



Band Handbook

2015-2016

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Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings band members! My name is Erin Cundiff and I am the Director of Bands at Loganville Middle School. Welcome to our band program! There is no question that band will be one of the most fun, educational, and rewarding experiences that you and your child will be a part of. This handbook serves as a concise guide to the procedures and expectations we hold for this program.

This is my second year serving as the Band Director at LMS. I can say without a doubt that it will be even better than the last, with new performances, music, and a lot of new and excited members. We foster an atmosphere of family within this organization. It is an honor to get to work with such top tier students, and I know that we will have a blast making music together in the upcoming months.

We have many exciting activities lined up for this year including at least 3 school concerts, many more jazz band concerts, guest instructors, community performances, and fundraisers. In addition to our ensembles here at the school, this year we hope to become more involved with extra-curricular activities such as Solo and Ensemble Festival, Midfest, and District Honor Band. These activities provide additional enrichment for any student who is interested. I also highly encourage you check out the Private Lessons section of this handbook if you want to really stand out from the pack.

I can assure you that each child in this band program will feel adequately involved, inspired, and challenged during his or her time here. Your child WILL succeed in band. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. If you can offer your time at any point during the year to help out or chaperone, believe me that help is much needed and appreciated! Please keep this handbook throughout the year, as it will serve as a guide for much of the program's proceedings.

Sincerely,

Erin Cundiff
Director of Bands
Loganville Middle School



Mission Statement:

In the band program at LMS, our mission is to *develop* the technical foundations needed to be successful in middle school band and beyond, *grow* an appreciation and enthusiasm for music, and *inspire* each other and our community. Participation in the band's ensembles encourages creativity, teamwork, and responsibility. We strive to always practice and perform with our best foot forward, and to represent the best in our school and ourselves both on and off stage.

Communication:

The primary way you will receive band news is through email. If you feel that you are not receiving emails from me, just email me (my address is written below.)

We also have an Online Office Assistant for band called CHARMS. This is where you will find information about upcoming events, the calendar, resources, and more. You will each have your own login to this website.

This year we will also be using Remind101.

Band Official Website:

Charmsoffice.com

School Website:

loganvilleband.weebly.com

Director's Email:

erin.cundiff@walton.k12.ga.us

Band Room Phone:

678-684-2974



LMS Ensembles:

6th Grade Band:

All 6th grade band members will be in one of our two 6th grade band classes. It is one of their connection classes and it meets everyday during school for 45 minutes. Almost all of these students are absolute beginners. In this class, we focus on the fundamentals of music in order for students to become prepared for higher levels of music. We begin the year by learning proper breathing techniques, posture, music reading, and sound production. On August 22nd, we have our 6th Grade Band Kickstart Day, which is perhaps the most essential day of the year for these students. On this day, they pick up instruments for the first time and receive valuable professional, individualized instruction. We progress using the Essential Elements Band Book 1, which each child is required to have for his or her instrument. This ensemble will play on the fall, winter, and spring concerts. There will be two after school rehearsals for each of the 3 concerts. 6th graders who want to get a step above the rest are highly encouraged to participate in private lessons, or any of the extra-curricular musical activities offered in the area such as Solo and Ensemble Festival, Midfest, First Year Honor Band, Encore, and the UGA Summer Music Camps.

7th Grade Concert Band:

All 7th grade band students will be in the 7th Grade Concert Band. This class meets everyday during school for 45 minutes. This ensemble takes the next step in the musical journey by focusing on learning standard concert band literature for several public performances. In addition to the fall, winter, and spring concerts, this ensemble will participate in the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March alongside the 8th Grade Band. There are 2 after school rehearsals in the 2 weeks leading up to each concert (3 prior to LGPE), all which end at either 4 or 4:30. Please see the calendar for specific dates, as those rehearsals are mandatory. Music becomes more challenging, but also more fun. We start the year by continuing to use their Essential Elements Book 1, along with a few new resources. Furthermore, 7th grade students are eligible to audition for Jazz Band, which will have at least 5 performances this year. Jazz Band rehearses on Wednesdays from 3-3:45, and attendance is mandatory for all members. 7th Graders can also participate in Youth Night, which is where they get to participate in the high school marching band for a home game. 7th grade students are highly encouraged to take private lessons and participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival, Midfest, District Honor Band, and Summer Music Camps.

8th Grade Concert Band:

All 8th grade band students will be in the 8th Grade Concert Band. This class meets everyday during school for 45 minutes. This ensemble focuses on furthering musical development, and works primarily on standard concert band literature appropriate for 3rd year instrumentalists. This band will participate in the fall, winter, and spring concerts. In addition, they will perform at the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March alongside the 7th grade band. There are 2 after school rehearsals in the 2 weeks leading up to each concert (3 prior to LGPE), but none that go past 4:30. 8th grade students are eligible to audition for the Jazz Band, which rehearses on Wednesday from 3-3:45. Attendance is mandatory for all Jazz Band members. 8th grade band students are also able to participate fully in the Loganville High School Marching Band. Enrollment in marching band occurs at the end of their 7th grade year. Our main goals are to excel in musicianship and to be fully prepared for band at the High School level. These students are encouraged to take private lessons and to participate in extra-curricular musical activities such as Solo and Ensemble, District and All State Band, and Midfest.

Jazz Band:

This group is our advanced ensemble, which rehearses on Wednesdays after school from 3-3:45. There are typically 20-25 students in jazz band, many of who take lessons and are some of our best players. Naturally, we are very proud of our jazz band and they are often the face of the LMS Band Program in the community. This group will be playing at the Loganville Fall Festival, our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, and they will be travelling to the elementary schools in the Spring to play for the 5th graders. In addition, this year we are taking the Jazz Band to Jazz LGPE in April. In this ensemble, we will focus on elements of performing jazz music such as various jazz styles, improvisation, and listening. We play fun music that transcends generations, and also include some twists on familiar music. We only rehearse once a week, so attendance is taken seriously. Please make sure that you are able to commit to weekly rehearsals, and also make sure you have a ride by 3:45.

Band Room Rules:

1. No gum, candy, food, or drink other than water.
2. Have your instrument, band binder, and pencil every day in class.
3. No running or roughhousing in the band room.
4. Do not talk during instructional time.
5. Always treat others with kindness and respect.

Discipline Procedures: *If you choose to break a rule...*

Rule #1 No Gum, Candy, Food, or Drink:

- 1st offense- strike 1, warning
 2nd offense- strike 2, silent lunch and parent phone call
 3rd offense- strike 3, detention

Rule #2, 3, 4 and 5:

- 1st offense- verbal warning
 2nd offense- strike 1, warning
 3rd offense- strike 2, silent lunch and parent phone call
 4th offense- strike 3, detention

Lockers

All students will be issued an instrument locker. If you would like to keep your things secure, you can purchase a lock from Ms. Cundiff for \$5.

Here are a few ground rules for the locker area:

- Do not take anything out of someone else's locker.
- Do not attempt to crawl inside the lockers.
- Do not move around locks.

**If you chose not to purchase a lock, the LMS Band Program is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged instruments.*

Classroom Procedures:

When you enter the classroom:

Walk and immediately either go to your chair with your case, or go get your instrument from your locker. Be in your seat by 2 minutes after the tardy bell rings. Depending on your class period, you and your stand partner may also have to get out your music stand from the rack. Percussion set up everything you need for the day!

Bookbags and cases:

If they are small, they can be placed under your chair. Large cases must stay in lockers. Do not leave anything in the middle of the floor. Percussion leave bookbags in locker area!!

Instrument storage rooms:

These rooms are not for congregating. Only use *your* locker and keep your materials in your locker at all times. Do not touch anyone else's belongings.

What to do once you are in your seat:

Take out your band binder and have all of the music ready on your stand that you will need for the day based on what you see on the board.

If there are extra chairs in the set up:

This means that the class before you or after you has more people. Just ignore the extra chairs and always fill in to the center.

When you hear the metronome start:

Class time has begun. Freeze. Sit tall. Look forward with your instrument in your lap. We will always start class with breathing and steady beat exercises.

If you need to get my attention during rehearsal:

We use the following Rehearsal Hand Signals-
Hold up a #1 if you have a question about the music.
Hold up a #2 if you want to get a sip of water.
Hold up a #3 if you have to go to the bathroom.
Hold up a #4 if you are having a problem with your instrument.

When you are going to the bathroom:

Only 1 boy and 1 girl may leave the classroom at a time. Sign your name on the sign out sheet and take the correct bathroom pass. Return it when you get back.

If you feel sick and need to go to the clinic:

Come to the front of the room and get the clinic pass. Make eye contact with me and I will nod my head indicating that I have seen you and you can go. Do not leave until I look at you and say you can go.

At the end of class:

I will ask percussion to pack up a little early. Everyone else remain seated as we continue to play. When I say class is over (not the bell!), push your stand forward so it touches the chair in front of you. Then go put your instrument away. No playing is permitted once class is dismissed.

When you exit the classroom:

Walk and do not shove. Do not line up at the door if we are early. Return to your seat if you are finished packing up and the bell has not yet rung.

If you want to know what is coming up on the calendar:

The calendar is posted on the bulletin board and it is also on CHARMS.

When you need to turn in your practice chart:

On Mondays, practice charts are due for the week before (Monday-Sunday). Either as you enter the room or before you leave, simply place the paper in the correct cubby. Make sure your name is on it and it is signed by a parent to get the credit.

If you need to turn in any other type of form:

There will be a folder on the table at the front of the room with tabs for the different forms. Please take care of this before or after class.

If you need to turn in money:

Put the money in a white envelope located by the Lock Box. Put your name, the amount, and what it is for on the envelope, and drop it inside.

Grading Policy:

Daily Participation and Binder Checks - 40%
 Concert Participation and Playing Tests - 30%
 Weekly Practice Charts - 30%

- Practice charts will be due each week on Monday. Practice expectations are 20 minutes for 5 days a week. 100 minutes = a score of 100.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory.

Excused Absences- The **only** excused absences are those that would be accepted by the school as an excused absence.

Illness
 Death in the Family
 Religious Holiday

In the event of an *excused* absence, the student will be given the opportunity to make up the grade for the concert by completing an alternative assignment.

*Please keep in mind that there will always be unique circumstances that may not be accounted for in this handbook and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the director.

Concert Make Up Assignment:

Students will only be allowed to make up the concert grade if their absence was excused. Unexcused absences will result in an automatic 0.

The student will have 5 days after the day of the concert to either record or perform live their part for the concert, by themselves. This will only be for me. You will be expected to play your best with a high level of accuracy and sound quality. If the student does not complete this task within 5 days, the grade will be a 0.

Band Fees:

General Band Fee: \$50

Band Uniform: \$25

School-Loaned Instruments: \$75 per year

Locker Fee- \$5 (optional, but strongly encouraged)

Checks can be made payable to LMS Band Boosters. We also can accept cash. Please refer to the procedures section above regarding how to turn in money.

Why do we have a general band fee?

Unfortunately, the band program is only funded through student band fees and fundraisers. We have to provide the finances for all of the things that go on in our program: transportation fees, instrument repairs, purchasing music, registration fees for performances, guest instruction, and purchasing new equipment. This is why we need your support. Without your band fee, we cannot have a band program. Thank you for your dedication. Everyone's fair share comes together to make all of this possible.

Multiple Child Discount:

Each child after your first child will have a reduced band fee of \$25.

The Booster Club:

Purpose:

LMS Band Booster Club is a volunteer parent organization. It's purpose is to help the band to be the best it can be, primarily by being leaders in fundraising, volunteering, managing the band's finances, and chaperoning.

Getting Involved:

If you would like to get involved, please get with our band booster officers at the General Meeting in August. Even if you can only help out for one thing on one occasion, your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

Meetings: The executive board meets once a month on a Wednesday, and we have a meeting with all members of the booster club twice a year. At meetings we plan fundraisers, trips, concerts, and organize volunteers.

Concert Attire:

Band Uniform for Concerts:

- LMS Band Polo
- Black Pants (NO JEANS!)
- Black Socks
- Black Dress Shoes

Please be sure your child arrives properly dressed and ready to perform!

Concert Etiquette:

Performances are a very special time for students. They provide the opportunity for students to show off all of the hard work they have done in a fun and professional environment. At each performance, we ask that the students follow the following protocol:

- *Report time* is the time for students to arrive, and will be announced closer to the day of the concert. Please come already dressed in your band uniform.
- Come prepared with everything you need for the performance, including your music, instrument, and accessories, such as your mouthpiece, extra reeds, valve oil, cork grease, and slide cream.
- We ask students to be respectful of others performing when not on stage by remaining silent in the audience.
- Students are not to bring cases, cell phones, or other electronics to the performance set up. LMS will not be held liable for any lost or stolen items that do not pertain directly to the performance.
- The audience also plays a very important role in the performance. Please silence cell phones during the performance. Pictures and videos are encouraged. Please refrain from shouting students' names, and we ask that you applaud at appropriate times after a piece is over.

Private Lessons:

If you want to take it a step further, you need to look into private lessons. Students who want to excel and be the best players in their sections should take private lessons weekly. Even a lesson twice a month will drastically benefit your child's musical development. It will pay off and can lead to numerous opportunities down the road, including college scholarships.

Local Private Lesson Teachers:

Flute

Erin Fleming- *The Music Loft*
 Nancy Wilson- *Music and Arts*
 Lori Duff- *See Ms. Cundiff for Contact*

Clarinet

Jason Passmore- *Music and Arts*
 Christopher Otts- *Music and Arts*

Saxophone

Gary Harris- *See Ms. Cundiff for Contact*
 Christopher Otts- *Music and Arts*

Trumpet/French Horn

Michael Cape- *Music and Arts Teacher*
 Josh Brandon- *See Ms. Cundiff for*

Low Brass

Phil Truex- *The Music Loft*
 Mike Wilson- *Music and Arts*

Percussion

Greg Perry- *Music and Arts*
 Guy Strauss- *Music and Arts*

Locations:

Music & Arts – 1905 Scenic Highway, Snellville, GA 30078
 The Music Loft - 470 N Clayton St #200, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

As mentioned in the LMS Ensembles section, there are several opportunities for your student to be further challenged and enriched as a young musician outside of LMS. A few of them are:

- Fall Solo and Ensemble Festival (October)
- Midfest at UGA (December)
- District Honor Band (February)
- Spring Solo and Ensemble Festival (April)
- First Year Honor Band (May)
- The UGA Summer Music Camp (July)

Information about each of those will be provided during band class as each event arises. If you would like more information about any of those opportunities listed, please email me. They are all fantastic sources of continuing education in music and a fun social atmosphere. If your child has been playing his or her instrument prior to arriving at LMS, these activities are definitely for you!

Private lessons are enrichment for high achieving and motivated band students, not tutoring. If you want to be first chair, if you want to audition for honor bands, and if you just generally love playing your instrument and want to stand out from the rest, you need to take private lessons.

Instrument Rental:

1. Most beginning band students rent their instruments through Music & Arts. There is a monthly charge, and it is rent-to-own program.
2. School rentals apply for the following instruments: Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Clarinet, and Baritone Saxophone. Students who play these instruments will pay an annual fee of \$75 to rent their instrument.
3. Purchasing an instrument is something I would recommend after the child's first two years of playing. Be very careful about online sales that seem too good to be true...because they probably are! I would be happy to help you find the right instrument for your child when this time comes.

Professional Musicians by Instrument:

Flute- James Galloway, Jean Pierre Rampal, Carol Wincenc, Jim Walker
Oboe- Juliet Lewis, Christopher Hooker, Geore Caird, Joe Sanders
Clarinet- Sabine Meyer, Martin Frost, Julian Bliss, Benny Goodman
Alto Saxophone- Wayne Shorter, David Sanborn, Charlie Parker
Tenor Saxophone- Stan Getz, John Coltrane, Joe Henderson, Lester Young
Baritone Saxophone- Harry Carney, Gerry Mulligan, Steve Kupka
French Horn- Dennis Brain, Phillip Farkas, Barry Tuckwell
Trumpet- Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, Wynton Marsalis, Chet Baker, Fred Mills, Phillip Smith, Bud Herseth
Trombone- JJ Johnson, Frank Rosolino, Bill Watrous, Joe Alessi, Christian Lindberg, Arthur Pryor, Jim Pugh, Weston Sprott, Ian Bousfield
Euphonium- Brian Bowman, David Childs, Herbert Scott, Phineas Bower
Tuba- Pat Sheridan, Tommy Johnson, Carol Jantsch, Arnold Jacobs
Percussion- Tim Adams, James Blades, Alon Bor, Frank Zappa, Buddy Rich

Practice Tips

Practice Tip #1: 20-A-Day

This is my philosophy on practice, and my expectation for all students. Your homework as a band student is to dedicate 20 minutes of your time to honing your musical craft, 5 days a week. This is your obligation to your personal musical development and to the ensemble as a whole.

Practice Tip #2: Macro-Micro-Macro

First, begin by playing a large chunk of music. Then, instead of just playing that same large chunk over and over, isolate the trouble spots. Find 1 or 2 measures, or even 1 or 2 notes that give you trouble. Focus on those spots. After you have practiced and improved on them, then try putting it back into context.

Practice Tip #3: Slow Practice

I cannot stress the importance of this enough! Practice. Slow. Take the tempo down so you can really focus on playing with your best sound and technique. This is especially important for scales and faster music. Always use a *metronome* and slowly increase the tempo as you go.

Band Supplies By Instrument

Flute:

- Cleaning Swab and Cloth

Clarinet:

- 2.5 Vandoren Reeds for beginners, 3 for Intermediate Players
- Cork Grease and Cleaning Swab

Saxophone-

- Neck Strap
- 2.5 Vandoren Reeds for beginners, 3 for Intermediate Players
- Cork Grease and Cleaning Swab

French Horn-

- Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil (e.g. Blue Juice, Al Cass Fast)

Trumpet-

- Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil (e.g. Blue Juice, Al Cass Fast)

Trombone-

- Mouthpiece
- Slide Cream (e.g. Superslick, Slide-O-Mix, Trombotine)
- Water Squirt Bottle

Euphonium/Tuba

- Rental is typically through the school, but a personal mouthpiece is required.
- Valve Oil (e.g. Blue Juice, Al Cass Fast)

Percussion-

- 1 Pair of Yarn Marimba Mallets
- 1 Pair of Snare Drum Sticks
- 1 Pair of Medium/Soft Xylophone Mallets (optional)
- Stick Bag

Fall Schedule of Important Events
 (A more detailed schedule can be found online at
 CHARMS)

- August 13-* Full Parent Meeting, Cafeteria, 6-8pm
August 18- Band Fees Due
August 22- 6th Grade Band Kickstart Day, 9-3pm
August 28- Low Brass Class (**repeat Mon**), 2:45-3:30
September 2- Jazz Band (**repeat Wed**), 3-3:45pm
September 10- Youth Night Rehearsal (7/8th Graders Only)
September 11- Youth Night (7/8th Graders Only)
September 22- 6th Grade Percussion Auditions, 2:45-3:30
October 6- 6th Grade Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4pm
October 7- 7/8 Grade Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4pm
October 12- 7/8 Grade Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4:30pm
October 13- 6th Grade Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4:30pm
October 14- Extended Jazz Band Rehearsal, 3-4pm
October 15- Fall Concert, Cafeteria, 7-8:30pm
October 17- Jazz Band Concert @ Loganville Fall Festival
November 19- Spaghetti Dinner/Jazz Band Concert, 6-8pm
November 30- 7/8 Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4pm
December 1- 6th Grade Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4pm
December 2- 7/8 Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4:30 pm
December 5- District Honor Band Auditions
December 7- 6th Grade Full Band Rehearsal, 3-4:30pm
December 8- Winter Concert, Cafeteria, 7-8:30pm
December 10-12- Midfest Honor Band @UGA

LMS Band Letter of Consent

I have read and agree to the procedures and rules of the Loganville Middle School Band Program as they are presented in the Band Handbook. I understand and agree to pay the band fee of \$50. I understand the expectations and obligations that my child, _____ is expected to carry out during their membership, including attendance at rehearsals and concerts.

My signature below represents my agreement to the above statement.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date
