

Lafayette County C-1 High School Instrumental Music Handbook



2021-2022

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This instrumental music handbook has been written for the Lafayette County C-1 High School Band members and their parents in order to provide information regarding the classroom environment, expectations, and activities of the instrumental music program at Lafayette County C-1 High School. The manual also contains the policies and regulations of the band. All band members and their parents are required to read the entire manual carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies and rules stated herein.

Courses Offered

Marching Band

Marching Band operates during the fall semester from August with the start of band camp through the beginning of November with the end of football season. It is comprised of all band students and fall guard members. Performances include halftime at all home and playoff football games, various parades, and marching band contests. It is important to know that marching band is a physical activity and is sanctioned by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. As such, students must have a current physical on file with the school in order to participate in rehearsals and must also meet all MSHAA eligibility requirements (see details in the “eligibility” section of the student handbook).

The color guard is an extremely important part of the marching band. Students involved in the color guard will be held to the same requirements and responsibilities as wind and percussion members. An audition or clinic, to be held during the spring semester of the previous school year, will be required for the color guard and members will be determined by the band and color guard directors.

Concert Band

The concert band will form when the marching season ends and is comprised of the same students. Course materials will consist of various warm-up materials, the *Foundations* method book, and a variety of musical literature. All of these mentioned materials will be provided for the student by the school. During their use, students are borrowing the material, just as they borrow text books in other courses. Should a student lose an item, or return it in any condition other than that in which they received it, the student will be responsible for paying to replace the material. Performances for this group will consist of concerts and State Large Group Music Festival. The same MSHAA requirements will be in place for this ensemble, and a student must be enrolled in the course.

Jazz Band

The jazz band is a specialized music course. In order for a student to be a member of this ensemble, they must be concurrently enrolled in Marching/Concert Band. The only exception to this being if the student is a member of the rhythm section, which includes piano, drum set, guitar, and bass. If a student is a member of the rhythm section, they must audition prior to enrolling in the course. This audition will take place with the band director and will be assessed using a scoring rubric which can be obtained by request. The jazz band course materials will consist of various warm-up materials, method books, and music repertoire. All of these mentioned materials will be provided for the student by the school. During their use, students are borrowing the material, just as they borrow text books in other courses. Should a student lose an item, or return it in any condition other than that in which they received it, the student will be responsible for paying to replace the material. Performances for this group will consist of a variety of concerts. The expectations of this organization are outlined in the “Jazz Band Course Syllabus”.

Winter Guard

The winter guard operates as an extension of the fall guard, and in turn, of the band program. An audition is required to be a part of the winter guard. Because winter guard is an extended program, there will also be fees associated with the group.

Important Dates

Please see our calendar which was sent via email and is posted on my office door for a comprehensive list of all event dates. Dates will also be posted on the whiteboard in our classroom as they grow nearer.

Course Fees

Members of the Marching/Concert band will be required to purchase white gloves and black shoes which will serve as a part of their Marching Band uniform. In order to receive the lowest pricing, and also so that all members look the same, orders for these items will be placed by the Director of Bands. An order sheet will be distributed to all students at the start of the school year. Students may also pay a small fee for competition meals so they do not have to worry about providing this on their own. Amount will be decided and collected by competition rather than as a lump sum due to ever changing COVID protocols which could potentially impact typical competition format.

General Expectations

1. Always be polite and respectful. Never make inappropriate comments about other people or schools.
2. Be considerate at all times. This is especially applicable in concert settings. Never talk during a concert. Think about the times you perform. Would you like it if you heard people talking while you were playing?
3. Always wear the uniform properly and wear it with pride.
4. Clean up after yourself. We should always leave a place cleaner than it was when we found it.
5. Make commitments wisely. Don't commit yourself to more than you can do well. (However, once you make a commitment, follow through with it.)
6. Be punctual. Remember: If you are on time, you're late!
7. Respect others property. This includes school equipment. Treat the school equipment as if you paid for it. If it becomes damaged due to your negligence or abuse, you will pay for it.
8. Always conduct yourself in a manner that brings respect from all those you come in contact with. You should be the physical embodiment of Husker Pride. You are the school's musical ambassadors.
9. Always remember that you represent not only yourself, but the band, the school, and even the community every time you appear as part of the band. Failure to conduct yourself appropriately while being a part of the band can forfeit your ability to participate in future events and activities.

Band Room Policies

All band members must be sensitive to the security of the band room. Do not leave valuables, bags or any personal belongings unsecured in any room. You will be issued a locker in which you should keep all of your belongings. This locker is to remain locked at all times. The school will not be responsible for any personal property losses.

Students are to only handle things that belong to them. No one should touch the instrument or personal belonging of another student.

NO FOOD OR DRINK, other than water, shall be in the band room. Should circumstances arise where an exception to this rule will be made, the director will make students aware of the exception.

Events outside the School

When attending events outside of the school building, students are to adhere to the same rules and expectations set aside in the student handbook.

For events that take place outside of our school students must ride the bus to the event. If the student wishes to leave with a parent, their parent must sign them out with the Band Director. Students will only be allowed to leave with their parents (not an aunt, older sibling, or neighbor). If an issue arises where a student would like to request to leave with someone other than their parent, they must submit a written request to the band director no less than one school day prior to the event. This request should include the date and time of the event in question, the name and relationship of the person wishing to take the student, and a parent signature. The band director will clear this request with the building principal who will sign the request if it is approved. Again, a student will not be able to leave an event that takes place outside of the school building with anyone other than their parent unless there is a request, signed by the building principal, on file.

Football Game Expectations

The marching band serves as a support and cheering section for the football team. The energy displayed by the band and cheerleaders has a direct impact on the fans. For that reason, it is very important that we take our duties in the stands seriously. Keep in mind that more people will see you in one football game than all your concert band performances combined for one year. Even though we are sitting in the stands, we are still performing. Sections are expected to sit together and everyone must play when called upon by the drum major or directors. The band will always sit together. You may not sit with friends or family and they should not sit with you in the bleachers. Family and friends are welcome to sit the stands immediately behind the band. If you need to leave the stands (for a specific reason), you must ask permission and must return quickly. Band members are not to roam around the stadium during the game. After the half-time performance, the band will be given some free time to go to the bathroom and get a drink, Please be cautious eating and drinking in the uniform. ALL BAND MEMBERS ARE TO BE IN THEIR ASSIGNED SECTIONS WHEN THE GAME CLOCK READS 3:00 MINUTES LEFT ON THE THIRD QUARTER.

Remember, when walking around the stadium during your: free time, the uniform must be worn properly at all times. Additionally, students are expected to stay for the entire game. Each game is considered a performance. The ENTIRE game is a performance, not just the half time.

The Band Uniform

You will be issued a symbol of the pride this school and community has in the organization of which you are a member. As you take this uniform, be mindful of the responsibility you assume for its care. Please keep in mind that the school district has gone to great expense to provide you, the members of the band program, with a marching uniform. At the beginning of marching season, you will be issued a complete uniform. At the time of issuance, the identification numbers for the specific parts will be recorded. You will be responsible for the condition of those items checked out to you; however, you will not take the uniform home. The uniforms will be kept in the uniform storage areas in the band room.

Before a home game or away event, you are to arrive at the school in enough time to pick up your uniform. At the end of a home game or away event, the uniform must be returned to the proper location in the uniform room for safekeeping. **AT NO TIME ARE YOU TO TAKE THE UNIFORM HOME WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE BAND DIRECTOR.** If, for any reason, you need to substitute a uniform part, please bring this need to the attention of the band director. Do not make substitutions on your own. In addition, do not trade uniform parts with other band members, even if their part fits you. You will be responsible for the items checked out to you and will pay for replacement of any lost items or items that are not returned in the state they were issued.

In order to ensure the long life and sharp appearance of these uniforms, please follow these steps when handling the uniforms:

1. Always put on your gloves before putting on your coat. This will ensure that the zipper, snap and button areas do not become “yellowed” from oily or greasy fingers. Even if you think your hands are clean, put on your gloves. Better to be safe than sorry.
2. Ensure you always have a pair of white gloves to wear with your uniform, if they do not look white to the eye, **WASH THEM!**
3. Always hang the uniform on the supplied hanger; hanging the pants folded along the crease and the jacket in form with the hanger curve.
4. Always wear a tee shirt under the coat, this will prevent the coat from irritating your upper body and help to absorb perspiration. Wearing lightweight shorts is also required.
5. The uniform is to be worn properly while in public. Coats are not to be unzipped or removed. Suspenders are to be on; hats and gloves are to be worn properly. Hats are not to be worn backwards or with the strap up. Exceptions to this dress code will be made as a group, **AND ONLY AS A GROUP!**
6. **NO JEWELRY** is to be worn with the uniform. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets or rings.
7. Shoes are not to be stored in the uniform bag. They are heavy and dirty, and will wear our uniform bags down quickly. To ensure we have quality bags for years to come, please store your shoes in your own bag or box.

Concert Dress

For concert band performances, students are required to wear a black dress shirt, black pants/skirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. While a button down shirt is preferred, girls may wear a nice black blouse. Shirts may be short or long sleeved, but may not be spaghetti strapped or sleeveless. Tennis shoes, Flip Flops, and T-Shirts are strictly prohibited.

Solo and Ensemble

One of the chief reasons for participating in an instrumental solo or ensemble is to gain the self-responsibility of preparing musical selections without the direct guidance of the instructor. It is up to the individuals to form ensembles and select ensemble participants. When choosing members of your ensemble, make sure everyone is aware of the commitment they are taking on by agreeing to participate in Solo and Ensemble. Ensembles and solos are not something to do in your spare time. Names of persons participating in ensembles need to be submitted to the director for final approval.

A well-prepared solo or ensemble performance can prove to be a very rewarding experience as well as a lot of fun. The earlier you start to think about solos and ensembles the better off you will be. **DO NOT PUT THIS OFF.** Select your ensemble members early and then start to look at music. All solo and ensembles are required to complete the solo or ensemble registration form/contract and submit it to the teacher. No solos/ensembles will be considered unless the registration contract is complete and submitted by the deadline.

Any problems that arise need to be brought to a director's attention immediately. Remember: a problem ignored will not go away; it only gets worse. You will be informed of the festival dates well in advance. Therefore, if you chose to participate in an ensemble or solo, you will be required to do it regardless of conflicts. Plan accordingly!!!

Once festival entries have been sent to MSHSAA, a practice schedule will be set-up for the students to work with the director. Students will be required to attend these practice sessions and sessions for ensembles **MUST** be attended by **ALL** ensemble members. In the event that a conflict arises and a student or ensemble cannot make the practice session, and they have communicated with the director prior to the time the rehearsal was supposed to start, they may reschedule their session. Rescheduling will be subject to the availability of the director.

All entered events will participate in a Pre-District festival held here at the high school. In order to advance and perform at the district level, students must earn a I, II, or III rating at the school level. An outside adjudicator will be used to critique performances and provide valuable feedback to students.

After festival entries have been sent to MSHSAA, any ensemble or solo that drops or is canceled by the director will be responsible for paying the entry and accompanist fees.

Grading Policy

1. Written Work and Playing Tests/Choreography tests: varied point values

Throughout this course, students will complete a variety of written work to enrich their understanding of musical concepts. These materials may consist of, but are not limited to, the following: goal setting, theory practice, personal journaling, quality comparison. Additionally, students may be called on to perform an excerpt from our concert literature or warm-up material to display proficiency on their instrument. Playing tests will be graded using a rubric which will be distributed when the test is assigned.

2. Performances: 100 points per semester

Performances are expected and serve as summative assessment in the band classroom. Attendance at these events is **MANDATORY**. Any excused absence from a performance will require the student to complete a make-up assignment. In order to have an excused absence, the student must fill out a "Request for Approved Absence" form, located on the door of Mrs. Reuther's office. This form must be submitted no later than one day prior to the event. If the absence is cleared, the form will be returned to the student and marked as such. Just because a student has submitted a request, they should not assume their request will be cleared.

Make-Up Assignment

Should a student have an excused absence at a performance, they must schedule a time to meet with Mrs. Reuther to perform their concert music on their own. They may also record themselves performing their concert music on their own and submit the recording to Mrs. Reuther. Students will be allowed one week to submit a make-up assignment. Students will be graded using the standard performance rubric used on all singing tests.

During Marching Band season, each student will begin with 100 points in this category. Each unexcused absence at a performance will result in a lowering of this total by 20. For example, a student who has one unexcused absence will earn an 80 in the performance category. Performances include: home football games, parades, competitions, and concerts.

3. Rehearsal Techniques: 10 Points per class period and 30 points per Thursday rehearsal

Daily points will be awarded based on class participation (contributes to class discussion, sings/plays at the appropriate time), having all materials, being ready when rehearsal begins, posture, and maintaining a positive/working presence towards the learning environment. One grace day will be given to any student that forgets his or her instrument and/ or music without penalty. However, failure to bring an instrument and/or music anytime thereafter will result in an automatic zero. Should a student arrive to class on a continual basis (to be determined by the director) without the necessary supplies, they will be issued an after school detention to be served with the director.

Students will receive up to 10 points per day for a rehearsal which takes place during the school day, and 30 points per after school Thursday rehearsal. Evaluation will be based on effort shown during class, musical preparedness, classroom preparedness, and a positive/working attitude toward the learning environment. Should a student need to be absent for a Thursday rehearsal, they must contact Mrs. Reuther either in person or via email prior to the absence. If contact fails to occur, or if it is stated the reason for the absence is unexcused and the student is not in attendance at the practice, the student will earn a zero for that rehearsal.

School Owned Instruments

The school district does everything that it can to provide you, as a member of the instrumental music program, with quality equipment, particularly those items that are too large or expensive for individual purchasing. Many of the school owned instruments cost several thousand dollars each. If you are playing a school instrument, feel fortunate. Many schools are unable to provide their students with these items. While a school owned instrument is in your possession, you are directly responsible for its care and safety. The school will cover minor repairs and preventive maintenance. However, if the instrument becomes damaged due to your negligence, you will be held financially responsible for the repairs that must be made to return that instrument to playing condition. You are not responsible for defects which existed prior to your taking possession of the instrument. If you notice a problem, bring it to the director's attention immediately.

School owned instruments will be distributed at the discretion of the director. If issued a school instrument, the student must complete a "School Instrument Contract".

Practicing

Band is a performance based class. The techniques we cover in class are not inherently learned, they must be reinforced at home. When a student practices daily, this allows muscles to be built over time and allows concepts to be learned in small increments.

In turn, if students are not continually reinforcing techniques learned in class at home, they will struggle. Practice a little each day; don't try to have one long practice session each week.

Good practice will consist of the following:

1. Warm up (long tones, lip slurs for brass, register slurs for woodwinds)
2. Scales
3. A review of music you have “mastered”.
 - a. In this music you can pay special attention to dynamics, style markings, etc.
4. Sections of our music that is still difficult.
 - a. Start with small chunks and put these together
 - b. Start slow, then increase speed gradually
5. SIGHTREADING

All students are encouraged to take private lessons. A list of instructors can be found on the class website or by contacting Mrs. Reuther. We are fortunate to have several GREAT instructors around the area. Take advantage of these opportunities if possible!

Student Leadership Positions

During the spring semester, students who wish to be a part of the leadership team, either in the form of a section leader or drum major, must fill out submit a “Student Leadership Application”. Students who wish to be considered for the role of drum major will also complete an interview process with the band director and will be asked to conduct the high school band. Applications will not be accepted after the set deadline. The band director will review all submitted materials and decide the leadership team for the next school year. Members selected to this team should keep in mind they will be asked to attend a leadership camp at the school prior to band camp. They should also keep in mind the demands of a leadership position. Being a leader can be very rewarding, but also requires us to go above and beyond for the team.

Student leaders have gone through an application and training process and have been selected by the director. They are to be treated with respect, and should be seen as an extension of the director by other members of the ensemble. If an issue arises between a student and a member of the leadership team, the student should take this issue to the band director. At this time, the director step in and mediate the situation.

In the event that a student leader is not able to perform their duties in an appropriate way, the director may remove them from their leadership position.

Weighted Band

During their junior or senior year, a student may enroll in “weighted band” to earn additional weighted credit for the course. If a student chooses to enroll in this course, there will be a list of criteria that student must complete which goes above and beyond that of a student enrolled in the standard band course. The criteria are outlined on the following page of this document. Once a student has enrolled in weighted band they will remain enrolled in that course for the full year and their grade will be determined using a combination of the standard band grading system (detailed above) and the “weighted band” grading criteria.

The grade system for weighted band class will be the same as listed in the “grade” section above, however it will also include points for the lessons, addition performance, and project components. For more specifics on these expectations, please see the “Weighted Band Rubric.”

WEIGHTED BAND RUBRIC

Lafayette Co. C-1 Music Department-2021-2022 Honors Credit Information

- To enroll in the Honors Section of your performance music class you must be registered by September 3rd.
- Students who do not register by the deadline will be placed in the regular section of their performance music class.
- Once enrolled, students should complete the honors portion. Students may not switch back into a regular section after September 3rd.
- All private lessons, performances, and leadership verification will be submitted to the music department.
- All activities used to earn Honors Credit must occur between Monday, August 23, 2021 and Friday, May 13, 2022.
- Any alterations to the Honors Credit plan will be considered on an individual basis and must be approved by your director in advance.
- Juniors and seniors may enroll in HS Band or Blue and Gold Singers and complete the required options in all five columns below. Students will be placed in the honors section of class and upon completion will earn an honors weighted grade.
- Completion of requirements must be in content in which the student is enrolled. Ex. A student enrolled in honors band may not use a vocal solo towards required objectives

INSTRUCTIONS

Category	I. Individual Instruction	II. Solo Performance	III. Ensemble Participation	IV. Leadership & Service	V. Written Projects
Requirement	Receive regular, weekly private instruction with a professional musician to total at least 150 minutes each quarter. Lessons must be completed on your primary instrument or voice part. Students must complete this requirement both semesters. The outside instructor must be approved by the band or choir director. Private lessons may also be with the band or choir director before or after school (not during seminar).	Perform a solo at district solo/ensemble festival. Solos must be significant works worthy of study and accompanied solos require a pianist	<p>CHOOSE 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audition for district band or choir. Perform at district band or choir. Audition for All-State choir. Perform at All-State Band of Choir. Perform in a small ensemble at district solo/ensemble festival. Perform in an ensemble outside of school like a community band or choir. A signed verification form is required. Perform at MRVC band or choir. 	<p>CHOOSE 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a section leader or drum major. Be a Historian. Historians take pictures and video and maintain bulletin boards, display cases, send articles to the newspaper, etc. Complete a music department service like sorting music, organizing uniforms. See director for more info. 	<p>CHOOSE 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a 5 page research paper on a director-approved musical topic. Format pages and cite sources. See director for guidelines. Compose or arrange a written piece of music of at least 50 measures. This project requires pre-approval from your director. Conduct a piece at a concert and write a 3 page reflection. (Piece will be selected by director). See director for additional details.
Due Dates	October 15, 2021 December 17th, 2021 March 11th, 2021 May 13, 2021	May 13, 2021	May 6, 2021	March 11, 2021	December 17, 2021
Points/Grading	Grade received will equal percentage of completed minutes. 100 points/quarter	100 points	100 points	100 points-See rubric	100 points-See Rubric

Band Lettering Procedure

The below letter point system will be used to discern which students have earned a letter in band. The form should be filled out completely and returned to the band director no later than the deadline. It is up to each individual student to submit a form for consideration of a letter. Band letters will be awarded at the end of the year banquet held in May.

- _____ 60 - Concert Band (full year, no missed performances)
- _____ 60 - Jazz Band (full year, no missed performances)
- _____ 20 - Marching Band Camp (must be present each day of marching camp)
- _____ 10 - Auditioning for District Band (concert or jazz, 10 pts each)
- _____ 20 - Participation in district band (you do not receive audition points)
- _____ 20 - Audition for state band
- _____ 35 - Selected to all state honorable mention band
- _____ 40 - Selected to all state band
- _____ 20 - Participation in Conference Band
- _____ 10 - District II rating on an ensemble (per ensemble)
- _____ 20 - District I rating on an ensemble (per ensemble)
- _____ 20 - State Silver rating on an ensemble (per ensemble)
- _____ 40 - State Gold rating on an ensemble (per ensemble)
- _____ 10 - District II rating on a solo (per solo)
- _____ 20 - District I rating on a solo (per solo)
- _____ 20 - State Silver rating on a solo (per solo)
- _____ 40 - State Gold rating on a solo (per solo)
- _____ 10 - Private Lessons (per semester, with verification from private instructor)
- _____ 10 - Member of an Outside Performing group (per semester, verification from conductor)
- _____ 20 - Member of the leadership team

110 pts = letter

220 pts = letter and 1 star

330 pts = letter and 2 stars

(every additional 110 pts an additional star is received)

Guard Lettering Procedure

To earn a letter in guard, a student must participate in two seasons of guard. Fall guard will count as one season, and winter as one season. In order for a season to count towards a student's letter, the student must not have unexcused absences for any completion dates, or excessive absences from rehearsals. Guard letters will be awarded at the end of the year band banquet held in May.

Band Handbook Agreement

I have received a copy of the Lafayette County C-1 High School Hand Book. I have read and reviewed all of the band policies. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by the band students and will encourage my child to abide by the rules set in place and to fulfill their obligations to the band.

Signature of Student

Date

Student Name (*print please*)

Grade

I have read and reviewed all of the band policies and I understand that it is a privilege to be a part of this program. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold these policies and have accepted the responsibility to attend all performances and activities in which the band participates.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Parent Name (*print please*)