

Lake Shore Central School District

Lake Shore Middle School

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Handbook

2020-2021

*****(Please note, there are many changes for this year)*****

Mrs. Kenny, 6th & 8th Grade Band Director

Mr. Kresse, 7th Grade Band Director



“If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music.”

— Albert Einstein

LAKE SHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

Dear Music Student and Parents,

Welcome to Band at Lake Shore Middle School! We are very excited to have the opportunity to work with you and your musician this year. While we know this will be a year unlike any other, we are certain that the opportunity to create, perform and grow through music will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

In this handbook you will find policies, procedures and other important information regarding the band program. Please take the time to read this material carefully, as this year will be very different than previous years.

Please complete the handbook agreement virtually by October 2, 2020. The link to the agreement can be found via our website or in our google classrooms. We will be communicating through email, phone and google classrooms. Please make sure to provide us with updated contact information.

Once again, welcome to the program. This will no doubt be an exciting and wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Kenny

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Mr. John Kresse

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Philosophy of Music

Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student's development. The Lake Shore Middle School Music Department stresses the advancement of the student's abilities to function both in the large group and small ensemble setting. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, affectively and physically. It provides a basis for emotional expression, intrinsic worth and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

Rehearsal Schedule Information

For 2020-2021. Participation in Band at Lake Shore Middle School includes rehearsals every other WEEK as well as small group lessons. Due to limited space during the construction project, groups will be no larger than 12 students at a time.

6th Grade Band-Students will attend 1 rehearsal every two weeks, in a small, physically distanced group.. This will be held during 4th period (the band period). The rotation and day assignment will be determined by the teacher. The schedule for these rehearsals will be shared with the students, their homebase teacher, in the google classroom and via morning announcements. On the days students are not in band, they will be scheduled for chorus or homebase.

7th Grade Band- Students will attend 1 rehearsal every two weeks, in a small, physically distanced group. This will be held during 8th period (the band period). The rotation and day assignment will be determined by the teacher. The schedule for these rehearsals will be shared with the students, their homebase teacher, in the google classroom and via morning announcements. On the days students are not in band, they will be scheduled for chorus, homebase, AIS or lab.

8th Grade Band-Students will attend 1 rehearsal every two weeks, in a small, physically distanced group. This will be held during 9th period (the band period). The rotation and day assignment will be determined by the teacher. The schedule for these rehearsals will be shared with the students, their homebase teacher, in the google classroom and via morning announcements. On the days students are not in band, they will be scheduled for chorus, homebase, AIS or lab.

- Band will be in person but students will be spaced 12ft apart in all directions.
- Each student will be scheduled for a weekly lesson.
- Lessons will be held virtually on a set day each week, for 30 minutes, on days that the student is not in attendance in the building.
- For anyone that does not have access to technology, or requires an in person lesson, we are able to accommodate those as well.
- Remote Learners will attend a weekly rehearsal or lesson.

Band Rehearsal Procedures

The success of the Band depends on the active and appropriate participation of each individual musician. Below are some guidelines that the students will be expected to follow to ensure that everyone has a positive and educational experience. Students who choose to not follow the guidelines and procedures will have consequences given for their actions, such as office referrals or detention. All students in LSMS 6th, 7th & 8th grade Bands will:

1. Not have gum, food or drink in the classroom at any time
2. Wear a mask during rehearsals when not playing.
3. Be respectful to all adults and students at all times
4. Use appropriate language and gestures
5. Follow directions of all adults
6. Keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.
7. Not speak while the conductor is on the podium
8. Be in attendance for every band rehearsal. If a child is absent from school on the day of a rehearsal, they will be excused. Since rehearsals will only be occurring once every two weeks, we are working with the team teachers and students to ensure that everyone knows when they need to be here!
9. Do their work everyday to the best of their ability

Instructional Lessons

All band members receive a periodic group lesson. Band students will have their lessons once a week, on a set day, for 30 minutes. Lesson groups are small in size, averaging four to eight students per group.

Lessons will be held virtually this year in order to minimize disruption to in person learning on days when students are in attendance. Schedules will be posted in the google classrooms, outside the band room, in many classrooms, hallways and distributed to each student. Students will be given a google classroom assignment for their corresponding lesson. Students will be expected to be in attendance for their virtual lesson, but make up opportunities will be available should a student miss. We will work with those students to assist in making up the work.

Students will have the opportunity to make up missed lessons during 10th period, either in person or remotely. Make-up lessons will take the place of the lesson for credit. If a lesson is cancelled due to teacher absence, weather related cancellations, school holidays or field trips, students will not be responsible for making up that lesson.

Concert Attendance

***For 2020-2021. At this time, we do not have in person concerts scheduled on the calendar. We will be working on virtual performance opportunities as the year progresses. If we reach a time that we are able to hold an in person performance, we will communicate with families ASAP. The following information is provided for circumstances that would allow for an in person performance.

Nearly all performance dates are announced at the beginning of the school year. They can be found on the district calendar, middle school web-site and in this handbook. Should any additional performances be scheduled, students will be given as much advance notice as possible. Band is a team that is affected significantly by an individual absence at a performance.

Students will only be excused from concerts in cases of genuine emergency, such as serious illness of the student or death in the family. Students should notify Mr. Kresse or Mrs. Kenny in writing in the event of such emergency.

Grading Policy for Band and Lessons

Each student will be given a copy of the Band grading policy to keep in their folders at all times. They will be encouraged to review this accordingly. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to visit the Parent Portal of Power School (which is updated weekly by your teacher) to check grades and see if students are missing any lessons. Please review the attached grading policy with your child.

LSMS 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Bands
Grading Policy
2020-2021

Your grade for band will consist of two parts. One component is your rehearsal grade and the other is your lesson grade. Listed below is a breakdown of how your grade is computed each quarter. Please keep this paper in your folder **throughout the year** and reference it if you have any questions about your grade.

1 Rehearsal Grade over a two week rotation-100 points

These grades are compiled through teacher assessment and student attendance

Criteria for the grade:

- on time for rehearsal (set up and ready to play)-20 points
- prepared with all materials (instrument, folder, pencil)-20 points
- actively participating in the rehearsal-20 points
- demonstrating good behavior and character-20 points
- following school and band expectations-20 points

**Please note: If a student is absent from school on a rehearsal day, they will be excused from the rehearsal.

Lesson Grade-each worth 100 points

Criteria for the grade:

Each of the following categories are worth 20 points each lesson:

- on time and prepared for the lesson with all materials
- practice and study of assignments is evident
- scales and sight reading
- method book work and supplemental literature (solos/small ensembles)
- demonstrating good behavior by showing good character and following school and band expectations

**Please note: An absence from a lesson will result in no grade initially for the student.. Students will have the opportunity to make up missed lessons during 10th period on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday either in person or remotely. Make-up lessons will count as a full grade for a missed lesson. If a lesson is cancelled due to teacher absence, weather related cancellations, school holidays or field trips, students will not be responsible for making up that lesson.

Miscellaneous Assignments-each worth 10 points

From time to time, students may be given additional assignments that may include, but are not limited to; practice logs, scale tests, written exams, band music checks and research projects. These do not occur often and are very brief yet enjoyable ways to expand musical growth.

Playing Exams

***For 2020-2021. Playing Exams will not be held this year due to the circumstances surrounding the school year.

Each student will be given a playing exam at the end of the fourth quarter. We will spend a significant amount of time preparing for the exam in the weeks leading up to it. Each student will be given a small etude or solo to prepare, along with scales and sight-reading examples. Students will receive additional information for the exam at the end of the third quarter.

Extra Credit

***For 2020-2021. At this time, none of the below festivals are occurring. However, Erie County Music Educators Association and NYSSMA are working out virtual opportunities for possible remote festivals next year. Jazz Band is currently on hold for this year. The following information is provided in the event these activities can resume.

Several opportunities for extra credit are available for students throughout the year. Participation in the ECMEA Solo Festival, NYSSMA Solo Festival, ECMEA All County Festival, NYSSMA Area All State Festival and LSMS Jazz Band will all be given extra credit consideration. **Participation in any and all of these events is highly encouraged!** In addition, students may speak to their teacher about creating extra credit opportunities such as research reports, extra concert attendance or service projects.

Jazz Band

***For 2020-2021. Jazz Band is on hold for school year. If we are able to create a remote experience, we will notify students and families.

Practice

Band students should be prepared to devote a minimum of twenty minutes a day, five days a week to individual practice. The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice.

There will be many times during any week when more than twenty minutes can be devoted to practice and also when less than twenty minutes are available. The key is to set aside a certain time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to ensure that practice is an important part of your daily studies.

Private Lessons

A list of private lesson teachers can be provided upon request. Students are encouraged to take private lessons because they offer one-on-one, individualized instruction with a specialist.

Preparation

Being prepared for rehearsals and lessons means that students have brought all necessary instruments, equipment and music as well as spent the appropriate time at home becoming familiar with the music. Assignments given each week should be considered similarly to homework. A good, established routine will help ensure continued growth and success.

Instruments, Books and Supplies

Each student is responsible for getting his or her own instrument. Nearly all of the local music stores offer rental and lease programs. Students who have been renting and may be interested in purchasing an instrument should speak with their teacher.

All students are required to have an instrument case tag. This tag should include the name of the student and contact information. It will be very difficult to assist a student in finding an instrument if it becomes lost or misplaced and is not labeled.

Students will be assigned a school-owned folder to hold all music. Folders are the property of the school, and should be treated with care. Damaged or lost folders will be replaced at the student's expense.

Students who play French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone and Bari Saxophone will be issued a school instrument. Please make sure you and your child review the school rental contract for the instrument and return it to your teacher by October 2, 2020.

*****Caution***** Many poor quality musical instruments have become easily available to parents and students. These unbelievably affordable instruments demonstrate a clear example of “you get what you pay for.” They are cheap not only in price, but in quality as well. They are not manufactured by reputable music companies and are not built using appropriate or quality materials. They are almost always out of tune and break frequently. Many repair shops will not repair these instruments, due to a lack of parts and the instrument's inability to withstand normal repair procedures. Please consult with your teacher before purchasing an instrument. They will be happy to guide you in the right direction and provide you affordable, appropriate instrument purchase options.

Instruments, Books and Supplies continued

All students are required to have Measures of Success Book 1 and/or 2 for their respective instruments. Percussionists should also have a Breeze Easy book for snare drum.

Eighth grade students will be required to have Belwin Student Series Book 2 after completing the book series used in 7th grade. Students will receive a copy of the Belwin book from Mrs. Kenny at no charge but will be expected to replace the book if it is lost or damaged. Eighth grade percussion students will move into the Alfred Percussion Book when Breeze Easy is completed.

Students will be required to have a pencil and a notebook in their band folder at all times. These are considered required materials, along with their instrument, folder, music and book. Students are also strongly encouraged to have a metronome and a tuner to use for their home practice.

Required Supplies by Instrument:

Flute: cleaning rod, 10" x 10" square of lightweight cloth for cleaning the inside of the instrument (cotton flannel works the best)

Oboe & Bassoon: cleaning swab, 2 or 3 Leshler brand medium or medium soft reeds, small container for water

Clarinet & Bass Clarinet: cleaning swab, cork grease, extra reeds (Mitchell Lurie size 2.5 or 3), reed case, thumb-rest cushion

Alto, Tenor and Baritone Saxophone: cleaning swab, cork grease, extra reeds (Rico Royal size 2.5 or 3), reed case. Please make sure there is a neck strap with your instrument

Trumpet, Baritone and Tuba: valve oil, tuning slide grease

French Horn: rotor oil, tuning slide grease

Trombone: Trombotine slide cream, tuning slide grease, small spray bottle for water

Percussion: 5B wood tip, Pro Mark or Vic Firth sticks or Vic Firth SD General sticks, stick/mallet bag, practice pad and various other sticks and mallets that will be discussed throughout the year

Many of these items are available for purchase from your teacher, the LSMS Bookstore and local music vendors. Please check with the appropriate source for price.

Care & Maintenance of Instruments

Each student should know the proper care and maintenance of their instrument. This will be routinely discussed in their lessons. Instruments are very fragile and should be treated as such. In addition, routine cleanings should be performed on the instrument. Please make sure your child knows the proper way to clean their instrument, as taught by Mrs. Kenny.

Please do not attempt to repair ANY instrument on your own. Your child should bring the instrument to your teacher if there is anything wrong with it and they will either fix the instrument correctly or advise the student what the next steps to be taken are. Instrument repairs are very easy to do incorrectly and we want to ensure all instruments stay in their best working condition.

Concert Dress

***For 2020-2021. At this time, we do not have any performances scheduled. The following information is included should those opportunities become available later this year.

Students are required to wear black bottoms and white tops for each performance. Specifics are listed below.

Ladies: White shirt, black pants or skirt (longer than knee length), nice black shoes

Gentlemen: White collared dress shirt, necktie, black pants, black socks, black shoes. For the Winter Concert, students may wear seasonally appropriate neckties if they would like.

For some additional performances, such as the Kaleidoscope concert, Darien Lake or some community performances, students will be asked to wear black bottoms (shorts are acceptable), a LSMS Music Department t-shirt (which all band students purchased last year) and clean, comfortable footwear. There will be an order in January going out for t-shirts if your child has outgrown or needs to replace their shirt.

Please contact your teacher if you have any questions or concerns in regards to concert attire.

“This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.” -Leonard Bernstein

*****Concert Dates for LSMS 2020-2021*****

These will be shared with students and families ASAP should performance opportunities arise this year.

LAKE SHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band

Band contract for the 2020-2021 School Year

Parents & students must complete the agreement that was sent home with your child by Friday, October 2, 2020

Please contact your child's teacher with any questions or if you would like a hard copy of the agreement.

*****Please complete the agreement by Friday October 2, 2020*****

This may be done virtually (link available via our websites and google classrooms) or you may send the paper copy back in.

"Music can change the world because it can change people."-Bono

2020-2021 Handbook Check Off List

Group (please circle): Sixth/Seventh/Eighth Grade Band

Student Name: _____

Please **initial** the following checklist while you are reviewing the band handbook. This completed form is due by Friday, October 2nd.

1. ___ We have read the music handbook.
2. ___ We understand the new policies regarding physical distancing, safe rehearsals, lessons, and Google Classroom use.
3. ___ We understand the grading policy.
4. ___ We understand all of the required materials and supplies needed to participate in Band.
5. ___ We know where to find a copy of the music handbook and how to reference the information at a later date.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent Phone Number(s): _____

I, as a student member of a Lake Shore Middle School Band, have read, understood, and agree to abide by the foregoing policy.

Student Signature _____ Date _____