

2022-2023 Leo Bands Handbook



Student Name: _____

Objectives of the Leo High School Band Program

- To give each student an education in music that will challenge and enrich their lives.
- To develop the personal character traits of leadership and self-discipline.
- To develop cooperation and teamwork.
- To develop the skill and technical ability that leads to proficiency on an instrument.
- To acquaint the student with a wide and varied repertoire of band literature.
- To provide the foundational study which may lead to a career in music.
- To serve and represent the school in public concerts, parades, competitions, and other functions.

Music plays an important part in all our lives. The Leo High School Band Program, both as an academic study and interactive activity, contributes to the growth of an individual's character, citizenship, and leadership. These goals can all be achieved through the hard work, dedication, discipline, and the pursuit of excellence evident in the Leo High School Band Program.

First Semester Focus — Marching Band & Concert Band

During this season, the band focuses on challenging these students through excellences in performance. Content includes major/minor scales, phrasing and intonation exercises, etudes for flexibility, and mainly group 1 literature. The goal is to achieve at the highest level possible while continuing to build on the fundamentals learned in previous years, in order to prepare the students for college level playing. This group performs at all the home football games, ISSMA Marching Contests, and local parades.

Second Semester Focus — Concert Band

During this season, the band focuses on challenging these students through excellences in performance. Content includes major/minor scales, phrasing and intonation exercises, etudes for flexibility, and mainly group 1 literature. The goal is to achieve at the highest level possible while continuing to build on the fundamentals learned in previous years, in order to prepare the students for college level playing. This group performs at the High School Band Winter Concert, the ISSMA Organizational Contest, and High School Band Spring Concert

Never let anyone tell you that you can't stay in Band!

Freshman		Sophomore	
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
English	English	English	English
Math option	Math option	Math option	Math option
Science option	Science option	Science option	Science option
PE	Elective	College Career	Health
World History	World History	Elective	Elective
Foreign language	Foreign language	Foreign language	Foreign language
Band	Band	Band	Band
Junior		Senior	
English	English	English	English
Math option	Math option	Math option	Math option
Science option	Science option	Science option	Science option
U.S. History	U.S. History	Government	Economics
Foreign language	Foreign language	Foreign language	Foreign language
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Band	Band	Band	Band

Program Ensembles

Marching Band: "Roar of the Lions"

Marching Band is a fun and rewarding time for all students and parents. We need each band member's parents to donate time and talents to help make our band program a success! Please do your part to help. Every band parent is required to donate or volunteer at least a minimal amount.

All band members participate in marching band during the fall season. It is mandatory for students to attend:

- Band camps
- All rehearsals
- All home football games
- All competitions

NOTE: Color Guard and Percussion have extra rehearsals.

Jazz Ensemble

Students participating in this extra-curricular activity develop musicianship and specific performance skills through group and individual settings for the study and performance of the varied styles of instrumental jazz. Students develop their creative skills through:

Improvisation, Composition, Arranging, Performing, Listening, and Analyzing

Participation in Jazz Band is by audition and permission of the director. There is a demand placed on each individual to achieve a high level of musical proficiency. Therefore, students are expected to practice regularly, on their own, several hours per week. Private lessons are recommended, but not required. The Jazz Band performs for school and community events as well as various jazz festivals throughout the year. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled as needed. There is a separate fee for this group, if selected.

Winter Guard

Color Guard members and band students are invited to participate in Winter Guard. This group is led by the Color Guard Director. Practice will be in the winter, with performances in January/February/March at various events and/or competitions.

Pep Band

All band members are required to perform at home varsity boys & girls basketball games. Attendance at games is mandatory and counts toward the student's final grade.

ASSESSMENT POLICY

It is our policy that students are graded on their own improvement. This mastery learning approach allows students of all talent and ability levels to be judged fairly and according to their own efforts. As students progress through the various levels of the Band program, more effort is expected of them. Students' grades in Band will be based on several different modes of assessment:

1. Concert Participation is both required and graded. Full points will be earned by:
 - a. being there and arriving on time (please see the attendance policy)
 - b. wearing the proper attire (see the concert attire policy)
 - c. having all necessary materials (see the accessory and equipment list)
 - d. being professional in your conduct:

This includes professional behavior during concerts. Students should refrain from talking while sitting in the audience during concerts. In addition, students should refrain from any behavior that could be distracting to others, including kicking seats, putting feet up on seats, and using any electronic devices. Any issues or suspicion of behavior problems during concerts will cause a reduction in the grade for the concert.
2. Progress Assessments covering basic musical skill and/or assigned musical passages will be completed during each grading period.
3. Attitude and Participation will be evaluated by the directors on a weekly basis.
4. Self-Evaluations will be completed following selected performances.
5. Equipment Checks will be completed quarterly (see accessory equipment list).

Quarterly Grades will comprise the following types of entries into the gradebook and are weighted based on grade level:

- Concert Participation
- Progress Assessments, Self-Evaluations, Written Assignments and Equipment Checks
- Attitude and Participation

Final Exam Grades – a written final exam will be administered both semesters

Band Weighted Grades- Concert Participation 30%, A.P.E. 30%, Written Assignments 15%, Progress Assessments 25%

TARDY POLICY

You must be in the band room when the bell rings. As soon as you enter the room, get your folder and assemble your instrument(s), take your seat and begin to warm up for class. (Warming up, incidentally, should include exercises that help you warm up your body and your instrument. Long tones and scales are appropriate, as well as working on passages from your music that aren't too demanding in terms of range/high notes. Do not begin to play in such a way that causes you to hurt yourself because you weren't warmed up.) **Class will start promptly one minutes after the bell. Students who are not ready to begin at this time will be counted tardy.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in Leo Bands is Co-Curricular. Meaning that students will receive grades both for events that take place during the school day, and also events that happen once the traditional school day is over. Below is a list of specifically UNACCEPTABLE reasons for an absence:

- Work or vacation, either the student's or a parent's/guardian's
- Doctor, dentist, or any other previously scheduled appointment
- Not having a ride (ask someone or ask the directors to help!)
- Driver's education
- Clubs, sports, or any other activities not sponsored by EACS
- Problems with transportation
- Homework or studying

If a student becomes so ill that they cannot attend a performance, the parents should email the band director prior to the start time of the concert. A note from a physician **MUST** accompany the child back to class. **If you are not sick enough to go to the doctor, you are well enough to perform!** Failure to follow this procedure will result in the absence counting as unexcused and a zero for the performance grade. In the event of an excused absence from a performance, the student will make up the performance through assigned progress assessments over the concert music that was performed.

CORE VALUES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

Punctuality

Students are to be on time (EARLY!) for every rehearsal and performance. This means that students must organize their schedules in order to be available for all rehearsals and performances. Students must also arrive early enough to prepare adequately (warm up) so that the rehearsal or performance can begin on time.

Preparation

Students are responsible to arrive at each rehearsal or performance with your instrument in good working order, with the correct materials including: music, reeds, oil, mutes, pencil, etc., wearing the proper attire for performances, and resolving schedule conflicts.

Respect

Students will demonstrate respect for the faculty, instructors, parent volunteers, students, and guests of Leo Schools and the Band Program. This includes respect for the facilities and equipment that belongs to the Program or individuals within the Program. Common courtesy and politeness, friendliness, support of this and other student activities, helpfulness, and positive behaviors are expected. Conflicts should be resolved maturely and privately if possible. Profanity and disrespectful speech or actions will not be tolerated.

Work Ethic

Students in the Band Program will demonstrate persistence toward musical excellence through regular practice of their instrument. This is vital to personal success and the achievement of the ensemble.

Responsibility

Students are to be responsible members of their ensembles. This includes being present for all rehearsals and performances, performing assigned parts confidently and to the best of his or her ability, and seeking out help for any areas in which he or she is deficient.

Volunteerism

It is essential that every student actively seek out work that needs to be done to help the entire band program. This includes, but is not limited to copying, moving equipment, setting up chairs and stands, clean up, library work, etc. Ask questions like “What can I do to help?” “Is there anything that needs to be done?”

BEHAVIOR

Class Rules – In any group of people, there are rules in place that help to maintain order. We will have a few simple rules that will help us to accomplish everything we need to do in Band classes:

1. Follow directions the first time asked.
2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
3. Only speak when recognized; do not talk while someone else is talking.
4. No insults, name-calling, or profanity.
5. Only touch equipment to which you are assigned.
6. Have all necessary equipment with you and ready to go for rehearsal.
7. If you are well enough to be at school, you are well enough to play your instrument.
8. Please use the restroom during passing period or it will be a tardy.

Positive Consequences – Research has shown that it is much better to reward positive behavior when possible in order to bring about learning. I will use a number of positive consequences to help everyone to do well with behavior in band classes.

1. Praise
2. Positive Calls, E-mails and Notes to Parents
3. Opportunities to Participate in Extra-Curricular Activities
4. Opportunities to Participate in Band Trips
5. Awards

Negative Consequences – Some behaviors are so detrimental to the class that they need to be addressed with negative consequences. These consequences are applied only when a student chooses not to follow the rules. The more the student makes negative choices, the higher the consequences. Please note that some behaviors are so disruptive that they will lead to immediate removal from class with a discipline referral.

1. Warning
2. Problem solving conference after class
3. Detention/Discipline Referral/Parent Phone Call or E-mail
4. Parent Conference/Behavior Contract
5. In-School Suspension/Removal from Band

EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for treating all of our equipment with respect, whether it has been issued directly to them or not. If a student repeatedly has problems being responsible with equipment, he or she may be barred from certain activities and will be responsible for any damage caused. Students who are borrowing an instrument and are not taking care of it will have their rental privileges revoked.

CELL PHONE POLICY

The use of a cell phone may include, but not limited to, making a phone call, texting, checking time, or receiving a phone call. Do not place a cell phone on your music stand in the hopes that the directors will not catch you; it is distracting to others and to you! Our policy on Cell Phones in class aligns with the School's policy.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Dress in nice dress clothes – White, Purple, or black top and black slacks and dress shoes.

ALL BAND MEMBERS MUST PROVIDE: • Tan (Khaki) Dress Pants • Black Dress Shoes (not Tennis Shoes) • Socks (black)

ACCESSORY AND EQUIPMENT LIST

In addition to an instrument in good playing condition, (personal or school owned) all students are required to have these basic supplies by September 1st . They may be purchased at the local retailers listed elsewhere in the handbook or online.

WOODWINDS

Flute:

Cleaning rod and soft cloth

Clarinet/Saxophone:

3 good reeds**** (See note about reeds below)

Reed guard (holds 2-4 reeds; NOT the clear ones that come in the reed box!) ----->

Cork grease

Cleaning swab

Neck strap (sax and bass clarinets only)

Oboe/Bassoon:

3 good WOODEN reeds**** Recommended: Jones Medium

Film canister/reed soaker

Cork grease

Cleaning swab

*You must have at least 3 working reeds at all times, so just buy a big box now (and plan on buying one again later in the year!). 8th Grade players should be using a strength of at least a 3.5, preferably 4s. 7th graders should be on 3.5s, and beginners will start on 2.5 and graduate to 3s by the end of their first semester. Use your reed guard to ROTATE your reeds—they will sound better and last longer. As soon as a reed is at all chipped or cracked, it's time to throw it away. You will sound much better! Brands to consider include Mitchell Lurie and Vandoren.

BRASS

Trumpet*, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba:

Valve oil or for French Horn Rotor Oil (I recommend Hetmans)

Tuning slide grease (cheap is fine)

Trombone*: Slide cream and spray water bottle

Tuning slide grease (cheap is fine)

PERCUSSION*

Stick bag with name tag

Medium hard rubber mallets (such as Mallettech BB34 “Becker Blues”)

Basic yarn mallets (such as Innovative Percussion IP300 Marimba Mallets)

One pair of WOODEN snare sticks (such as Innovative Percussion CL 1)

One pair general Timpani mallets (such as Innovative Percussion CT 3 Medium)

(Optional) Pitch pipe for timpani tuning (Master Key Chromatic Pitch Instrument would be my suggestion; it's a round pitch pipe with all 13 pitches)

*You **MUST** label your sticks and mallets since most students end up with similar equipment. Every year many sticks are lost or “borrowed” by other students. All of these items can also be found at both <https://www.gandf.com/> and Steveweissmusic.com

TUNERS/METRONOMES—RECOMMENDED, NOT REQUIRED

A Tuner/Metronome combination is an invaluable and recommended tool for HS musicians. They are available through Quinlan and Fabish or Sweetwater for around \$32. There are also online tools and iPhone applications available for students practicing at home which are less expensive or free.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU PRACTICE??

Our success in band class will come from you spending time outside of class working on parts you couldn't play before. Our expectations for your practice aren't that you'll spend hours each day practicing, but we do expect that you'll spend 30-45 minutes a few times per week in order to be well-prepared for class. You can come in and get this practicing done before or after school (make arrangements for after school) or bring your instrument home. We also HIGHLY encourage you to find a private teacher to work with you to improve playing your instrument. **If you are interested, speak to us, and we will try to connect you with a private teacher in the area.** Private lessons are like having an amazing tutor that helps you with all of the things we do during band with which you might have trouble!

Fundraisers

We realize that raising money is not a favorite thing to do. However, it is very necessary. Paying for music, copyrights, uniform maintenance, equipment, auxiliary instructors, contest entry fees, school-owned instruments, props, etc. in order to have a quality band program takes a LOT of money.

******ALL band students are required to work at three volunteer events per semester to count toward their band awards.******

Kroger Community Rewards

How to get started:

1. Have your Kroger Plus card ready to register at krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Enter Leo Band's NPO# 83217, or name of organization, "Leo Band Boosters", to link your card to our organization. ***Please share this with family and friends.***

Scrip

Earn money towards band fees through the year with our Scrip Program. Go to shopwithscrip.com to purchase gift cards or use the RaiseRight app. Any profits earned will be split 50/50 between the family purchasing and the band.

How to get started:

1. 1. Join our program by creating an account on **ShopWithScrip.com** or **downloading the RaiseRight app**.
2. Enter our organization's enrollment code: **4FC8D3B863384**
3. Link your bank account to enroll in online payments with PrestoPay and place your first order.

Have a question? Contact your coordinator at: LeoBandBoosterScrip@Gmail.com

Amazon Smiles

Leo Band is part of the Amazon Smiles Program. Amazon will donate 0.05% of your order to us when you shop using the website: AmazonSmiles (not Amazon.com)

1. Using the following link: smile.amazon.com/ch/45-2975674, will take you to the familiar Amazon sign in.
2. Amazon will confirm you understand the only way to earn money for the Band is through the Smiles link. You can then begin shopping. It's that easy!

Commitment Form and Statement of Understanding

I, as the parent or legal guardian of the student named below, hereby certify with my signature below that I have read, and agree to, all of the information in the Leo 2022-2023 Band Handbook. I further certify with my signature that I understand that success in band will require my child to practice their instrument outside of class and that I am expected to provide the equipment necessary to make their instrument function properly.

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

I, as the student named below and enrolled in my grade level's band class, hereby certify with my signature below that I have read, and agree to, all of the information in the Leo 2022-2023 Band Handbook. I further certify with my signature that I understand that success in band will require me to practice my instrument outside of class and that I am expected to work every day to improve as a musician and performer.

Name of Student _____ Date: _____

Signature of Student _____

This handbook and commitment form is being sent home during the first of week of school (by August 13). The Commitment Form is required to be turned in **for a grade by August 20, 2022.**