

# Tiger Band



# Handbook

## **Philosophy**

The LBMS Band seeks to create unique educational opportunities that will encourage students to perform to their highest possible ability, strive to improve every day through group instruction and individual practice, and promote ethical character, good citizenship and life-long learning.

## **Expectations**

Students of the LBMS Band have the distinct opportunity to represent our school through multiple functions, such as concerts, Solo and Ensemble, and much more. This being said, our band students are expected to behave in a manner that positively and professionally represents the LBMS Band program as well as the school.

## **Classroom Rules and Procedures**

While some teachers may have a list of “Do’s and Don’ts” for their classroom, I only expect my students to observe and maintain two rules once inside my classroom:

(1) Respect Everything

(2) Have Fun!

Every day, when students come for their band class, they are expected to line up outside on the wall in an orderly fashion; this shows me that they are ready to learn. Once students have demonstrated that they are ready to learn, I will invite them inside, so they can get their instrument ready, as well as retrieve any and all materials they need for class. Students will be given 4 minutes as soon as they walk through the door to prepare themselves for band class.

## Class Supplies

Each student needs the following:

1. Sharpened or mechanical pencil.
2. Highlighter
3. Black Binder
4. Instruments with the following accessories:
  - a. Woodwinds: 4 Playable Reeds, Swabs, Cork Grease
  - b. Brass: Spit Cloth, Valve/Slide Oil
  - c. Percussion: Sticks, Mallets, Stick Bag, etc.
5. All Music in a folder with name on it.

I will provide each student with the following:

1. Page Protectors
2. All music needed for class
3. Yellow Scale books

**\*\*All these materials must be brought to class every day!\*\***

## **Instruments**

Each student is expected to come to class with a working instrument daily. We encourage all students to upgrade to higher-level instruments to keep up with their playing abilities. Percussionists MUST come to class with their own equipment (mallets, sticks, etc.) for the music being performed. They will be asked to purchase additional equipment as the music requires.

Beginners — The beginners will be “mouthpiece tested” to help them find the most appropriate instrument to play. They will be given guidance about where to go to get an instrument.

School Instruments — If a student plays a school instrument, they are required to purchase a mouthpiece for that instrument due to sanitation concerns. They will not be issued an instrument until the mouthpiece has been purchased. These can be purchased from our classroom’s “Band Shop” (since we do not have a music store in town).

## **Reeds, Music, Sticks, etc.**

Every student is expected to come to class prepared daily for the group lesson. Reeds will be checked daily. A student will not be allowed to play on a broken or moldy reed. Students are to oil and grease horns at home in preparation for the day's lesson. Percussionists are to have their name on all of their sticks and have them available for each class.

## Homework

Each student is expected to practice at home at least 5 of 7 days of the week. This is the homework for the class. If the student has difficulty with the bus or needs a practice instrument at home, please contact me to help resolve the problem. The amount of **individual** practice time is the largest factor between an average player and an outstanding player.

Here are a few practice tips:

- Listen to LOTS of music
- Record yourself playing your instrument, listen to it, and evaluate it. Students will be taught how to do this.
- Practice the music at a tempo that will allow you to play the music correctly.

## Rehearsals

- ❖ The beginning band will not have any after school rehearsals.
- ❖ The Concert and Symphonic bands will have sectional rehearsals on Tuesday (Concert) and Thursday (Symphonic) from 3:05 – 4:30 as needed. These rehearsals are graded as supervised homework and are required. The students will be informed of the rehearsals at least 1 week in advance. They will start in **November**. Please do not schedule conflicts on these days. If your child is absent, they are considered unexcused if it is not cleared in advance.

If your child is in an LBMS sport, cheerleader, or AG function and has a conflict, please have them talk with me about the conflict ahead of time, this way I can help them with it. Missing a rehearsal without prior arrangements will be unexcused.

## Uniforms

***Beginning Band*** — The beginners will wear Black Dress Pants or a Long Black skirt, Black dress shoes, and a Purple Band Polo.

***Concert Band*** — They will wear their Purple Band Polos for the combined Game in the fall. All other performance will be the same as the symphonic band.

***Symphonic Band*** — Members of this ensemble will wear an all-black uniform. This includes Black Dress Shoes, Long Black Socks, Black Dress Pants or a Long Black skirt, and a Black Button-down Dress Shirt.

***Solo and Ensemble*** — Anyone who performs at this festival should wear Sunday attire. (Ties for the guys and dresses/nice pants/blouse for the ladies)

**\*\*Band Polos will be ordered in late September for those in need of one\*\***

## Performances

The schedule of concert performances is provided. All performances are required and will be graded as group projects. The symphonic band will attend the Florida Bandmasters Association District Concert Festival, where we will be graded on our performance.

## Other Performance Opportunities

Each student is encouraged to perform as often as possible. In addition to the scheduled performances for each grade, the students have additional opportunities to perform such as:

- Solo and Ensemble Festival
- The North Florida Honor Band
- Playing in a church group
- Playing solos or small groups on the spring concert
- Preparing short “ads” to be played on TNN (Tiger News Network)
- Attending a summer band camp

## Trips

The band will schedule various trips throughout the year. Each student must have an **off-campus form** to attend. This form is provided. In order to attend the end-of-year trip to Aquatica, the student will need to perform to qualify (more details later) and attend all the scheduled performances for their band for the year.

## Travel Accounts

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade band students, involved with the high school marching band, will begin the year with a fundraiser that will give them the opportunity to put money into a travel account in their name. This money can be spent by the student on: band trips, HS uniform needs, or summer band camps. The auditors do not allow us to spend it on reeds, oil, and other small items. Any money is left in the account when the student graduates will be transferred into the band scholarship fund or to a sibling.

## Parents

Welcome to the band world!! We cannot do what we do without you. Please enjoy the journey your child is on along with them. Your love and support is vital towards your child's success. Learning an instrument is a slow and tedious process and this can be extremely frustrating for many students, so please come to all their performances, send them to camp (that week is a nice vacation for you too!), encourage them, keep them playing, and let them know that they're improving! Get in the concession stand and make friends with the other band parents and swap stories. We will be calling so please try to find a way to say "YES"!

## Handbook Review Page

I have read and reviewed the handbook with my child. We will work together to help my child attend all events and practice with purpose to grow as a musician.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and return along with the Off-campus form and the info form.*