

# **Lake Cormorant Middle School Band Handbook**



**2022-2023**

This manual is distributed to every member of the Lake Cormorant Middle School Band Program. Its purpose is to give parents and students a clear and concise understanding of the workings of our band program and to provide a guide that covers aspects of the function and requirements of participation. The directors of this band program expect that all members and parents will be thoroughly familiar with the contents herein, for they will have a direct bearing on the success of the Lake Cormorant Middle School Band Program.

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## Communication

**REMIND \*\*\*REQUIRED BY ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS\*\*\***

Send a text to the phone number: 81010

Type into the message area:

*@advan-band* for **Advanced Band**

*@medi-band* for **Intermediate Band**

*@beg-bando* for **Beginner Band**

For high school band info go to: [www.lcgatorband.weebly.com](http://www.lcgatorband.weebly.com)

**FACEBOOK** Look for Lake Cormorant Gator Band Booster Club and request to become a member.

**TEACHER WEBSITE:** *lcm.desotocountyschools.org*

Click on Teacher Websites

Click on O'Neal Douglas - Band, or  
Jon Young – Band

Check back often because we will have lots of resources and music on there for students.

If needed you may also contact directors by text message: O'Neal Douglas cell 504-722-4188,

Jon Young cell 901-428-5595

## Supply List

1. A music stand for practicing at home.
2. Name tag for instrument case. (Luggage type or Amro)
3. Brass students should have an instrument maintenance kit (valve oil, mouthpiece brush, etc.), available from [Amro Music](#), or online venues such as [Woodwind and Brasswind](#), or [Amazon](#).
4. Woodwind players should have a cleaning care kit (mouthpiece brush, moisture swab, etc), and reeds (*see below*), available from [Amro Music](#), or online venues such as [Woodwind and Brasswind](#), or [Amazon](#).

### *\* Instruments with Reeds*

Single reed students (clarinet and saxophone) are required to have THREE working reeds at all times and a reed guard to properly hold them. Students that play double reed instruments (oboe and bassoon) are required to have TWO working reeds.

The required brand for single reeds is Vandoren #3 strength. We start **beginners** on Van Doren #2½ strength reeds and switch them over to #3's by the end of the first semester.

5. Percussion players should have a percussion bag with AT LEAST his/her own set of snare drum sticks and marimba mallets (although he/she will need timpani, xylophone, and bell mallets eventually).
6. Pencils (no ink pens please). It is a good idea to keep a working pencil in the band binder.
7. A metronome/tuner app on their phone or computer. There are many mobile phone metronome applications that can be downloaded from app stores. We strongly suggest the high quality “tonal energy” app. Most advanced or professional musicians use this app. The cost is about \$2.99. There is also a free tuner/metronome app by “Sound Corset.”

ALL BEGINNERS should also download the free app “Band Mate.” It helps them by displaying the correct note names as they play.

# Grading Policy

## 1. Performance Grade

ALL band performances, rehearsals, and auditions are required.

- A. 30 points will be deducted from the student's nine-weeks average for each unexcused absence from a **performance**.
- B. 10 points will be deducted from the student's nine-weeks average for each unexcused absence from a **Rehearsal**.

\*Consult the Band Calendar to arrange rides, doctor appointments and all other conflicts with rehearsals and performances. Here are **some** typical "pre-excused absence" reasons.

- 1. The student was not at school because they were at home sick.
- 2. The student checked out of school because they got sick or injured during school the day of a rehearsal or performance.
- 3. There was a death in the immediate family.

Be sure to text a director about these absences before they occur. That way we won't be looking for your child. Here are **some** typical unexcused reasons

- 1. "I didn't have a ride" (Let the directors know 24 hours in advance if possible so we can help figure the ride issue out.)
- 2. "Oh, I got sick (got a headache) during 4<sup>th</sup> block and went home." The question the next day will be, "Did you check out of school?"

The answer in this case is usually no and the absence will be unexcused.

- 3. "Oh, we had a family emergency." The directors will need to have specific information regarding the "emergency." *When a band member misses a rehearsal or performance it hurts the group because each member is very important to the success of the group So basically, find a way for your child to be present.*

## 2. Playing Test Grades

Playing test on scales, etudes, selected exercises, and any assigned music will be given periodically.

## 3. Written Tests

- A. Written theory tests covering fundamentals will be administered periodically.
- B. Vocabulary tests covering musical terms will be administered periodically.

#### 4. Weekly Participation Grades

Each student will have at least 900 participation points per 9-weeks.

A percentage of each student's grade will be determined by a daily evaluation of their ability (shown by having their instrument, etc.) and their willingness to participate in class activities. This evaluation will include the following:

- A. Being on time to class.
- B. Remaining "on task" during class.
- C. Having the proper equipment/supplies for class.
- D. Being ready and prepared to play each day.
- E. Preparation for class. (This mean **practicing at home on** objectives covered in class and also being able to play any required music.)
- F. Positive attitude. (Striving to do their best each day)

*A student shall lose his/her participation points for the day if a director observes the student not adhering to the aforementioned evaluated objectives.*

#### Fees

Students who play school owned instruments are required to **pay a \$50.00** per year rental fee. This money is used for cleaning and wear and tear on the instruments. Students playing on a school owned instrument are required to purchase their own mouthpiece and all appropriate maintenance supplies. The rental fee is due when the instrument is assigned. **Any damages to the rented instrument are the parent's responsibility.**

Beginner, Intermediate, & Advanced Band Fees: *(total depends on whether or not the student is using a school owned instrument.)*

**Band Shirt** - \$19.99 *See attached "flyer" on how to order your band shirt from BSN online.*

The school does not take this money. The school does not take this order. It is **100% done online** through BSN Sports online.

***The official band shirt (the one you will need for performances is the BRTT51-boys, or the BRTT51W-girls.***

They have many other options for purchase on the BSN Website so check it out. Our team store will close on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> so no orders will be able to be placed after that date.

### **Beginner Band Fee**

Music Binder - \$2.00

Master Theory Book 1 - \$5.00

### **Advanced/Intermediate Band Fee**

Music Binder - \$2.00

Time for Band Book 2 – \$13.00

Master Theory Book 1 - \$5.00

School owned instrument (if you have one) - \$50.00 per year.

## **Expectations in Rehearsals**

Each performance is important as it represents what is learned in class. This makes each rehearsal crucial to our performances. Following is a list of things expected from students to keep things running smoothly in rehearsal.

1. Practice prior to each rehearsal. Know your music ahead of time.
2. Be present and on time to each rehearsal.
3. Have all necessary materials with you when rehearsal begins.
4. Any oiling of valves or slides etc. should be done at the very beginning of rehearsals.
5. Always have a pencil and mark music as mistakes happen or as changes are made to the music.
6. Number each measure in every piece of music.
7. **No talking or other disruptions of any kind during rehearsals.**

## Expectations at Performances

Each performance gives us an opportunity to share our music and show what we have learned. It is also the most enjoyable and important part of being in the band. We want our performances to be of high quality so it is important for each member of the ensemble to give his/her best.

The following is a list of expectations for performances:

1. Attendance at all performances is absolutely required.
2. Be on time in the proper attire.
3. Absolutely no individual playing or practicing anywhere before a performance. All students will be informed about when and where they can start warming up for a performance.
4. Be professional during each performance. There should be no gum chewing, talking, laughing, and no waiving to friends or parents without permission from a director.
5. **Students are required to stay for the full duration of the performance.**

## Expectations at Performance Assessment

When we are with students from other schools we are to be polite and courteous. Always remember, we are representing our school system. Be respectful of other schools and their facilities.

Follow directions of adults in charge; this includes any band parents or volunteers who are present to support the band program by serving as chaperones. If riding buses, there will be no standing, sitting on the back of seats, shouting, or any other inappropriate behavior. Always be respectful of bus drivers and follow their rules.

## Uniform Policy

For all Concert Band type performances (*Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, etc.*) band students are to wear their band shirt with tan pants.

For Performances at football games, (Advanced Band) students are to wear the band shirt with casual pants. (shorts, jeans, etc.)



## Extra Rehearsals

Extra rehearsals (after school) will be scheduled for sections, ensembles, and students who need extra help on their individual instruments. These rehearsals will be scheduled on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. They will begin immediately after school and will be over no later than 5:00 PM.

As concerts approach, it will be necessary to schedule extra rehearsals for the full band. The schedule for these rehearsals will be the same as the schedule for sections and ensembles. (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday until 5:30 PM)

## Excused Tardiness or Absences from After School Activities

**Excused** tardiness or absences carry no penalty, except the student will be responsible for making up the work missed. Excused tardiness or absences must meet the following criteria:

1. Student brings a note explaining the tardy or absence, signed by a parent 24 hours **before** the tardy or absence.
2. The director must approve the reason.

Approved reasons for excused tardiness or absences in part include:

1. Personal illness - Student not at school
2. Out of town (with prior approval by the director)
3. Family emergency (if pre-approved by the director) such as death in the immediate family. In this situation, if it is at all possible, call us.
4. School related conflict (with prior approval by the director)

\*\*\*Outside of school activities (baseball practice or game, hair appointment, tanning appointment, etc.)

are not considered excused absences. \*\*\*

The following will **not** be accepted as a valid excuse:

1. No ride (the directors or another parent will help facilitate)
2. Headache or stomachache that develops at the end of the school day
3. "Sick" but was not checked out of school

## **Care of School Facilities and Equipment**

1. No drinks, gum, food, or candy in the band room (water is permitted).
2. No rough or rowdy play.
3. Keep up with all personal materials (music, instrument, etc.) and store them properly.
4. Respect property of others. If it's not yours, don't touch it!
5. Nothing becomes "airborne". Do not throw anything in the band room.
6. Take care of our facilities and equipment.
7. Follow directions of directors as well as all school policies.

## **Consequences for Misconduct**

It is expected of students to come to class each day well behaved and well prepared for each rehearsal. However, we know that this does not always happen. Therefore, we will be using a set of consequences in the event that a student does not behave properly or is not prepared for class each day.

1. Personal warning.
2. Conference with director and parental phone call.
3. Conference with parent.
4. Student sent to principal (written referral)  
Some actions will result in an immediate referral.
5. Student removed from organization.  
Theft, physical abuse to another band student, insubordination.

**\*\*Major disruptions such as fights, destruction of school property, or any other incident that the director deems necessary, will receive immediate action. \*\***

**\*\*Any student that is written up in any class will not be permitted to go on any end-of-year trip. \*\***

# LAKE CORMORANT MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND CALENDAR 2021-2022

**September 2** - Amro Instrument Night-*Beginner Band*

**September 9** – 5:00 -7:00pm, Home Football Game – Centerhill - *Advanced Band*  
*At the high school stadium. We transport band members after school to the stadium; parents will need to pick up band members at the stadium after the game.*

**September 23** - 5:00 -7:00pm, Home Football Game – Hernando- *Advanced Band*  
*At the high school stadium. We transport band members after school to the stadium; parents will need to pick up band members at the stadium after the game.*

**October 14** - 5:00 -7:00pm, Home Football Game– Olive Branch- *Advanced Band*  
*At the high school stadium. We transport band members after school to the stadium; parents will need to pick up band members at the stadium after the game.*

**October 22** – 6:00 -8:00pm, Band Night - *All Bands*

**November 16** – Solo & Ensemble Festival-*Intermediate & Advanced Band (Counts as a performance)*  
*At Lake Cormorant Middle School*

**November 30** – Hernando Desoto Honor Band Tryouts-*Intermediate & Advanced Bands*  
*We transport students to Horn Lake High School; parents pick up students after their audition at Horn Lake High School.*

**December 7** – 6:30 -8:30pm, Christmas/Holiday Concert – *All Bands*  
*At Lake Cormorant Middle School Gym*

**March 1** – Solo & Ensemble Festival-*Beginner Band*  
*At Lake Cormorant Middle School*

**March 21** – Young Band Festival (*tentative*)  
*At Hernando Performing Arts Center*

**March 28** – State Concert Evaluation (*tentative*)  
*At Ridgeland High School, Ridgeland, MS*

**April 7** – 6:30 -8:30pm, Spring Concert  
*At Lake Cormorant Middle School*

**May 17** – Band Cookout & Awards Banquet  
*At Lake Cormorant Middle School*

## Handbook Acknowledgement Form

As a member of the Lake Cormorant Middle School Band, I understand that I must meet the following expectations:

1. I will come to class each day, ready to actively participate in the rehearsal.
2. I will practice and prepare assigned music used in rehearsal.
3. I will demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times and will make a positive contribution to the group.
4. I will bring necessary materials to rehearsal every day.
5. I will attend all after-school rehearsals and performances.
6. I will attend/participate in all auditions, concerts, and other events assigned by the director.
7. I will contact the director, in advance if possible, if an emergency occurs and I am unable to attend any scheduled event.
8. I have read and understand all the policies and guidelines in the band handbook pertaining to the Lake Cormorant Middle School Band for the current school year.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the band handbook and the expectations listed above, and I will ensure that my child fulfills these requirements as a member of the Lake Cormorant Middle School Band.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please read, sign, and return to directors.)*

**Lake Cormorant Middle School Band**

**Permission Slip/Medical Form**

**2021-2022**

My son / daughter \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to travel with the  
Lake Cormorant Middle School Band for performances and activities during the 2021-2022  
school year.

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorize the sponsor, teacher, or adult chaperone  
(Parent/guardian)

to transport my student to the emergency room and/or obtain emergency care as needed.

This student has the following:

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medications \_\_\_\_\_

Other pertinent medical conditions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We understand that the Desoto County School Board, the sponsoring organization, or the  
adult chaperones will not be held liable for any accident or associated expenses incurred  
while on these excursions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insurance Company and Policy Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Phone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Emergency Contact Person)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Emergency Phone Number)

*(Please fill out, sign, and return to directors)*