

Lake Country Lutheran High School

2020-2021 Instrumental Department Handbook



“Who hears music, feels his solitude
Peopled at once.”

— Robert Browning

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Mrs. Becky Garlock, Director

Instrumental Department Philosophy

It is the goal of the Lake Country Lutheran High School Instrumental Department to nurture in each student an appreciation and understanding of different types of musical expression through technical and personal development. Each student possesses a special gift from God. He or she will be encouraged to fully use this gift to His glory.

Furthermore, I firmly believe that each student can only improve through regular practice. When a student has lost the will to improve or make a better contribution to the band, he is wasting the time and efforts of his fellow members. The happiest student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He has developed a high sense of purpose and is willing to work to attain his goals. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program.

Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music by its actual performance
- To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school, church, and community
- To develop discrimination with regards to the selection of music
- To acquaint the students with music theory/history as they relate to their time
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self expression, and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corp
- To develop an understanding of commitment and dedication in successfully achieving goals
- To foster leadership skills within each student
- To find fulfillment and satisfaction through musical activities
- To more fully desire to serve God through individual talents

Department Policies

Attendance:

As a member of a performing group, each student is expected to be at each lesson, rehearsal, and performance. A performance schedule is included in this handbook so that arrangements can be made well in advance. Conflicts between band and other activities are the responsibility of the student. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. All conflicts in regards to performances must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to the band. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity. An unexcused absence at a performance will jeopardize the student's ability to pass for that semester.

Concert Dress:

Students are expected to be in proper dress for each concert. Those who are not in proper dress may be asked not to participate and will forfeit their points for that event.

Ladies: All ladies will be provided a uniform dress through the school at a cost of \$70.00 per student. The dress will then be that students to keep for her high school career. Dresses are to be worn with black dress shoes.

Gentlemen: All gentlemen will be provided a tuxedo through the school at a cost of \$55.00 per student. Attire consists of one dress shirt, one pair of dress pants and one tie. Additional shirts are available for \$18.00 each, pants for \$25.00 each and ties for \$12.00 each if you would like to have more than one of any of those items. Tux jackets and garment bags are purchased by the school and will be on loan to band members throughout the school year. Concert dress is to be worn with black socks and black dress shoes.

Seating Arrangement:

The seating arrangement will be at the discretion of the director and may include auditions where necessary. Seating may change throughout the year to accommodate balance and blend.

Music & Folders:

Every person will receive one copy of each piece of music. All students are responsible for these pieces and will be assessed a fee if the music is lost or damaged. (Exception: note-taking on music is permissible and even encouraged. Notes should be made in pencil only.)

Folders will be handed out with music at the beginning of the year. Each person will also be assigned a slot in which to keep this folder. Everyone must keep his/her folder in its slot when at school! This makes adding music to the folders much easier. **DO NOT PUT FOLDERS IN YOUR INSTRUMENT LOCKER.** Folders should be on stands for rehearsal, at home for practice, or in their assigned slots.

Instrument Lockers:

Most wind instrumentalists will be assigned an instrument locker to use for the year. These lockers are in the hallway outside the band room and can be accessed any time the building is open. Please keep in mind that any time your instrument is at school it should be secured in its locker – **DO NOT** leave instruments in hallways or lobby areas. Please also remember that your instrument is as secure as you make it – unlocked lockers may result in disruption to your lock or damage to your instrument.

Practice Rooms:

There are four practice rooms attached to the band room that are available for student use. Use of these rooms are contingent on director supervision, but potentially available before and after school, as well as during study halls and lunch periods. Please request a pass **in advance** if you are planning to use a practice room on your study hall or lunch period.

Student Help Times:

Student Help Times are designed to help students catch up on missed work and/or further student learning. As they can also be a reward for students doing well in class and keeping up on their work, I will try not to use them as much as possible. However, if I become aware that an individual or group of students have fallen behind or are in need of extra instruction, I will request that they come in during student help time. Please remember that school policy states that if a teacher requests that a student come in, he or she must be present on that day. Students who do not show up will be considered truant and reported as such.

Solo & Ensemble:

In an effort to develop the complete musician, preparation of a solo and/or ensemble piece is required every other year for all concert band students. Participation this year is **OPTIONAL**. Please keep in mind that all students who perform their piece(s) at the WSMA District Festival will receive full concert points for their participation.

Please also note that students participating in Class A at the District level and receiving a rating of 1* will then be eligible to perform their piece at the WSMA State Festival in late April/early May for state recognition.

Tours:

Normally, the Concert Band tours every other year during the spring break and this should be our year to travel. However, due to health concerns and the current travel cautions in our country, there is no plan to tour this spring. However, as the situation progresses over the next few months, I will take any changes into account and revisit the idea in December/January to assess whether or not an early June tour might be possible. Please know that family considerations will be taken into account before any decision is made.

In the hopes that we can still pull off a tour this year, we will be hosting various fundraisers throughout the year to help offset the cost. Please take advantage of these opportunities to raise funds.

Fine Arts Varsity Letters:

Varsity Letters in Fine Arts are available each May to concert band students who meet the following criteria (see director for application):

1. At least two (2) consecutive years participation in Concert Band
2. At least one (1) year participation in WSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival (Class B – I rating / Class A – II, I or I* rating)
3. At least one (1) year participation in a school sponsored small ensemble or community ensemble (i.e. Jazz Band, Brass Choir, Flute Choir, Honor Band, MYSO, U-WAY, YWOW, any ensemble as approved by the director)
4. Six (6) service hours to the LCLHS music department (i.e. concert set up, Thunder Band volunteer, spaghetti dinner volunteer)

In addition, pins may be awarded each subsequent year to those who fulfill the below criteria beyond their initial letter:

1. Participation in Concert Band
2. Participation in WSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival (Class B – I rating / Class A – II, I or I* rating)
3. Participation in a school sponsored small ensemble or community ensemble (see above)
4. Three (3) service hours to the LCLHS music department

Classroom and Student Expectations – In School

1. Promptness is absolutely necessary to cover announcements and a busy schedule. All students must be in the room with instruments and ready to play within two minutes after class is scheduled to begin.
2. Be prepared – make sure that your instrument is in working order.
make sure you have your music and a pencil.
make sure you have all other essentials (mouthpiece, reeds, oil, grease, etc.)
3. Come to rehearsal with a good attitude.
4. After finding your seat use a minute or two for individual warm-ups including long tones, lip slurs, scales, repertoire excerpts, etc.
5. No excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instruments); only good solid material
6. When the director asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
7. During rehearsals everyone should be concentrating on the task at hand. This does not necessarily mean that you will be playing at all times. Band is about learning and playing together as an ensemble, not just making sure your personal part is learned. In respect of others, talking or working on other homework is not allowed.
8. Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.
9. At the end of rehearsal put all materials in their proper places. KEEP OUR SPACE CLEAN!
10. Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit error.
11. Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
12. Respect each other and everyone's effort to make music. Only positive comments will be allowed. Sarcasm hurts more than many people realize.
13. Practice. A group is only as strong as its weakest link.
14. Absolutely no food or gum during class time.
15. Absolutely no bathroom visits during class time.
16. Absolutely NO CELL PHONES out during class time. If I notice a problem with a particular student I will confiscate that person's phone for all subsequent rehearsals.
17. **This is your ensemble. OWN IT!**

Classroom and Student Expectations – Online

1. Our school information system, Schoology, will be utilized regularly and should be your go-to for information and assignments.
2. Students are responsible to check the Updates and Materials sections of Schoology for all announcements and assignments.
3. In the event that school should move online either partially or fully, all students will be expected to be present and engaged in all synchronous learning class periods as determined by the school schedule and teacher.
4. Students will be responsible for reading online assignments **completely** and turning in any required work by the deadline of each assignment and assessment.

Covid-19 Procedures and Classroom Precautions

General Policies:

- All students will face the same direction in the rehearsal room (no curve to the ensemble) and will be spaced 6 feet apart in all directions.
- Masks will be utilized entering and exiting the classroom and during rehearsals as appropriate.

For Wind Players:

- There will be NO sharing of any woodwind or brass instruments.
- LCL will provide screens for the bells of our wind instruments. These screens will catch bacteria emitted through the bell and limit the spread of aerosols out into the air. They will be more effective on brass than woodwinds and cannot be used for flute players, but again, will provide another layer of protection where possible.
- Flute players should plan to wear a mask with extra space in order to fit their flute inside their mask.
- Each woodwind and brass student will have their own chair and stand and should provide some kind of ribbon to identify both.
- All spit from wind instruments typically removed by spit valves will be collected on paper towels and disposed of at the end of each rehearsal.

For Percussionists:

- Percussionists will limit the sharing of instruments and provide their own sticks/mallets where feasible. The purchasing of sticks will be determined on a case-by-case basis as I get to know the students and their capabilities.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students to use before and after touching shared equipment.
- Students who would prefer to wear gloves are welcome to do so and should plan to provide their own gloves.
- Cleaning materials will be available in the band room for wiping down instruments and equipment where possible.
- Ample percussion stands will be provided throughout the percussion section so that students do not need move stands during rehearsals.

Student Responsibilities:

- Flute players and percussionists are required to provide their own masks
- Those receiving bell screens should be diligent about washing them weekly
- All woodwind and brass players are required to bring a colorful and individual ribbon for their chair/stand
- All percussionists are required to clean their hands and equipment throughout rehearsals without being reminded
- All families are asked to donate paper towel for the room (as much as you would like, knowing that we will use several sheets daily)

Grading

Performances:

Attendance at all performances is MANDATORY. If you know of a pre-planned absence you must notify the director at least 4 weeks in advance with a legitimate conflict in order to be excused. In the event of an excused absence, as outlined in the LCLHS Student Handbook, points will be allowed to be made up. In the event of an unexcused absence, points will not be allowed to be made up.

80 points per major concert

20 points per misc. performance (chapels, pep band, etc.)

approx. 450 pts / semester

Rehearsals:

Attendance in a performance-based class is essential. Therefore, students will earn points for daily participation at a rate of 1 point per day of rehearsal attendance. These points, however, may be lost by not being prepared for class, poor attitude, disruptive behavior, tardiness, not returning items to their proper storage or having food, drink, candy, or gum in the music room. If you are on your best behavior everyday, these points will surely add up over the course of a semester.

1 point per day

approx. 90 pts / semester

Practice:

Weekly practice and rehearsal are a must in order to prepare ourselves to present music to our Lord and others. Therefore, each student must practice a minimum of 50 minutes per week during the school year. As practicing must be done outside of the school day, I am asking for parents to vouch for their child's practice time in the form of practice slips to be filled out and signed on a weekly basis. I will make the forms available to be picked up at any time during the week, but it is the student's responsibility to turn them in to me each Tuesday for the preceding week's practice. For each day that these slips are late you will lose 1 point. Get into a good habit right away and force yourself to concentrate. You will notice the improvements very quickly.

5 points per week

approx. 90 pts / semester

Lessons:

Each student will receive a private lesson each week. Attendance at these lessons is mandatory. Each lesson will be worth 5 points and based on the student's ability to perform the week's assignments and demonstrate overall improvement. These lessons are important in developing abilities and skills at each student's individual level.

Students unafraid of a challenge and desiring to greatly advance their level of skill and ability may opt to take private, professional lessons from a specialist on their instrument over the course of the school year. These lessons would be the responsibility of the student and his or her parents to arrange and should take place on a consistent, weekly basis. Private lessons outside of school would take the place of weekly lessons with the director.

5 points per lesson

approx. 50 pts / semester

Miscellaneous:

Being a good musician requires performance of technical skills and critical thinking. At times during the year, I may ask for a listening assignment, small project, or require a short written assignment. These exercises will take place at the director's discretion and will likely increase in number if school goes digital at any point during the year.

5-20 points per exercise

approx. 60 pts. / semester

***Total Semester Points: Approx. 740**

*I keep my grades on a point scale. Although points per term may vary, your grade is always figured on a points earned divided by points possible system. Please be certain to see me if you ever have a question regarding your grade.

Grading Scale

A	95-100	C	79-82
A-	93-94	C-	77-78
B+	91-92	D+	75-76
B	87-90	D	72-74
B-	85-86	D-	70-71
C+	83-84	F	0-69

**2020-2021 INSTRUMENTAL DEPARTMENT
PERFORMANCE DATES***

<u>Event</u>	<u>Group(s) Involved</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Pep Band (FB vs. St. Francis) HOMECOMING GAME	All Band Students	Friday, September 25, 2020	7:00pm
Pep Band (VB vs. LW)	All Band Students	Thursday, October 1, 2020	6:45pm
Pep Band (VB vs. KCL)	All Band Students	Tuesday, October 6, 2020	6:45pm
Pep Band (FB vs. St. Catherines)	All Band Students	Friday, October 30, 2020	7:00pm
Fall Instrumental Concert	Concert Band Jazz Band Thunder Band	Thursday, November 5, 2020	7:00pm
Christmas Concert	Concert Band Jazz Band Small Ensembles (?)	Friday, December 11, 2020	7:00pm
Christmas Chapel	Concert Band	Friday, December 18, 2020 (school day event)	8:00am
Pep Band (G vs. BA)	All Band Students	Thursday, January 7, 2021	7:15pm
Pep Band (B vs. KCL)	All Band Students	Friday, January 8, 2021	7:15pm
Pep Band (G vs. LW)	All Band Students	Tuesday, January 12, 2021	7:15pm
LHSAGM Honor Band at ML	Select Band Students	Thursday, January 21, 2021	All Day
Spaghetti Dinner	All Band Students	Saturday, January 30, 2021	5:00pm
Pep Band (B vs. HC)	All Band Students	Tuesday, February 2, 2021	7:15pm
Pep Band (G vs. New Berlin West)	All Band Students	Tuesday, February 9, 2021	5:45pm
Pep Band (B vs. HOPE)	All Band Students	Friday, February 12, 2021	7:15pm
WSMA Solo & Ensemble	All Band Students	Saturday, February 27, 2021?	TBD

PERFORMANCE DATES (continued)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Group(s) Involved</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Winter Concert	Small Ensembles Thunder Band	Monday, March 8, 2021	7:00pm
Spring Concert	Concert Band Jazz Band Small Ensembles (?)	Friday, May 14, 2021	7:00pm
Senior Awards Chapel	Concert Band	Friday, May 21, 2021 (school day event)	8:00am
Graduation	Concert Band	Saturday, May 29, 2021	TBD

*This entire calendar is subject to change as health guidelines continue to develop and evolve.
It is also possible that some performances are live-streamed instead of in-person.
Please be flexible knowing that I will do all I can to provide the best experience possible
and will get schedule changes and info out as early as I am able.