2. Use only pencil when marking concert band music.
3. Students can be held financially responsible for music that is not cared for properly.

MARCHING BAND GUIDELINES

Practices

1. *You are responsible for having all music for shows in a flip folder. Whenever we are practicing you must have your folder with you. All music will be memorized for performances. Failure to have music will result in points deducted from your participation grade.*
2. *All members (except for percussion, & tubas) are required to have a music lyre for his/her instrument. If you do not own one, you may purchase one from a music store.*
3. *Never assume a rehearsal or performance is canceled due to weather.*
4. *Shoes and socks are required for all rehearsals. **No sandals or flip flops at any time.***

Performances

1. *Good bands look organized at all times!! Your conduct in the band stands during football games is important to the impression we leave with the general public. Poor discipline projects a negative impression while good discipline projects a positive one. A part of a good impression is demonstrating school spirit, supporting the athletic teams or other bands at band shows.*
2. *Stay in uniform at all times!*
3. *No gum, pop, candy, or food at any time (including on the bus) unless during 3rd quarter break. DO NOT bring these items back into the band stands.*
4. *Be alert! Events happen quickly at football games. Watch the directors and be prepared to play the fight song after each touchdown or field goal.*
5. *No individual playing of instruments (including percussion and tubas). Playing in the stands will be done only as a group under direction or specific instructions.*
6. *Restrooms: Always ask a director's permission and take a chaperone with you at performances. You are never permitted to leave without first asking permission.*
7. *3rd Quarter: This is a privilege for those who deserve it by obeying all rules and are on time.*
 - a. *Make sure your instrument is secure and safe when leaving the band stand.*
 - b. *Do not bring food back to the band stand.*
 - c. *Do not leave the stadium.*
 - d. *Stay in uniform at all times.....this includes hats!*
 - e. *Public displays of affection will no be tolerated.*
 - f. *You are expected to be in your seat, ready to play by the time the clock resets.*
8. *Only band members will sit in the stands designated as Band Areas during games. Sit where you are instructed unless told otherwise.*

PROPER GROOMING

Proper Hair Care

Hair in marching band for both men and women is to be off the collar. Hair touching the collar must be fastened up with rubber bands. Piling the hair under the hat is not acceptable. No bows or hair accessories may be showing. Non-natural hair colors (green, blue, red) must be not visible when in uniform

Make-Up

Should be conservative so as to fit in with the entire group. No glitter or striking shades are permitted unless the director approves in advance. Make-up should never be applied in uniform. Face paints are never permitted to be worn in uniform.

Jewelry

No jewelry is permitted over top of or on the uniform at any time. Band contest medals and band awards are permitted. Earrings should be conservative and small. No large “dangling” type permitted

TRANSPORTATION RULES

- 1. Ride your assigned bus to and from football games and shows. No changing of buses. Do not load or unload busses until you are instructed to do so by a director. When placing instruments on the equipment bus, help the chaperones and loading crew. Be patient.*
- 2. Obey chaperones and directors at all times. When a director is speaking, everyone should be seated and quiet.*
- 3. Excessive noise of any kind is extremely distracting to other people and is not permitted. Music without headphones will not be permitted on the bus.*
- 4. Remain in seats at all times while the bus is in motion. Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times. Not doing so is illegal and stupid.*
- 5. At railroad tracks, no one must talk. Quietly sit until the bus clears the tracks.*
- 6. There is no food, candy, pop, or gum permitted on the bus at any time.*
- 7. Clean up any trash and close windows before leaving the bus.*

STUDENTS DRIVING

1. Students are not permitted to drive themselves or others to any performance where a bus is provided. If a student cannot ride the bus, an adult must drive the student. A note, signed by the parent should be given to the director any time a student is not traveling with the group. In addition, always inform your bus chaperone of any changes.
2. Students may drive to rehearsal but must observe all driving laws and speeds. Students driving recklessly or acting recklessly in a vehicle will be reported to the school/legal authorities.
3. Students are not to drive their cars from place to place once on school property.
4. Students may not leave a rehearsal without notifying a director.

PART TWO:

The Lake High School Concert Bands

AUDITION INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES/CONCERT BAND CHALLENGES:

In order to provide a way for students to practice and improve their seating position, the following system will be used. Auditions/Challenges may consist of scales, band music or a separate piece, and sight reading. The director reserves the right to not change any part assignments until after a performance and to disallow challenges for any reason. Concert band auditions will occur in May, prior to the following school year.

- 1. Students may challenge the person sitting directly next to them.*
- 2. If an entire section challenges, all scores will be compared and the section will be reseeded.*
- 3. If you refuse to accept a challenge, or have an unexcused absence for a challenge or are not prepared to play on the given day, you automatically forfeit your seat.*

The Concert Bands

Once the students have been auditioned, they will be placed in one of the following three concert bands based upon their ability. By doing so, each student is assured to be in the ensemble most suitable for them to personally improve their musical growth.

The Symphonic Winds – performs high school class A and AA (college level literature)

The Symphonic Band – performs high school class B and sometimes A literature

The Concert Band – performs high school class C and sometimes B literature

Concert Band Attendance Policy

Performances are the culmination of many weeks of hard work by all members of the ensemble. The absence of even one member at a performance damages the experience of everyone else, and wastes the hard work the absent member contributed for weeks before. Unexcused absences at performances result in a “zero” for the 9-weeks’ rehearsal/performance grade. Unexcused absences from after school rehearsals result in a ¼ reduction in the rehearsal/performance grade (equal to 10% of the final grade). Excused absences include:

- 1. Personal illness**
- 2. Death in the family**
- 3. Family wedding**

*Other cases **may** be excused at the discretion of the director, but every effort **MUST** be made to schedule other events around the dates of our performances. Work is **never** an excused absence.*

Concert Band After School Rehearsals and Performances

*Outside of school obligations of band members that are absolutely **mandatory** will include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- Holiday Concert in **December**
- Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Events in late **January or early February** (off campus)
- District Large Group Adjudicated Events in **March** (hosted here at Lake)
- Up to 3 evening rehearsals in preparation for Large Group Adjudicated Events in **February and March**
- Pre-Adjudicated Events Concert in **February or March**
- State Large Group Adjudicated Events in **late April or early May***
- Spring Concert in **May**
- Graduation performance (will not include all members) in **late May or early June**

**Additional after school rehearsal time may be added in preparation for this event if necessary.*

All other aspects of grading policy during the concert band season will be at the discretion of each concert band’s director.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The school district is not responsible for stolen or damaged instruments that are owned, rented, or borrowed by the students. The instrument storage room is not secure 100% of the time so it is a good idea to lock your cases. Parents may wish to insure their student's instrument under their homeowner's or renter's policy.

Students must take proper care of their instruments, including not leaving them in practice rooms, classrooms, busses, hallways, or on the floor in the storage room. Only percussion students are permitted to play, touch, or move percussion instruments. Also, string instruments should not be touched at any time for any reason unless you specifically ask a director first.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The school provides use of "color" instruments at a cost of \$20.00 per year. All school owned instruments must be signed out by a director. Students must take excellent care of school owned instruments in their possession. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the director of any damage. Students can and will be held responsible for any damage from horseplay or negligence. In these circumstances, cost of repair will rest solely with the student and his/her parents. At the end of the year, all instruments must be checked in. Reeds and slide grease, and valve oil are not provided.

INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS

We expect that all students have instruments in good working condition. All woodwind players should always have at least 3 spare reeds. Brass students should have valve oil, rotor oil, or slide grease/cream available. All slides should function on brass instruments without any hesitation. If a student or parent would like to investigate purchasing a step-up instrument, please contact the directors and they can help guide you in your decision. Sometimes a better mouthpiece (for both brass and woodwinds) can make a large difference. Of course a pencil is the most important item to have with you at all times. If an instrument becomes damaged, always take it to a music store with an "in house" repair shop. These stores have the fastest services and generally do the best work.

PRIVATE LESSONS

The music department feels very strongly about the importance of private study as an integral part of developing the student's progress on their instrument. The one-on-one relationship available in a private lesson allows for more individual attention than is permitted in a large group rehearsal. Students can concentrate on their own unique playing problems, improving on areas in which they are weak, and progress at their own rate. This individualized instruction can provide a better chance to master your own instrument, as well as maintain the quality of the band program. If interested in private lessons, see the directors for assistance in locating a qualified teacher.

Dropping Band

Due to the fact that the Band's required rehearsals and activities start approximately 4-5 weeks prior to the start of the school year, a student may drop Band prior to the end of the first week of the first grading period with the consent of the student's parents and counselor. Dropping Band after the first week of the school year will result with an F on the student's permanent record for this course.