

Lake Shore Central School District

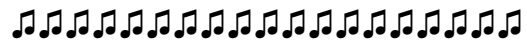
Lake Shore Middle School

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Handbook

2019-2020

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 have a very exciting year planned with many musical events scheduled!

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 the success of our band depends upon each individual working toward the same goal.

Please complete the handbook agreement and return to your child's teacher by Friday, September 27, 2019.

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 basis for emotional expression, intrinsic worth and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

General Information

Participation in Band at Lake Shore Middle School includes rehearsals every other day as well as small group lessons. Band rehearsals will be conducted on days 2, 4 & 6 for 7th grade and days 1, 3 & 5 for 6th and 8th grade. 6th grade Band will meet during 4th period. 7th grade band meets during 8th period and 8th grade Band will meet during 9th period. In addition, each student will be scheduled for a lesson with a small group of individuals who are in a similar place of study. Lessons will be scheduled on a rotating basis.

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 auditorium at any time
2. Be respectful to all adults and students at all times
3. Use appropriate language and gestures
4. Follow directions of all adults
5. Keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.
6. Not speak while the conductor is on the podium
7. Be in attendance for every band rehearsal. If a child is absent from school on the day of a rehearsal, they will be excused. If a student is truant from a rehearsal, they will be written up and referred to the Main Office.
8. 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 on a 6 day rotating scheduling. Lesson groups are small in size, averaging four to eight students per group.

Lessons are given on a rotating basis so that the student will not miss the same subject repeatedly. Schedules will be posted on the auditorium windows, in many classrooms, hallways and distributed to each student. It is the student's responsibility to know when their lesson is and to inform their teacher ahead of time. All work that is missed while at a lesson is to be made up for the following day.

If a student misses a lesson for any reason, it is his or her responsibility to communicate with Mr. Kresse or Mrs. Kenny regarding this absence and to schedule a make up lesson. An absence from a lesson will result in an initial grade of zero for the lesson. Students will have the opportunity to make up missed lessons during 10th period on Wednesday and Thursday. Missed lessons must be made up within three weeks. Make-up lessons will turn a grade of zero for a missed lesson to a grade of excused. Students are limited to four make up lessons per quarter. It is to the student's advantage to attend the regularly scheduled lesson times. If a student is in a circumstance which would warrant more than four make ups in a quarter, please contact your child's teacher. 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

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.

Students who are absent from a concert without an excuse will have 34 points deducted from their average for band for the corresponding quarter.

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
2019-2020

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.

3 Rehearsal Grades over a 6 day building rotation-each worth 25 points-these grades are compiled through teacher assessment and periodic student assessments

Criteria for the grade:

- on time for rehearsal (set up and ready to play)-5 points
- prepared with all materials (instrument, folder, pencil)-5 points
- actively participating in the rehearsal-5 points
- demonstrating good behavior and character-5 points
- following school and band expectations-5 points

****Please note:** If a student is absent from school on a rehearsal day, they will be excused from the rehearsal. If a student is truant from class (rehearsal), they will receive a grade of zero.

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 an initial grade of zero for the lesson. Students will have the opportunity to make up missed lessons during 10th period on Wednesday and Thursday. Missed lessons must be made up within three weeks. Make-up lessons will turn a grade of zero for a missed lesson to a grade of excused. Students are limited to four make up lessons per quarter. It is to the student's advantage to attend the regularly scheduled lesson times. If a student is in a circumstance which would warrant more than four make ups in a quarter, please contact your child's teacher. 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, research projects and concert reflections.

Remember, if you miss a concert 34 points will be deducted from the grade for band for that quarter (unless it is an EXTREME emergency and a note is brought to your teacher immediately upon return to

school).

Playing Exams

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

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

Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble that meets after school on Tuesday's during 10th period. The group is open to students in grades 6, 7 & 8 and performs in a number of concerts throughout the year.

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. Students may also make arrangements with their teacher to stay after school, come during lunch or during a free period in the day for purposes of practice.

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 homework for Band and will be graded as such.

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 September 27, 2019.

*****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

Sixth and seventh grade 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

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 2019-2020

Required performances are in bold

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Nov. 1, 2	Jr. High Area All-State (<i>grades 7-9</i>)	TBA	Akron HS
Dec. 3	Middle School- 7th & 8th	7:00 pm	Middle School
Dec. 18	Middle School - 6th Grade	7:00 pm	Middle School
<i>**Dec. 19</i>	<i>Snow Day Reschedule (if needed)</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Jan. 11	ECMEA Elem., Jazz, JH Vocal Solo Fest	TBA	Depew MS/HS
Jan. 18	ECMEA JH Instrumental Solo Fest	TBA	Orch. Park HS
Feb. 27-29	Middle School Musical	7:00 pm	Middle School
March 4	Secondary Band Concert	7:00pm	High School
March 7	ECMEA Elem. Rehearsal	TBA	Sweet Home
March 11, 13, 14	ECMEA Elem. Reh. & Concert	TBA	Kleinhans
March 13-14	ECMEA Jazz Reh. & Concert	TBA	Cheektowaga HS
March 20-21	ECMEA JH Rehearsal & Concert	TBA	TBA
March 31	Secondary Choral Concert	7:00 pm	Senior High
April 21	Elementary Recruitment Assemble	TBA (day time)	Middle School
Apr. 27	District Jazz Concert	7:00 pm	Senior High
May TBA	Darien Lake Music Festival	DAY	Darien Lake
May, TBA	NYSSMA Solo Auditions	TBA	
<i>Festival dates and locations will be decided upon by each teacher for their program.</i>			
May, TBA	NYSSMA Major Organizations Festival	DAY	TBA
<i>Festival dates and locations will be decided upon by each teacher for their program.</i>			
May 20	Middle School Spring I – Chorus	7:00 pm	Middle School
May 27	Middle School Spring II - Band and Orchestra	7:00 pm	Middle School

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

Band contract for the 2019-2020 School Year

Parents & students must complete the agreement that was sent home with your child by Friday, September 27, 2019

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 September 27, 2019*****

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

2019-2020 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, September 27th.

1. ___ I know how to contact my teacher (pg. 2).
2. ___ I understand how grading works for band and what the expectations are for practice (pg.4-6).
3. ___ I understand the Weekly Band and Lesson Requirements (pg.4-6).
4. ___ My student has all of their supplies including; instrument care items, music books, pencils, reeds, percussion sticks/mallets etc. (p.7-9).
5. ___ I understand what is needed for my concert attire/dress (pg.9).
6. ___ I know when our performance/rehearsal dates are (pg. 10) and I have written them on our calendar and input to my phone calendar.
7. ___ I know where to find a copy of this handbook in the case that I need to access this information at a later date. (Teacher webpage) I as parent/guardian, have read and understood the policies of the Lake Shore Middle School Bands and agree to support my child in this endeavor.

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 _____