

LMS BAND HANDBOOK

Lansing



Bands

2021-2022

**BECKY JONES – DIRECTOR
BLAKE VIGNERY – ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR/PERCUSSION INSTRUCTOR**

COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Jones and Mr. Vignery will use many forms of communication to help keep everyone up to date on all the happenings around the LMS Band program. We will keep our paper communication to a minimum unless it is specifically requested. Please help us save paper and money by keeping up with us on any of the mediums listed below. You will also receive a weekly skyward message/email from Mrs. Jones giving you a run-down of the week's activities and reminders so please make sure your email address is up to date in the skyward system!

Staff Emails:

- Becky Jones – becky.jones@usd469.net
- Blake Vignery – blake.vignery@usd469.net

Phone:

- MS Band Office – 913-727-1197 Ext. 3129

Social Media**:

- Twitter: @LansingMSBand

**Please be aware that we will not respond to direct Twitter messages. If you have questions that are specific to your child, please contact Mrs. Jones or Mr. Vignery directly through email.

Text Alerts

- Please see Skyward or the Class website for detailed instructions on how to sign up for text alerts

Calendar of Events

- Please see Google Calendar link posted on Skyward and Facebook

Class Website: [LMS Band Website](#)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATION AND PROCEDURES

We have three guidelines that we expect students to follow in our classroom:

- Be Respectful
- Be Prepared
- Do your best

It is important that students come to class knowing that respect toward adults and classmates alike is always expected. Disrespect toward any person in our classroom will not be tolerated.

Preparedness in our classroom includes:

- Having all materials for class (instrument, binder, music, pencil, assignments)
- Having all assignments done and ready to turn in on the due date
- Practicing outside of class

Learning a new instrument can be tough! We expect students to give their best each day, whether in class or during practice at home. Practice makes progress, not perfection. Students should strive to get better each day and approach learning their instrument with the idea that they can always improve.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

- Drinks and restroom – we encourage students to bring a water bottle to class so they can have adequate water during class. Students may use the restroom on an emergency basis only. We ask that if students need to use the restroom they do so during their passing period. There are restrooms located right outside the band room.
- Students will have a locker assigned to them where they can store their instrument during the day. Students are expected to take their instrument home at night. Individual lockers will not be locked. The room is supervised or always secured.
 - Make sure your student's instruments are labeled clearly with their name. Percussionists should label all sticks and mallets with their name as well.
- Food and Drink: There is no food or gum allowed in the band room. Students may have water.

GRADING

Grades consist of:

- Playing Assessments: 50% of total grade
 - Quarterly Objectives
 - Periodic playing assessments assigned as necessary
- Homework: 25% of total grade
 - Assignments in this category are intended to evaluate individual student progress on their instrument and their mastery of musical concepts
 - Theory/Vocabulary homework
 - Other homework as assigned
- Group Performances: 20% of total grade
- Daily Participation: 5% of total grade
 - Students who are absent will be excused from the daily points grade
 - Students must have music, book, pencil, instrument, and iPad, and be on time to class to get full daily points.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra Credit can be earned by working on something that will enhance their musical abilities or aptitude. Those activities could include attendance at a concert that is above their playing level (high school, college, or professional groups), attendance at regular private lessons (with note from their instructor), or participation in outside of school performance groups (church, clubs, etc.). Students can also earn extra credit for participation in before school jazz band, pep band, and preparing for and performing at solo/ensemble festival. We do not give students extra credit to make up for missed work.

PERFORMANCES

Required Concerts for this year:

- | | | |
|---------|--|--|
| • 9/10 | 8 th Grade Perform with LHS Marching Band | 8 th Grade only |
| • 11/15 | Beginning Band concert @ LMS Auditorium | 6 th and 7 th Grade only |
| • 12/7 | 8 th Grade Band concert @ LMS Auditorium | 8 th Grade only |
| • 12/13 | Beginning Band concert @ LMS Auditorium | 6 th and 7 th Grade only |
| • 3/2 | KVL Band Festival @ LMS Auditorium | All Bands |
| • 3/7 | Beginning Band concert @ LMS Auditorium | 6 th and 7 th Grade only |
| • 3/9 | 8 th Grade Band concert @ LMS Auditorium | 8 th Grade only |
| • 5/10 | Fine Arts Fair @ LMS | All Bands |

Concerts are a required part of the band grade. If your student is absent from a concert, they will only be allowed to make up the points if the absence was excused. Excused absences include but are not limited to:

- Illness
- Family emergency
- Other unforeseen circumstances that are communicated to Mrs. Jones

Unexcused absences from concerts include but are not limited to:

- Homework
- Sports practices
- Not wanting to come

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Kansas State Music Standard 2: Performing

Pr. 5.6.b: Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for venue and purpose.

Pr. 5.7.b: Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, and context.

Pr. 5.8.b: Demonstrate performance decorum (such as stage presence, attire, and behavior) and audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, context, and style.

Lansing Middle School Band students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge and practice of these standards through their attendance at our concerts. Their concert grade will reflect not only their attendance and participation in playing but also their behavior as audience members.

Here are a few things to speak with your students about regarding proper concert etiquette:

1. Refrain from talking while the students are playing.
2. Refrain from unwrapping noisy wrappers or making other unnecessary noises during the performance.
3. Turn off or silence cell phones and refrain from using them while the concert is in progress.
4. Only leave the auditorium between numbers and not during the middle of a song.

Students are also expected to stay for the duration of the concert to receive full credit. We cannot observe the concert behavior described above and effectively assess their abilities with regards to this very important music state standard if they do not participate as an audience member. If you have a concern with this policy, please speak to Mrs. Jones prior to the concert.

Concert attire for our band students is the following:

- Black Dress pants
- Black Dress shoes/socks
- LMS Music Polo Shirt

We will place orders for new polo shirts early in the school year. These shirts are \$20 each. Please let us know if there is an issue with purchasing this shirt.

INSTRUMENT CHANGES

Many times, especially during the first year of playing, we get asked about switching to a different instrument. This is a very normal reaction to the difficulty of learning a new instrument. Our policy is that students stick with their first-choice instrument for at least one year and then we can discuss switching to something else if they are adamant about it. We don't want students to feel trapped on an instrument that they don't like but we also don't want to encourage giving up before they've really worked on it. If your student is having difficulty, please contact us and we will be happy to give you some tips on how to help them at home. Most of the time a little extra practice at home will make all the difference.

At the end of the year, we do discuss opportunities for students to branch out onto other, slightly more difficult instruments if they are interested. These instruments include Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Baritone and Tuba. We also give beginning band clarinets the opportunity to switch to Alto Saxophone if they meet the criteria.

PEP BAND AND JAZZ BAND

Any student who has been playing in band for at least one year is eligible to participate in the pep band and jazz band at LMS.

PEP BAND INFO:

- Students sign up to participate each season: Football, girls basketball, and boys basketball.
- If a student signs up they are expected to attend all practices and games during that season.
- Each game is worth 10 points of extra credit provided the student stays for the allotted game time.
- Dates and sign ups for these games will be posted prior to the season starting so students can plan ahead for their attendance.

JAZZ BAND INFO:

- Our Before School Jazz band begins in late October or early November and runs through the end of the school year.
- This group is open to any instrument, not just traditional jazz band instruments.
- Students must have at least one year of band experience to participate.
- Rehearsals will be held before school from 7:15-7:45 on Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday morning.
- Students may try jazz band for 2 rehearsals before they decide about whether they wish to participate. After the first week of rehearsals, they must decide and stick with it.
- Students who participate successfully will receive 50 points of extra credit each quarter.

****Students who are not doing well in their core classes may not be allowed to participate in pep band or jazz band. In those cases, I will conference with the student and let parents know before decisions are made. It is important that students continue to do well in their other classes before they commit to something outside of school.****

Pep band and jazz band are outside of school commitments that require the students to put in a little extra effort. I know this won't be something that every student wishes to do but I encourage all eligible students to at least try these activities.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are not required to take private lessons outside of school. However, students who wish to accelerate their progress are encouraged to find a local private instructor on their instrument with whom to study. Please contact Mrs. Jones or Mr. Vignery for a list of private instructors in the area. Students who take private lessons can receive extra credit points!

BAND BUDDIES PROGRAM

This program will be for students in our beginning band program who wish to be paired with one of our high school band students to learn more about music and their instrument. More information will be given out after the start of school.