

Lamar Middle School Band

M. B. Lamar Middle School
4000 Timbercreek Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028
972-350-2068

Band Handbook
2015-2016

Lewisville Independent School District

Alan Hanna - Director
Joshua Duermeyer - Associate Director



www.lamarmsband.org

Forward

Today, more than ever, educators and taxpayers examine the worthiness of every course in the curriculum. Does it fulfill the objectives of education?

The Lewisville Independent School District recognizes that education should be more than just a means for preparing for a career. The emphasis that has been invested in the arts, and specifically the band programs show the appreciation and importance that music holds for the students of the district.

Music is the most widely used art. Almost everyone listens to music on television, radio, movies or recordings. Central to the appreciation and understanding of music is music performance. The student who has learned to play an instrument will always enjoy music more than if he/she had not. A good band will perform superior and challenging music in order to give its members a worthwhile musical foundation.

The band's purpose is not only to serve the school and community through marching in parades and playing at football games, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit, but also to furnish the student with an invaluable experience. The disciplines of a good band are similar to those acquired in athletics. Both develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects. The band is no haven for a lazy student. It demands and develops concentration essential to success in any subject or endeavor.

Band performance also promotes good health. One pediatrician has said, "If I had my way, all boys and girls would be required to play a wind instrument." One must not forget that superior bands help to develop character, good behavior, and provides students with an ideal outlet for their energies. The band gives students a place "to hang their hat." Everybody needs something of this kind for good mental health and happiness.

In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, one also belongs to band because it is fun. There is a genuine exhilaration in making music, in playing a beautiful concert, in being part of a thrilling half-time football show, in leading a parade down Main Street, and in being able to wear a uniform of a band. Astronaut John Glenn was in the band. Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, was a euphonium player. President Reagan was the Drum Major of his high school band, and President Clinton, a saxophone player, was a member of the Arkansas All-State Band for three years. David Robinson, NBA great for the San Antonio Spurs, attributes much of his mental quickness and coordination to the study of the keyboard and saxophone. An amazingly high percent of American scientists and people of note have played in a band.

The band directors at Lamar Middle School look forward to preparing your child for a more enriched and fulfilled life. Congratulations to you for giving your child the opportunity to play in the band!

2015-2016 Lamar Band Handbook

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About the Directors

Alan Hanna is starting his thirteenth year as director of the Lamar Middle School Band in Flower Mound, Texas. Mr. Hanna moved to Lamar from Frisco, Texas where he was director of bands at Pioneer Heritage Middle School. Mr. Hanna began teaching eighteen years ago after graduating with a Bachelor of Music Education degree from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. He began teaching as the assistant band director at Midland Lee High School with four additional years as the band director at Goddard Junior High in Midland. His bands have received superior ratings at both UIL Contests and Festivals and have been selected to the final round of the Texas Music Educators Association State Honor Band Competition twice. He has served as guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator across the State of Texas. Mr. Hanna is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmaster Fraternity. Mr. Hanna's love for music began at a young age. His mother, Shirley, was his elementary music teacher, and his father, Donald, was his high school band director. His sister, Kimberley Hanna, is an oboist and also a band director at Loflin, Joshua ISD. Mr. Hanna plays the trumpet and has participated in practically all facets of instrumental performance, including Drum Corps International, rhythm and blues bands and symphony orchestra. He was a member of the internationally recognized blues band Kay Kay and the Rays. Mr. Hanna is married to Shari, and the proud father of five year old Jack.

Joshua Duermeyer is entering his third year at Lamar Middle School. Prior to his opportunity at Lamar, Mr. Duermeyer taught for three years at Warren Middle School in Forney ISD. While at Warren, Mr. Duermeyer took the symphonic band to its first superior ratings, and first ever best-in-class award during the competitive season. Mr. Duermeyer received his Masters of Music degree from the University of Florida, and also holds his Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University. While attending TCU and UF, Mr. Duermeyer was the principal clarinetist for the Wind Symphony and Orchestra at both schools, while performing for numerous orchestral groups throughout Texas and Florida. Since 2005, Mr. Duermeyer has worked as a Recording engineer for DBP Audio, recording bands and orchestras in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Mr. Duermeyer has had the pleasure to study clarinet and saxophone with Jerry Hull, Mark Dooly, Gary Whitman, and Mitchell Estrin. Prior to teaching in at Lamar and Warren, Mr. Duermeyer taught privately in Birdville ISD.

2015-2016 Schedule of Band Classes

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>
0	7:00-8:00	Symphonic & Concert Band Sectionals
1/11	8:45-9:25	Percussion, Double Reeds & Cornet
2/12	9:30-10:10	French Horn & Clarinet
3/4	10:15-11:50	Concert Band (A-Day)
13/14	10:20-11:50	Symphonic Band (B-Day)
Lunch	11:55-12:25	Lunch
5/15	12:30-1:10	Saxophone & Trombone
6/16	1:15-1:55	Euphonium, Tuba, & Flute
Activity	2:00-2:30	Activity Period
7/17	2:35-3:15	Planning Period
8/18	3:20-4:00	Conference

How to Contact the Band Staff

With many students in the band program, the directors receive many calls and messages. Our goal is to respond to every message in a timely manner. Email is our preferred method of communication, and will usually allow for a faster response time from the directors.

You may e-mail us at the following address:

Mr. Hanna hannaa@lisd.net

Mr. Duermeyer duermeyerj@lisd.net

Mr. Wylie wyliek@lisd.net (Percussion)

Call during a conference time: We are not always near a phone during this time, but it is the best time to try to reach us. We may use conference time for an emergency trip to the music store and other band-related errands. In general, we are teaching every period of the school day. Mr. Hanna's and Mr. Duermeyer's conference is from 3:15-4:00. Sometimes it is possible to reach us during the 5 minute passing time between classes. Regardless of what time you call, you may always leave a message on our voice mail and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Lamar Band Office and Voice Mail: 972-350-2068

Lamar Main Office: 469-713-5966

Mr. Wylie's Voice Mail: 972-539-1591 ext. 16207

www.charmsoffice.com

Charms music is a secure web-based program that will assist the band directors and booster club in communicating, financing, and organization of the Lamar Band program. Please keep student and parent/guardian information up-to-date on this program, so you will not miss important emails and announcements.

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following login:
[lamarlonghornband](#)
- When you enter your child’s ID NUMBER, *LISD student ID number* (email duermeyerj@lisd.net if you forgot this number or if you want us to reset your password) another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student’s uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Enter your child’s ID FIRST – then you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the “keys.”
- Two areas in which you can help the director maintain his/her records:
 - **Student information form** – if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your child’s **student information page** (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively.
 - **Credit card payments for fees, trips and deposits to your student’s account.** If the director has created a **PayPal account** for the booster club or school activity account, you may pay for your child’s fees or trips easily with a credit card.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to **communicate** with each other.
- Throughout the coming school year there will be many times information about an upcoming contest, party, rehearsals, concerts, additions to the calendar or event will come home with your student. Checking their band binder for this information is an important way to keep you informed.
- Charms is a management system to help the directors and the booster club have a way to organize and manage inventory, keep track of the formal uniforms, collection of forms, collection of monies for trips, band fees and fundraisers.
- Charms is a way for the parents to check to see if a certain payment has been made, if forms have been turned in, see what # uniform piece has been checked out to your student, etc.
- Once you make any changes or additions to the student information in Charms make sure you click the UPDATE button located above the student’s name.

Additionally the official Lamar Band website, www.lamarmsband.org , contains the Official Band Google Calendars and links to information of upcoming events, itineraries, etc. Please put this website and Charms in your Favorites and visit them often.

Technology

Lamarmsband.org is the public online image of the Lamar MS Band program. In keeping up with the technological norm, we are constantly working to increase visibility of our program through the Internet. Our band family should use this forum to keep up with current activities. The official band calendar will be on this site as well as many links and resources.

- The official band calendar (Google) can be downloaded or merged into many current smart phone and computer calendar applications.
- Clicking on an event on the official calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements and equipment/uniform necessities.
- Our weekly curriculum will be in a link in the calendar as well.

Charmsoffice.com will serve as our email engine and provide student financial information. Please put this website and Charms in your favorites and visit them often.

Google Drive is a file storage and synchronization service created by Google. It allows students and teachers to store files in the cloud, share files, and edit documents, spreadsheets, and presentations with collaborators.

Google Classroom ties many of Google's products together to help our school go to a paperless system. Assignment creation and distribution is accomplished through Google Drive while Classroom/Email is used to provide classroom communication. Students can be invited to classrooms through our school's database or through a private code that can then be added in the student iPad. Each class created with Google Classroom creates a separate folder in the student's Google Drive where they can submit work to be graded by a teacher. Google Classroom will not show any ads in its interface for students, faculty, and teachers. Teachers can add students directly from the Google Apps directory or can provide a code that can be entered for access to the class by students.

Tonal Energy is an all-inclusive, easy to use application designed for individual practice and/or large ensemble rehearsals that aides musicians to improve sound quality and intonation. It is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Course Objectives

Aesthetic experiences are a vital part of student growth. Band, as a musical organization, provides one medium of aesthetic expression for students. Our departmental goal, therefore, is that each student be able to express aesthetic values of music, through performance skills and theory comprehension.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop a life long love of music and a recognition of its importance in helping enrich the human experience.
- To develop self and group discipline through preparation and practicing of instrumental music.
- To develop leadership skills, responsibility, diligence, and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member.
- To develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination.
- To develop an ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- To develop skills in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs, and symbols.
- To develop the ability to recognize and tune intervals, unisons, harmony, and to develop discriminate listening skills.
- To develop proper instrumental technique, care for instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, good tone, correct breathing, technical proficiency, and rhythmic skill.
- To develop instrumental technique in finger/tongue coordination, intonation, musical phrasing, dynamic control, rhythmic skills, and articulation.
- To develop music reading skills, hand/eye coordination, and to interpret in sound, musical symbols and terms from the printed page.
- To develop musical sensitivity through performance of music as well as listening to music. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard.
- To evaluate the quality of musical performance the student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals, evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances, and recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- To develop creative self-expression in every performance experience and explore possible careers in music.
- To exhibit concert etiquette as an informed, actively involved listener during varied live performances.

Band Procedures

Band procedures ensure that the Lamar Band will establish and maintain a tradition of excellence and will protect students, equipment and our facility.

1. Create a learning atmosphere.
2. Keep your eyes on the director when he/she is speaking.
3. Students should refrain from bringing contraband* to the Fine Arts Facility.
4. Students should refrain from loitering in Fine Arts Facility.
5. Students should refrain from handling any equipment or instrument they are not assigned to play.
6. All required materials are to be brought to class each day.
7. Students should refrain from playing their instruments until permission is granted by the director.
8. Students should not leave their instrument unattended unless it is in its proper storage location.
9. Instruments and binders will be stored in their assigned band cubby during the school day. Cases must be clearly labeled with the student's name. Only band related materials are allowed in the instrument storage areas.
10. As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the band hall or band equipment areas.
11. Students are expected to take their instruments home every day. Instruments shall be picked up immediately after school is dismissed. Athletes should make arrangements with Mr. Hanna for pick up and storage. If you leave school early, be sure to pick up your instrument before you leave.
12. All band students are encouraged to use the Fine Arts Facility. Everyone will assist in keeping all rooms neat and clean. Cleaning is everyone's responsibility and should not be thought of as punishment.

*Contraband: Friends who are not in band, gum, candy, food or drinks.

Typically the directors prefer to handle any band procedure issues in-house. However, multiple offenses will be handled through disciplinary referrals to the assistant principals.

*** Symphonic and Concert Band Grading Policy***

Grades for Symphonic and Concert Bands are based on:

35% Major Test and Attendance at Performances

All performances are marked on the calendar as mandatory events. See **Attendance Policy**.

35% Attendance at Rehearsals

Section rehearsals and any other co-curricular activities, like master classes and clinics. One section rehearsal, band rehearsal/clinic per grading period can be made up during a tutorial time before the last Tuesday of each grading period. Parents and students should understand the tutorial will not meet the educational value of a rehearsal/clinic. Please make every effort to attend all rehearsals/clinics.

30% Daily Grades

Quiz and Daily Test grades will be heard live in class and at section rehearsals and/or recorded at home through online recording. A zero will be given to any student who is absent or refuses to take a playing test. Any playing test below 70 can be raised up to a 70 by re-performing the selection during a tutorial for your band director on or before the last Tuesday of the grading period.

The success of our students is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. We cannot teach an empty chair, and unlike athletics we do not have a bench. **Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around band activities and class time.**

Beginning Band Grading Policy

Grades in Beginning Band are based on:

40% Major test and attendance at performances and after school rehearsals

All performances and rehearsals are marked on the calendar as mandatory events. See **Attendance Policy**.

35% Daily Grades

Quiz and Test grades consist of assignments and playing tests. A zero will be given to any student who is absent or refuses to take a playing test. It is the student's responsibility to make up grades missed due to absences. Any playing test below 70 can be raised by re-performing the selection during a tutorial for your band director on or before the last Tuesday of the grading period.

25% Weekly Practice Accountability

Weekly Practice Accountability Assignments will be graded on a weekly basis. The practice week will begin on the first day of the week and conclude on Sunday. Practice Assignments should be posted the first day of the school week. 70 percent is the highest grade possible if the assignment is posted in on the second day of the school week, and 50 percent if it is posted on the third day. The assignment will not be accepted after the third day and will receive a "0." Practice assignments will consist of audio recordings, documents, and videos. Assignments will be completed through Google Classroom on the student iPads.

The success of our students is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. We cannot teach an empty chair, and unlike athletics we do not have a bench. **Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around band activities and class time.**

Attendance Policy

Any activity which is included in the course is considered curricular. Section rehearsals, performances, and clinics, are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities.

Performances are the center piece and focus of our program. When missed, students do not get to experience the fruits of their labor.

Attendance at all rehearsals, clinics and performances are graded. All absences must be approved in advance by the director. **To receive an excused absence, advanced notice should be given at least three school days prior to after school rehearsals and two weeks for performances.** Failure to have an absence excused in the previous manner will result in a zero. Please keep in mind, unexcused absences may result in the reassignment to a different part or role in the rehearsal or performance.

Major performances can be made up. Please discuss make up assignments with the directors.

Every member of our band is important. One missing member is like a missing link in a chain. You are important!

The majority of students who miss events, have missed due to the lack of planning or lack of communication. Most all absences can be avoided or excused by planning ahead. Many times a parent's schedule doesn't allow time to transport their student to these events. There are many ways to solve these problems ahead of time. Many parents have worked out a carpooling system with band members from their neighborhood. Carpooling works, if you plan ahead. Always plan ahead.

“Procrastination is the thief of time.” Edward Young

The success of our students is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. We cannot teach an empty chair, and unlike athletics we do not have a bench. **Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around band activities and class time.**

Band Requirements

The Symphonic and Concert Bands are the largest and most visible groups at Lamar Middle School. They perform at school pep rallies, have several concerts throughout the year, and participate in a number of contests and festivals.

Symphonic Band

Activities include:

1. One section rehearsal per week held before or after school for 60 minutes
2. Performances at school pep rallies
3. 1 Performance at 8th grade football game
4. 2 All-Region/District Master Classes (Sept. & Oct.)
5. All-District auditions (Oct.)
6. All-Region auditions (Oct & Nov)
7. Winter Concert (December)
8. Solo Contest and Recital (January/February)
9. Pre-UIL Contest Concert (March)
10. UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest (March)
11. Ensemble Contest (May)
12. After School Rehearsals (Spring)
13. Spring Music Festival
14. Spring Concert (May)

Due to the level of literature and the performance demands placed on this ensemble, private lessons are an expectation of the Symphonic Band members.

Other General Requirements:

1. Maintain a positive attitude and a strong work ethic
2. Daily home practice
3. Bring an instrument in good playing condition to all rehearsals and performances
4. Bring a charged ipad, pencil and binder containing all music we are performing to all rehearsals and performances
5. Remain eligible for extra-curricular activities (pass all classes every 3 weeks)
6. Maintain and accessorize band uniforms
7. Purchase a band shirt for use at pep rallies, informal functions and other specified events
8. Pay band fees.
9. Woodwinds must have 3 playable reeds at all times
10. Percussionists must keep a stick bag. (Mallet lists are available from Mr. Wylie)

We are aware of potential financial difficulties and hardships. If the directors are informed of such problems, we will do everything possible to make accommodations. Financial hardship should not be an obstacle for participation in the Symphonic Band.

THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED OPTIONAL. THEY ARE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL SYMPHONIC BAND MEMBERS. BY ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE SYMPHONIC BAND, YOU ARE ACCEPTING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A PART OF THIS ELITE ORGANIZATION.

Concert Band

Activities include:

1. One section rehearsal per week held before or after school for 60 minutes
2. Performances at school pep rallies
3. 1 Performance at 8th grade football game
4. Winter Concert (December)
5. Solo Contest and Recital (January/February)
6. Pre-UIL Contest Concert (March)
7. UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest (March)
8. Ensemble Contest (May)
9. After School Rehearsals (Spring)
10. Spring Music Festival
11. Spring Concert (May)

Students who participate in the private lesson program consistently throughout the year often gain the skills needed for promotion into the Symphonic Band. Many Concert Band students participate in the private lesson program.

Other General Requirements:

1. Maintain a positive attitude and a strong work ethic
2. Consistent preparation for weekly assessments
3. Bring an instrument in good playing condition to all rehearsals and performances
4. Bring a charged ipad, pencil and binder containing all music we are performing to all rehearsals and performances
5. Remain eligible for extra-curricular activities (pass all classes every 3 weeks)
6. Maintain and accessorize band uniforms
7. Purchase a band shirt for use at pep rallies, informal functions and other specified events
8. Pay band fees
9. Woodwinds must have 3 playable reeds at all times
10. Percussionists must keep a stick bag. (Mallet lists are available from Mr. Wylie)

We are aware of potential financial difficulties and hardships. If the directors are informed of such problems, we will do everything possible to make accommodations. Financial hardship should not be an obstacle for participation in Concert Band.

THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED OPTIONAL. THEY ARE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL CONCERT BAND MEMBERS. BY ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONCERT BAND, YOU ARE ACCEPTING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A PART OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band consists of first-year players and is made up mainly of 6th graders. This is the most important year for a band member because the student will learn 90% or more of the fundamentals necessary to be successful in playing an instrument. The band is split during the school day into like-instrument classes and comes together for three performances per school year.

A student in Beginning Band should always keep in mind that this is a preparatory course designed to prepare him/her for participation in the performing ensembles for the next six years.

Activities include:

1. Five after-school rehearsals to prepare for winter and spring concerts and the band festival
2. Winter Concert (December)
3. Solo and Ensemble Contest (April)
4. Practice Marathon (April)
5. Festival Performance (May)
6. Spring Concert (May)

Other General Requirements:

1. Maintain a positive attitude and a strong work ethic
2. Daily home practice
3. Bring an instrument in good playing condition to all rehearsals and performances
4. Bring all supplies to class including charged ipad, pencil and binder containing all music we are performing to all rehearsals and performances
5. Remain eligible for extra-curricular activities (pass all classes every 3 weeks).
6. Practice assignments must be turned in weekly

We are aware of potential financial difficulties and hardships. If the directors are informed of such problems, we will do everything possible to work with them. Financial hardship should not be an obstacle for participation in the Beginning Band.

Band Events Defined

Section Rehearsals: Section rehearsals are the primary contributor to the success of our Concert and Symphonic Bands. Section rehearsals are usually held before school for individual or like instruments. For example, a Symphonic Band flute section rehearsal includes all of the flute players in the Symphonic Band, and a Intermediate Band Low Brass section rehearsal may include all of the tuba, euphonium, trombone, and bass clarinet players in the Intermediate Band. Section Rehearsals are actually the most important instructional time for our students. The material covered during a section rehearsal changes throughout the year to supplement the current curriculum. It will include fundamental skills, scales, All-District/Region etudes, Marcus All-Cluster etudes, and concert and contest music. Rehearsing in a smaller group setting is extremely beneficial for both the students and the directors. Section rehearsals provide a more intimate setting for students to develop important listening skills, tonal production, and technical facility, while allowing the directors to individually teach and assess each student. Students should expect to be individually tested during each weekly section rehearsal, either by live performance or by recording.

Students will be required to attend ONE weekly, assigned section rehearsal from 7:00-8:00 a.m. Symphonic and Concert Band section rehearsals will begin the first week of school. Attendance at section rehearsals will be graded. Students should be seated with their binders and instruments assembled by 7:00 a.m.

All Region Band Auditions: All Region Band Auditions take place in November. **All Symphonic members are required to prepare the music and scales for this audition.** Students from across the North Dallas Area participate in these auditions. The audition consists of scales, two prepared pieces and sight-reading that will be held on two separate days in November. Students are judged by a panel of three to five judges who sit behind a partition to listen to each student perform their music. This process protects student anonymity and the integrity of the audition process. The top students are selected from these auditions and receive the honor of participating in the All Region Band Clinic and Concert. Selection to the All Region band is one of the highest honors a middle school student can achieve. At Lamar, our philosophy emphasizes the improvement each student experiences is a result of preparing competitive auditions. If your student qualifies for one of the Region Bands they will also participate in a Clinic and Concert to be held on a Saturday in January.

Students will be required to play all scales and audition music for the band directors prior to the audition date. This is a major part of the grade of all Symphonic Band members during the fall semester.

All District Band Audition: District Band Auditions follow essentially the same process as All Region except the audition pool is limited to students in the Lewisville Middle School programs on a Saturday in October. The Clinic and Concert will be on a Friday in December.

Clinic/After School Rehearsal: A clinic is a band rehearsal held outside of normal school hours. Clinics are usually held in conjunction with the band's preparation to perform in the various contests and festivals it attends during the spring semester. Well-known, highly respected band directors are brought in to work with the band during a clinic rehearsal. This allows students to be exposed to some of the finest directors in the field, thus augmenting the students' music education.

Clinics are a very important part of our contest preparation and the musical growth of our students. Clinic attendance is required of all Symphonic Band Members.

Concert: A concert is a non-competitive performance given as part of our curriculum. There is no admission charge. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. The Beginning Band gives two concerts per school year, while the Symphonic and Concert Bands participate in at least four concert events. **Concerts are a state-mandated part of our curriculum, and attendance is required of all students in the participating groups. Concert etiquette is also part of our curriculum. For this reason, Beginning Band members will be expected to remain in the audience for the Symphonic and Concert Band portions of the Spring Concert, and the Symphonic and Concert Bands will be required to sit in the audience for the Beginning Band portion of the concert.**

Contest or Festival: A contest is a competitive performance. The Symphonic and Concert Bands will participate in several events during the spring semester. These events are: A Pre-UIL Concert and Sight-reading contest, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest and a Festival in the weeks following the UIL event. The Beginning Band also attends a Festival in the month of April or May.

Solo and Ensemble Contest: All Lamar Band students participate in at least one Solo and Ensemble Contest per year. **All students are required to perform a solo with piano accompaniment, however the majority of percussion solos do not require accompaniment. The soloist is judged on a scale of I (Superior), II (Excellent), III (Good), IV (Fair), V (Poor).** Students that receive high marks are awarded a medal. *The band staff will help students arrange for a piano accompanist, or you may make your own arrangements. The band provided accompanists charge a small fee for their services. If you make your own arrangements, please be sure the directors are told so they can schedule your accompanist.*

Copy Policy

1. If a student makes it through a 9 week period without requiring the band staff to re-copy music they will receive 50 extra credit points.
2. If a student requires us to make copy of music he/she has lost they will be given a copy demerit and lose the 50 extra credit points.
3. On the second demerit they will be given a manuscript or writing assignment. This assignment will help develop music notation skills or general music knowledge. The requirement will double for every copy demerit after the second.

Multimedia Disclosure

The Lamar Band staff uses digital video in our classroom. We will occasionally record and review our classes to help provide an efficient classroom setting. Videos taken by the Lamar Band staff will not be shared on any public venue outside of LISD communications and interscholastic projects.

Today's varying communications media, including the local newspapers and the internet, could allow the publication of a student's name and/or photo in a manner accessible throughout the district, community, and across the world via the world wide web. During the many band events, performances, and contests, photographers from various news sources take photos and video of the whole band, over which we have little or no control. Please be advised that it is the Lamar Band's policy that we will never disclose names on the official band website. Any other postings, publications, or broadcasts in the media are not the responsibility of Lamar Middle School Band Boosters or the band staff.

Concert Uniform and Uniform Guidelines

Symphonic and Concert Band Uniforms

There will be two different uniforms worn by the Symphonic and Concert Bands for performances. These uniforms are informal and formal and will contribute to the overall presentation and appearance of the band for the concerts and functions.

Beginning Band Uniforms

Beginning Band Festival, Concert and Solo uniform will be the Informal Uniform as listed below.

Formal Uniform

The formal concert uniform the Symphonic and Concert Band members wear is dignified and professional. Lamar Band provides the formal uniforms consisting of a white tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo pants, jacket, bow tie and vest for gentlemen. A long formal black dress is provided for ladies.

Uniform Guidelines for Concert and Contest Performances with Formal Uniform

All Symphonic and Concert Band members must provide their own black dress shoes. Ladies need to have a closed toe shoe. (preferably flats) Gentlemen's socks must be solid black while the ladies must wear black hose with no pattern or visible design. When in public, shirts must remain tucked in at all times, bow ties need to remain around the neck and fastened and the cummerbund needs to be around the waist and fastened. Inappropriate jewelry will not be a part of the formal uniform. The only time it is acceptable to be out of uniform is when you have received permission from a band director.

Formal Uniforms will be sized and checked out the first week of November.

The formal uniforms must be turned in on the day set by the directors. If for any reason the uniform or any part thereof is not returned, you will be responsible to pay for a replacement.

Lost or damaged uniforms are the student's responsibility. Payment is expected to replace items lost or damaged.

Informal Uniform

For informal performances and functions, all students in the Band must provide:

Lamar Band Shirt The shirts are a polo style shirt and have the Lamar Band Longhorn logo on them. Price for the band shirt is \$20.00 and must be purchased through the Lamar Band Boosters. Ladies may be asked to wear a black tank top underneath the band shirt if necessary.

Black Pants The pants need to be a solid black and worn with black shoes and socks.

Informal Uniform Guidelines

Shirts are to be **tucked** into black pants with a belt (if there are belt loops). Black closed-toe dress shoes are preferred. Please make sure pants fit well and are not *sagging*.

These guidelines are not meant to infringe on your right of personal self-expression. They are designed to maintain uniformity among the members of the band. The directors take these guidelines very seriously, as should the student members of the band. Failure to comply with the above guidelines can result in a student being removed from the performance in question and/or future performances resulting in a lower band grade.

A Word about Daily Practice

Following a consistent, daily practice schedule is essential for a student to progress at an acceptable rate on his or her instrument. Parents, encourage your child to adopt a routine for practice everyday. Past experience has shown us that students who are practicing and making noticeable progress on their instruments are more likely to enjoy band than those who do not practice.

Keep the following guidelines in mind when establishing a practice routine:

1. Practice for results, not just for the sake of “putting in time.”
(NO TIMERS PLEASE)
2. Keep distractions to a minimum: no radio or TV.
3. Set up a daily schedule and stick to it. Treat practice as part of your homework.
4. Always use a metronome. This greatly enhances your sense of pulse.
5. Always use a music stand. This helps avoid the formation of bad habits.
6. Try to follow a daily routine:
 - Warm-up exercises used in class each day
 - Fundamentals (such as scales or exercises)
 - Review material covered in class that day
 - Practice assigned material
 - Work ahead in book or music to material not yet covered.
7. Practice Accountability Assignments are due the first day of each week.

Practice Accountability Assignments are required for Beginning Band.

Weekly Practice Accountability Assignments will be graded on a weekly basis. The practice week will begin on the first day of the week and conclude on Sunday. Practice Assignments should be posted the first day of the school week. 70 percent is the highest grade possible if the assignment is posted in on the second day of the school week, and 50 percent if it is posted on the third day. The assignment will not be accepted after the third day and will receive a “0.” Practice assignments will consist of audio recordings, documents, and videos. Assignments will be completed through Google Classroom on the student iPads.

Practice Accountability Assignments are an important part of the student's grade.

Concert Etiquette

Audience manners are based on respect for performers and for others in the audience and expressions of courtesy. Unfortunately, young people in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of the standards of appropriate behavior.

By following these guidelines you can set a proper example for our students and will make the concert more enjoyable for all. Thank you for your assistance.

1. Avoid entering or leaving the venue during a performance. If you find this necessary, move only between pieces.
2. Applause is welcomed, but whistling or cheering is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
3. Talking is inappropriate during a performance. Young children who are talking or crying must be escorted from the performance area.
4. Attention should be directed to the performing group at all times.
5. All cell phones, **texting** devices and other electronics should be turned off. This can be very distracting to the audience and ruin a band's performance and recording.
6. In true formal concert etiquette, photography is strictly prohibited. In the middle school setting we understand parents would like to have pictures for their memoirs so we urge you to use the following guidelines. No flash photography during the band's performance, flashes are distracting to the performing band members and to the audience. If you would like to use flash photography please do so before or after the performance.

Image and Trip Behavior

Lamar Band Image

It is the expectation of the directors and administration that the Lamar Band will develop a reputation as one of the finest bands in Texas. We strive to acquire the highest standards of performance and stage presence.

It is very important to maintain a positive image at all times. The Lamar Band represents the faculty and student body of Lamar Middle School, as well as the city of Flower Mound. As ambassadors of our school and community, Lamar Band members always make every effort to be courteous and respectful. We understand that we never get a second chance to make a first impression.

It is important to be courteous to other performing ensembles. Many times the Lamar Band will be in performance situations with other bands and organizations. It is imperative that you treat other ensembles with respect and dignity. We expect our students to refrain from negative or derogatory statements.

When in formal uniform in public, students must remain completely in uniform; that is: shirt tucked in and buttoned all the way up, cummerbund on and bow tie fastened. When in formal uniform, students should refrain from running, climbing and horse-play. For solo and ensemble contest, students are expected to the informal uniform. No Jeans, Tennis shoes or T-Shirts.

Bus Procedures and Behavior

1. Students may only ride their assigned bus and must be seated at their assigned seat. Roll will be taken before each departure and buses will not leave until every student is accounted for.
2. Each bus will have a parent or director sponsor. The sponsor is to be obeyed without question and treated with utmost respect, as is the bus driver.
3. Failure to obey instructions given by directors, bus driver or sponsors will be considered a major disciplinary offense and may result in referral to a principal and/or exclusion from future band activities.
4. Keep hands inside bus at all times.
5. Keep the bus clean.
6. Only food and drinks approved by director will be allowed.
7. No open speakers. Only music equipment with earphones.
8. Keep language clean.
9. Refrain from loud or obnoxious behavior.
10. When the bus reaches its destination, remain seated and wait for instructions from the directors.
11. Always be aware of the departure time and do not arrive late.
12. Parents please be punctual when you pick up your student after a band trip. The band directors would appreciate being able to go home on time rather than staying with a band student because his/her parent is late.

Academic Eligibility

Responsibilities

As mandated by the Texas Education Agency and the Texas University Interscholastic League any grade below 70 on a six-week report card will deny you competitive performance privileges for a three or six week period. Because of the adverse effect this problem can have on an individual and the group as a whole, we will always monitor this situation very closely, especially around All-Region, Solo and Ensemble, and U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Parents, we ask that you continue to supervise your child and communicate with their teachers if any grade questions should arise. Students should understand that their grades have a direct influence on other students as well as themselves. Every individual in the band plays a vital role as a link in our chain. Consequently, when a link is missing-the chain breaks. Any one individual has the ability to prevent an entire band from performing to its full potential.

Outline of TEA/UII Academic Requirements (no pass, no play)

1. If a student receives a grade below 70 in any subject, that student will become in-eligible for extra-curricular activities starting on the Friday following the end of the 6 week grading period in which the failing grade was received.
2. A student can regain eligibility on the Friday following the 3-week grading period if the student is passing EVERY class and receives no remark of “currently failing” on his/her 3-week progress report.

Lamar Middle Band School Requirements

No student will be allowed to miss any class they are currently failing to attend any extracurricular function.

Sound Advice for Passing Grades

Each student should develop structure and discipline in their study habits. Here are some common sense ideas to help you maintain good standing in all classes.

1. **PAY ATTENTION:** Do everything you can to try to discover just what it is the teacher is attempting to get across to you. Take notes, follow along in the text, ask pertinent questions, and avoid distractions.
2. **REVIEW DAILY:** Make a habit of reviewing notes on a daily basis to solidify material covered in class. If you do not understand material being taught, make arrangements with the teacher to get one-on-one help.
3. **DO ALL HOMEWORK AND HAND IN ON TIME:** The most frequent reason why students fail a class is the failure to turn in assigned work. This is the **easiest** thing to correctly. Do not miss deadlines.
4. **FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL:** Prepare all tests and projects in a timely manner. In comparison, you would not wait until the night before a major performance or audition to begin practicing. By the same token, you should not wait until the night before a test or project deadline to begin the work. Every teacher at Lamar wants to see you succeed. Let's meet them halfway!
5. **COURTESY:** Treat all teachers with the same respect that you expect from them. A few simple courtesies will go a long way. Paying attention in class will help your relationship with the teacher. Be careful not to draw negative attention to yourself and follow all classroom rules.
6. **ASK FOR HELP AND EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS.** Make the first move towards this, don't wait.
7. **FOLLOW UP:** If you have a failing grade at the 3 weeks reporting period, make every effort to resolve every grade in question.
8. **COMMUNICATION:** Don't be afraid to ask your teachers, in a courteous manner, about any questionable grades or when tutorials are held. The teachers are on your side. They want you to pass! Please don not wait until it's too late.

Fundraising

Our band participates in many special events, requiring funding beyond that which is provided by Lewisville ISD. Fundraising is a vital part of the success of our band program. If everyone does their part in meeting the goals asked for on the fundraiser, the band will be able to operate and meet the expectations set before them. All students in the band program participate in fundraisers. Band students participate in only one fundraiser per year.

The Fundraiser takes place to benefit the booster club. The boosters pay for festivals, transportation to festivals, clinicians, and consultants who are brought in to work with our band students. Financial aid and supplies which the school district does not provide are also provided through our fundraiser.

Parents who do not wish for their students to participate in fundraising activities are encouraged to take the option of making a donation to the Band Fund. Checks should be made payable to Lamar Band Boosters. The Lamar Band Boosters are a non-profit 501(c) organization. Any financial donation to the Lamar Band Boosters is tax deductible. The desired goal of this fundraiser is **\$175 in profit** per student. A donation of \$175 is acceptable in lieu of fundraising.

10 Hints for Fundraising Success

1. Get started right away. The window for selling is only about a week long, and past experience has shown that those that put things off are not successful.
2. Sell only to people you know. Unfortunately, it seems the days when it was safe to go door-to-door and sell to strangers are past us.
3. Set small goals to reach the larger amount. For example, if the goal is 20 items per student, set a goal of 3 or 4 items per day until you've reached or surpassed 20.
4. Do not sell to other students at school. They will not always be able to pay you for items ordered when they come in.
5. Parents, if you are able, please take the brochure and order form to work and leave it somewhere your fellow workers can browse. Some of the most successful sales will occur with this added help.
6. Money is due when the orders are taken. All checks should be made out to the **Lamar Band Boosters.**
7. When items come in, deliver them right away.
8. Do not turn in cash. Instead, turn in a check or money order for the cash you have collected. This protects you, the student, from having to pay for lost money.
9. If you have any problems, please contact the band directors and not the front office at Lamar. We will work closely with you and the fundraising company representatives to solve any problems to your satisfaction.

Private Lessons

It is the goal of the Lamar Middle School Band to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One of these experiences is the opportunity for a student to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students in grades 6-8. Although it is not mandatory to study privately, the individual attention that the student receives generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. The key to success with this opportunity is to start early and continue throughout the year. The private lesson instructors are carefully selected by the band directors and work closely with directors and students to improve the performance and understanding of their instrument and music. For the convenience of students and parents, private lessons can be arranged at school both during band and outside of school time.

The private lesson fees as of August 2015 are:

\$20.00 –30 min. lesson

\$17.00 – 22 1/2 min. lesson

Parents are asked to pay for lessons on a monthly basis. You will receive a statement at the beginning of each month. All money will be paid directly to the private lesson teacher. Prompt payments will be greatly appreciated by our teachers. In many cases this is their sole source of income.

Fees for School Owned Instruments

The purpose of the LISD Instrument Maintenance fee is to help offset the district repair budget.

1. All students playing an instrument owned by Lamar Middle School will be required to pay a maintenance fee of \$100.00 per year. Percussion only pays \$50 per year.
2. The fee is intended to help offset a small part of the normal wear and tear repair and upkeep cost of these expensive school owned instruments.

The phrase “normal wear and tear” has been used many times to describe when the repair becomes a district responsibility. Dropping your instrument would not be considered “normal wear and tear”. Any signs of abuse, dents, etc. should be the financial responsibility of the student. If a student has never oiled or greased their instrument or kept their instruments in the trunk of their car then it would be considered abuse.
3. Fees should be paid before *September 25*.
4. All fees are non-refundable. If a student moves or is no longer part of the band program, they will not receive a refund.
5. If a student enrolls in band after the start of the second semester, or changes to a school owned instrument at that time, their fee will still be \$100.00.
6. It is recommended to add the instrument to your home owner’s policy. The district is not insured for loss or theft of the instrument unless it is being transported in a district contracted vehicle.
7. No student will be prohibited from playing an instrument because they are unable to pay this fee. Contact the band director if you need assistance.

Lamar Band Boosters

Parents play a very important role in the success of the middle school band program. Those parents that assist and support the school's program develop a closer relationship with their children, meet and work with other supporting parents and share in the experiences of a quality band program in the tradition-rich Lewisville Independent School District.

Parents may choose to help in a variety of ways. Some of the most obvious and immediate needs include fundraising, chaperoning, and computer work. While some of these jobs are more enjoyable than others, all of these functions are necessary and important to your child's band program.

The Fundraiser in September will help with a variety of activities and items the district does not provide. Currently, we are working toward developing some new and exciting fundraisers that you will all enjoy being a part of.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your child's band experiences and would like to meet other caring parents, we encourage you to join the Lamar Band Boosters. To be called for your help, please fill out the volunteer form and return to the band director via your child.

We want to encourage all parents to become involved with our band program by being available to help with various activities. We promise it will be rewarding to you and your child.

We are very proud of the work our students do on a daily basis. We invite all parents to stop in at any time and observe your son or daughter's band class in action.

The Lamar Band Boosters is a not-for-profit organization. Donations made can be a tax deduction.

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

If I am selected to represent Lamar Middle School Band in its extracurricular program, I will be sincerely interested in contributing my best effort to the success of the program. I therefore agree to the following expectations and consequences as they pertain to out of school and after hours behavior while a member of an extracurricular group. It should be noted that the LISD student code of conduct and local school policies regarding appropriate behavior shall always be applied first and foremost when violations occur at school, at a contest/event, traveling to and from an event/contest, or when the students represent themselves as part of a school team, organization, or school group. Participation in extracurricular activities is considered a privilege and, certainly, higher standards are expected from all participants as it pertains to grades, behavior in and out of school, attendance, work ethic, and commitment.

The following restrictions refer to any amount of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco both on and off campus.

- I. Use and/or possession of Alcohol will not be tolerated. 1st offense: Removed from the program for **two contests and/or performances**. School staff counseling required.
2nd offense: Removed from me program for a semester. School staff counseling required.
3rd offense: in the event of a third violation of these rules, the student will no longer be permitted to participate in competitive extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District.
- II. Use and/or possession of Drugs will not be tolerated. 1st offense: Removed from the program for a semester. School staff counseling required.
2nd offense: Removed from the program for a year. School staff counseling required.
3rd offense: in the event of a third violation of these rules, the student will no longer be permitted to participate in competitive extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District.
- III. Use and/or possession of Tobacco will not be tolerated. 1st offense: Suspension from one contest and/or performance.
2nd offense: Removed from the program for a semester.
3rd offense: Removed from the program for one calendar year from date of infraction.
- IV. Charged with a felony involving bodily harm
Removed from the program until the case is decided.
Convicted of a felony
Removed from the program indefinitely.
- *****1. Once a participant has been removed from the program, the head coach or sponsor has the right to review the case and make a decision as to whether to allow the participant back into the program after the 90 day suspension.
2. A semester is considered to be 90 days.
3. Infractions will not accrue from year to year. Infractions will be tabulated for one calendar year beginning August 1 and ending July 31.
4. These violations have to be (a) witnessed by District personnel (b) ticketed by law enforcement (c) or admitted to by the participant.
5. You are expected to follow the code of ethical behavior both on and off campus.

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- V. Additional expectations for extracurricular activities: failure to meet these expectations will result in counseling by the coach or sponsor, or some form of punishment or suspension.
- A. Conduct: We expect you to conduct yourself as ladies/gentlemen at all times. Follow school rules and procedures.
 - B. Attendance: Do not cut class. Do not be tardy. If you miss an athletic period or participation be sure it cannot be helped. Your commitment may include holidays and non-school days. Call the coach or sponsor if you are absent from an athletic period.
 - C. Profanity: We do not allow it.
 - D. Injury: We have a professional trainer who has been educated in training procedures. If you have an injury, see the trainers first. They will either treat the injury or tell you to see your doctor.
 - E. Grades: We expect you to work and maintain good grades.
 - F. Promptness: Always be on time, to practice, meetings, and games.
 - G. Equipment and facilities: Be responsible and take care of both.
 - H. Respect for coaches and teachers: Treat them with respect and in return you will be treated with respect.
 - I. Stealing: Taking things that do not belong to you will result in severe consequences.
 - J. Accountability: You will be held accountable for all of your actions. Be sure you "think" before you "act".

*Due process procedures will be in accordance with LISD Board Policies: FOC (Local),FOA (Legal), FOC(Legal), FOD(Legal), and FOD(Local).

I have received a copy of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the Code.

Student Name (printed)

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

School

Grade Level

This form must be completed by the student/parent and placed on file prior to participation in the **2015-2016 Lamar Middle School Bands**.
Please return to the directors before Friday, August 28, 2015.

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