

Lakes Community High School  
Instrumental Music  
Student Handbook  
2011/12



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## National Standards for Music Education

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. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
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.

## D117 PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Young people should have an education that gives them the opportunity for a wide variety of learning experiences. Music provides a unique avenue to the imaginative and affective aspects of life and their contribution to our cultural heritage.

Young people play, sing, move, compose, and listen to music through participation in the music program. They have active musical experiences of both an individual and shared nature under expert guidance. Their lives and the life of the community will be enriched by their participation.

As music educators at D117, we strive to do the following:

- Nurture an enjoyment and understanding of music, which will enrich the quality of life.
- Help students realize their potential by providing opportunities for creativity and expression of feelings and ideas through music.
- Develop individual musical interests and skills that will allow participation in music making throughout life and which may lead to a career in music.
- Expand knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of different kinds of music to cultivate discriminating consumers.

Offer varied musical experiences through which students may become acquainted with other art forms and cultures.

## **Classroom Guidelines**

These simple guidelines will help ensure our success through productive rehearsals:

You must be in the room before the bell rings, at this time get your folder and instrument. Warm-up at your seat until the director is on the podium. At this time give your attention to the front of the room.

You are responsible for your instrument, folder and music everyday. Keep a rehearsal pencil in your folder at all times, and use it to make appropriate marks in the music. At the end of rehearsal, return your folder to the proper slot. If "it" is not yours, leave "it" alone.

Food and drink are not allowed during rehearsal and practice rooms. All other food related situations will be handled on a case by case basis.

Respect the opinions and ability levels of others. The ensemble and director function as a team. All members of the team need to be respectful of each other and of the process of creating music.

Perform at your best every day.

**Our ensemble is only as good as our rehearsals!!!**

**THUS.....**

**Excellence is not a mistake...  
it is a habit.**

**The superior man is modest in speech,  
but exceeds in his actions.  
Confucius**

**What lies behind us and what lies before us  
are tiny matters compared to lies within us.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Grading Policy

$\begin{aligned} \text{Semester Grade} = & \\ & \text{School Day Rehearsal Participation (25\%)} + \text{Participation at Rehearsals and} \\ & \text{Performances Outside of the School Day (25\%)} + \text{Playing Tests (20\%)} \\ & + \text{Assignments (20\%)} + \text{Final (10\%)} \end{aligned}$
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### ***School Day Rehearsal Participation (25%):***

This section encompasses rehearsals during the school day and is graded on a weekly basis. The participation grade is an assessment of a student's rehearsal and performance preparations, skills and contributions. This grade is based on the following criteria: a) punctuality, b) instrument, equipment, and music care, c) individual preparation prior to rehearsal, d) posture and hand position, e) self-discipline and professionalism, f) effort and contribution, g) attentiveness to deadlines and procedures, h) achievement of rehearsal objectives, and i) individual practice skills. Students who display perfect decorum for the entire week will receive an A for that week. Students will lose a letter grade for each instance of imperfect decorum (talking at the wrong time, poor posture, missing materials/pencil, etc). Students with poor participation will have a conference with the director and their parents.

### ***Participation at Rehearsals and Performances Outside of the School Day (25%):***

This section encompasses rehearsals and performances outside the school day. Each rehearsal and performance receives a letter grade which is based on the same criteria as above.

### ***Playing Tests (20%):***

This involves live or recorded performances. Assessment will be based on tone, intonation, pitch, rhythm, articulation, dynamics, phrasing, and attention to musical nuance, music preparation and individual practice skills.

### ***Assignments (20%):***

Any assignment that is not a rehearsal, concert, or playing test falls in this category.

***Patron of the Arts*** ~ To receive Patron of the Arts credit, each student must attend one artistic event per semester in which he/she does not perform and fill out the Patron of the Arts Concert Review worksheet. It is recommended that this critique should be filled out and handed in within two weeks of the performance attendance. Multiple patron of the art assignments can be turned in for extra credit.

***Alfred's Music Theory*** ~ These computer-based assignments must be completed by stated deadlines. Students may complete the assignment as many times as they wish to get a higher score. Students who score a 85% or higher receive full credit.

### ***Semester Final (10%)***

The semester final will consist of a multiple choice scantron test, a written review of a recent performance and a playing test. All of which are combined to count for 10% of the final semester grade.

**Late Work...Late assignments will be evaluated, but will not receive any credit.**

All work is due at the beginning of the specified period.

## **Co-Curricular Opportunities**

### **Jazz Band**

Students enrolled in a music class may participate in Jazz Band. This select ensemble will meet outside the school day. Regular attendance at these rehearsals is fundamental to playing for concerts and other events. Jazz Band will perform at all concerts throughout the year and attend various competitions, festivals, and community based events.

### **IMEA District and State Festivals**

L.C.H.S. music students may participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association District and State Honor Band auditions. Students audition in October with other student musicians from the suburban area for placement in the district level ensembles. Students who score exceptionally well in these auditions are invited to participate in the All-State groups at the IMEA Convention at Peoria, IL in January. If interested in participating, see your director.

### **Solo and Ensemble Contests**

L.C.H.S. music students are encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Contest in March of each year. These are competitive contests where students will be rated against a set of specific criteria, along with other students in the suburban area. Details will be distributed to students before the winter break. Teacher recommendation and performance at the Solo and Ensemble Recital are required for participation in these events.

## **Other Information**

### **Uniform Policies**

Each student participating in band at Lakes Community High School is expected to adhere strictly to our uniform code.

Band members will be issued two uniforms. The marching band uniform will consist of bib pants, jacket, black marching shoes, black socks, white gloves, silver helmet and red, black or white plume. The concert attire will be a gown with pearls for ladies and a tuxedo with bowtie, studs and cuff-links for men.

Uniforms will be kept at school, unless the group is performing off school property. A uniform check-out sheet will be filled out at the time of issuing each students uniform. This document is a "rental" contract between the student and the school.

Any damage outside the realm of normal wear and tear will be the financial responsibility of the student. Uniforms will be cleaned annually at no cost to the student.

Remember, anytime you are in uniform you represent L.C.H.S. Music Department. The highest level of behavior and respect for the uniform are the standard for our department.

### **Performance Code of Conduct**

As a member of the L.C.H.S. Band, you serve as an ambassador of Lakes Community High School. Any conduct which is not exemplary or which reflects poorly on Lakes Community High School will be dealt with according to the infraction and could result in dismissal from the group. We are one of the most visible organizations on campus, and it is expected that you will always behave like mature young adults. Let's make Lakes Community High School proud!

### **Use of Facilities**

Please take care of our space! As you know we are in a state-of-the-art music facility. Treat it that way. There are wastebaskets available for student use. Remember that food and drink of any kind are not allowed in the band room or practice rooms, and that gum chewing is also prohibited. Since we are privileged to learn in such outstanding facilities, it is our responsibility to be good caretakers of our space by taking pride in the appearance of our facilities at all times.

### **College Information**

From time to time, many students inquire about music programs and musical opportunities at various U.S. colleges. Students should always feel free to ask a director for information. In addition, seniors may request college recommendations at any time from Mr. Kastor.

### **Web Page/Event Calendar**

Make it a habit to check the Band Webpage. This Handbook is also posted on the page. Additionally, the events calendar can be found via a link on the Band Webpage. Be sure you are clear about the important dates for you.

### **In conclusion...**

Please be in touch with any questions you may have. The educational setting only works to its highest potential when the student, parent and teacher work together in a triangle of success. Subsequently, communication is the key to our success as we take this journey together.

### **One last thought....**

The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than facts, the past, education, money, circumstances, failures, success, and what other people think, say or do. Attitude will make or break a company...a home...a school...or any other group. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...with us...we are in charge of our attitudes!!

Charles Swindoll

