

*Liberty Middle School Bands
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*Thomas Luke,
Director of Bands*



2023-2024

*Liberty Middle School Band
Hand Book and Syllabus*

CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS

Basic Guidelines

- Be respectful of yourself and others
- No food, drink, or gum in the band room at any time
- Be on time to class
- Be prepared (instrument, music, pencil)



Classroom & Rehearsal Procedures

1. Enter the classroom quietly.
2. Students will have **3 minutes** to assemble their instruments and be seated to begin class.
3. To be fully prepared for class, students must have their instrument (in its entirety), a pencil, their band folder with method book, band handouts, and sheet music.
4. Read the whiteboard for Agenda items.
5. Here are the basic guidelines for a successful rehearsal:
 - (a) **Always** pay attention to the director
 - (b) **Always** exhibit proper posture: sit up straight - on the front part of your chair, both feet on floor
 - (c) **Always** exhibit proper hand position for your instrument
 - (d) **Always** have a pencil in class to mark music or complete assignments as instructed by the director
 - (e) Check the level of your music stand - the director needs to see your eyes at all times
 - (f) When director's hands are up, instrument is in PLAYING position. When director's hands are down, instrument is down in REST position.
 - (g) When the director is working with a particular student or section, everyone else is required to engage in silent practice on a part in the music that needs their attention
 - (h) Play instrument only when directed. Stop or cut off AS SOON AS THE DIRECTOR STOPS. When the director stops, **LISTEN** for instructions!
 - (i) When you need to ask a question, raise your hand and wait to be called upon before speaking.
 - (j) Have a positive attitude!

Behavior

In addition to high standards for musical excellence in band, we strive for excellence in our conduct as well. Students are encouraged to follow the guidelines and procedures outlined above, which will enable them to enjoy a very productive, positive, and fun year in band. We realize that some days are more difficult than others, so Liberty Middle School has a plan in place to help insure continued progress, not only for the individual student, but for the entire class.

School is a place to learn many skills, so we all can work together to create a positive learning environment for everyone. Proper interaction with peers and adults is an important skill which can positively influence a student's achievement in every class.

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BAND SYLLABUS

Rehearsals and Performance Attendance

As a major part of the Standards for teaching music through performing, responding, connecting, and creating ALL band students enrolled in band must participate and perform in the Winter Concert and Spring Concert. This is to convert the classroom instruction into real life experiences.

- Students are expected to attend all band rehearsals punctually.
- Students will be given ample advanced notice for after-school sectionals or rehearsals, and attendance is mandatory.
- Performances are culminating activities for work done on a daily basis, and it is mandatory for all students to attend. Parents must notify the band director of illnesses or emergencies. **Students not attending and participating in rehearsals and performances without communication from parents will receive a zero.**
- **No electronics during rehearsal unless being used for teacher lead instructional purposes. There will be a no tolerance policy with this. If electronics are used without permission they will be taken!**

Performing Ensembles

Concert Band

7th and 8th grade band students. There will be 1 rehearsal after school from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Performances will be the Winter Concert, Pre-LGPE, LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation), Spring Concert and Band Competition at the Star Music Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

Symphonic Band

7th and 8th grade band students who have successfully passed the audition for the Symphonic Band. There will be 2 rehearsals after school from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Performances will be the Winter Concert, Pre-LGPE, LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation), Spring Concert and Band Competition at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Marching Band

Participation is open to 7th and 8th grade band students. There will be 2 rehearsals after school from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Performances will be on the Front Court of the Atlanta Hawks at Phillips Arena, a halftime performance with the Georgia Swarm Professional Lacrosse Team at the Infinite Arena, as well as playing for home football games here at Liberty.

Jazz Ensemble

Participation is open to 7th and 8th grade band students. Rehearsal to be announced after school from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Performances will be the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert.

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Concert Attire

1. 6th Grade Band

- All band members wear long-sleeved white shirt, black slacks, dark socks, dark shoes (no tennis shoes and no jeans)

2. Symphonic Band and Concert Bands

- **Ladies:** Black dress slacks (no skirts please), long-sleeved white dress shirt free from writing or designs, black socks or panty hose and black shoes (no tennis shoes, no leggings).
- **Gentlemen:** Black dress pants (no jeans), long-sleeved white dress shirt free from writing or designs, black socks and black shoes (no tennis shoes).



*****All band members will need a band t-shirt for the Spring Concert*****

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GRADING POLICY

Student success in Band is dependent on a variety of factors. For this reason, a student's grade is NOT based solely upon his/her performing ability. Mr. Luke will evaluate these factors as listed below, in order to assess each student. All parents have the ability to check their child's grade through the Newton County grading system, Infinite Campus.

Objectives/ Curriculum Standards

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Reading and notating music
4. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
5. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Classroom Participation (40%)

- Students are required to be prepared, attentive and cooperative in daily rehearsals. Concentration level should be extremely high while playing and talking should occur only at the appropriate times. Music instructions should be clearly understood and implemented immediately.
- Instruments, method books should be brought to class to receive 100 points for participation. Students without their instruments will receive 0 for participation.
- *If a student's instrument is in the repair shop, I must have a signed note from a parent/guardian.*

Performance Evaluation (40%)

- Public performances and Rehearsals

Practice Records & Quizzes (30%)

Smart Music Technology

