

# Lawton High School Band

## Student Handbook 2021-2022

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## Band Policy

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the high school band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. The happiest student is one who improves through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong but must be able to stand for principles and develop a high sense of purpose toward

which he or she is willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students.

## Objectives of the Band Program:

- To teach music by its actual performance
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop esprit de corps.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

## Did you know?

Arts involvement teaches children many skills necessary to succeed in life, including problem solving and decision making, building self-confidence and self-discipline, the ability to imagine what might be and to accept responsibility for it, teamwork, the development of informed perception, and articulating a vision.

## Band Curriculum

### Concert Band

The concert band performs significant literature that includes original works for wind bands and historical literature. This group performs several concerts throughout the year.

Rehearsals are Monday through Friday during 1st hour. Some Tuesday after school rehearsals will be required, but not every week. Sectionals will be during 8th hour when needed. Any rehearsals scheduled will be mandatory, students and parents will be notified well in advance.

### Marching Band

The Lawton High School Big Red Band is organized during the Fall semester and can go into the Spring. The marching band provides entertainment for football games, parades, and school pep rallies, as well as competes in competitive marching festivals.

The Big Red Band rehearses Monday through Friday during 1st hour of school, and every Tuesday at 3:00pm-5:00pm. Sectionals are held during 8th hour with Percussion/Brass every Monday and

Woodwinds/Color Guard every Thursday. Rehearsals are mandatory. Please avoid scheduling appointments during this time. If you are in another school organization, please let directors know.

## Percussion Ensemble

The Performance Ensemble consists of students currently enrolled in Band at Lawton High School. This year we will have an extra class 2nd hour that will focus on Percussion Ensemble, District and State Solo/Ensemble events. This group will also play for Basketball games during the Spring semester and any community events.

Any rehearsals that are scheduled are mandatory, students and parents will be notified well in advance.

## All-Region and All-State Band

Members of the band program are eligible to audition for All-Region and All-State bands. Auditions are on the calendar of events and music is available on google classroom or our website. Ask the director for more information.

## Solo and Ensemble Performance

Members of the band program are eligible to participate in Solo and Ensemble. Students may perform one solo and participate in one ensemble (three or more). First step will be the district level in February, and the next will be state level in April. Ask the director for more information.

## Attendance Policy

The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excuses by the school for regular attendance records, e.g. illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director.

Performance no-shows! If you miss a performance and it's unexcused, you will receive a 0 for the performance, or you can perform the music material for a director for half credit.

For all absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- The Director must be notified in advance.
- For illness, a parental note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day must be cleared with the director as well-- please email the band director.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student.

## Conflicts with Band

Resolving conflicts between band and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so that arrangements can be made. Students should have a calendar and be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. It is the policy of the band director to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and should be on top of the band calendar. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

## Scholastic Eligibility

Anyone who is ineligible due to grades will not be allowed to perform, go to a contest, or to audition for All Region or All State Band. If eligibility is a problem during the first semester, the student will be asked to take another class in the second semester. Every member of the band is important to the success of the band. Do not let your peers down because of grade issues in other classes. If you miss a performance due to ineligibility you will be asked to complete a written assignment due the following Monday to make up your grade.

## Grading Policy

Grades are assigned for the band class and performances, which are co curricular.

- Weekly Participation:** 100 points per week
- Rehearsal Participation:** 200 points per rehearsal
- Performances:** 400 points per performance
- Weekly Playing Tests:** 100 points per week
- Semester Exams:** 100 points per semester

Weekly participation points are earned by having all supplies; pencil, music, flip folder or black binder, and instrument. As well as being a part of the band by learning their music and playing during class.

Rehearsal participation points are earned by having all supplies; pencil, flip folder or binder, and instruments. During marching band, adding drill and sneakers. As well as being a part of the band by learning their music/drill and playing during rehearsal.

Performance points are earned by having all supplies needed and wearing the correct uniform to performance events.

Weekly playing test points are earned through performing their test through Flip Grid or playing for a director. Tests are every week and due every Friday at midnight. Students will have all week to turn in their playing test.

Semester exam points are earned by completing the semester exam during class during exam times.

## Duties of the Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsal and performances. **Early is on time--on time is late.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to the rehearsal with a good attitude.
- There should be no excess playing (e.g. horsing around on the instrument) only good, solid material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of the rehearsal, put all material in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those around you.
- Read and play music with insight-- have musical experiences.

## The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and performance. It is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do so much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

## The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for themselves. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who discredits the organization by his or her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip shall be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program. This may include any trips. The decision will be at the director's discretion.

## Parents' Responsibility to the Band

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies

set within and that any questions are to be directed to the band director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that the child practices their instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of our parents.

## How Parents Can Help

If questions arise, it is important to remember to contact the band director.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice
- Find a quiet place for your child to practice
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least three reeds in the case; get a metronome!
- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction!
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the director if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- Double-check to make sure students have their instruments.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend parents meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fund-raising money on time.
- Volunteer to help during games or trips, either as a chaperone, driving the trailer, or providing food or water.

## Band Parent Volunteers

We do not have a band booster organization, but we do have our amazing volunteers. Any and all help is needed. If you have a special skill, we probably need it. From photography to nursing, we would love to have you! Here is a list of needs for the band that band parents will volunteer to help with:

- Pulling the band trailer for games and competitions
- Driving the band bus (if qualified)
- Providing water bottles for the band at football games
- Chaperones
- Providing meals for the band at home games; having a cookout or working with a caterer
- Taking pictures of the band at events
- Loading or unloading equipment

# Marching Band Practice

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. If there is a situation preventing this, please communicate with the director before the event. After School rehearsals will be on Tuesdays from 3-5pm. Sectionals will be announced during school and will be during 8th hour. If a student is absent from school on the day of an after school rehearsal, this does not automatically excuse the student for that afternoon. A parent must contact the director.

## Uniforms

### Marching Band

The band will provide the following in regard to the uniform:

- Jacket
- Bibbers
- Hat and plume
- Gloves (through fees)

The student will provide the following:

- Plain white under shirt
- Tall black socks
- Black marching shoes

### Pep Band

The student will provide the following:

- LHS Band T-Shirt (through band fees)
- Dark denim jeans with no holes or extra embroidery
- Black closed toed/heel shoes (need to be at least 80 % black)

### Concert Band

The student will provide the following:

Men	Women
Long sleeve black button down shirt. Can wear a red or black tie/bow tie.	Black blouse with sleeves. No sheer in inappropriate places.
All black slacks with a black belt. Shirt tucked in.	All black slacks. Can wear an all black dress or skirt, but it needs to be below the knee when sitting down.
Tall black socks with black dress shoes.	All black dress shoes. If socks are needed, they

	need to be all black socks.
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All students will be inspected prior to performance. Any member who does not pass inspection will not participate in the given performance.

## Football Games

- Report time for all games will be announced no later than the day before each game.
- Students must wear their full uniform.
- For home games, students will be dismissed following the announcements from the stadium.
- For away games, students will ride home with the band unless a parent is in attendance and comes to the director with their child to leave after packing up. Parents must contact the director prior to the football game.
- When marching on the field, the band will remain at attention unless told otherwise. When you have class it shows --when you don't, it shouts!
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section. Unless specified by the director.
- All members are to remain in their section. Any stand music will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by the director.
- There will be no eating or drinking sodas/sport drinks in the stands until 3rd quarter break, and must be back in their seats for the downbeat at the beginning of the 4th quarter.
- All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If a student leaves the band section, they must have permission from the director.
- Students will turn in their uniforms correctly at the end of the game before they may go home.

## Traveling

- If the conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is too loud!
- There will be no hanging out of or talking out of the bus windows.
- Please lower the volume considerably when entering towns or stadiums. This is for your safety, is courteous to the bus driver, and is an act of class.
- Please keep the bus clean; pick up after yourselves, and always thank the chaperones and driver.

## In Hotel Situations

- Parents and students will be responsible for paying for any incurred charges, including lost room keys.
- Rooms are to be locked at all times.



- There will be no one of the opposite sex in your room unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- All school rules will be enforced on trips.
- All students should realize any personal desires may have to be put aside for the duration of the trip in order to facilitate large group control and management.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone. Any student found leaving the premises without permission will be dealt with severely.
- Profanity is not a part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
- Band members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, ready to go.

## Competitions

Competitions are special events in which we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and very competent judges. We are there to do our best--not to win. If we do our best, everything will take care of itself. Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure, and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band. When going to competitions, we are to show our best selves in attitude and performance.

## Concert Band Chair Auditions

There will be two auditions, one in October and one in December. October will determine the Christmas Concert chair placements and the other to determine the Spring season chair placements. Auditions will be announced well in advance and will consist of a prepared piece and sight-reading. Sections with one or two members will not have auditions. Attitude and being prepared is everything. If you get a high placement, but are never prepared, you will lose your chair to someone working hard.

## Concert Band Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be given well in advance. They will always be on Tuesdays but with conflict from other organizations or events, we will meet on a different day. Times will be from 3pm-5pm. Extra rehearsals will apply to some performances.

## Weekly Playing Tests

To pass off assigned material, the player will use FlipGrid either on the app or on their computers. Every note and rhythm must be perfect, though standards will be adjusted to fit the musician's level. For example, a freshman, after working hard, may be able to play an assignment note perfect and up to tempo but with weak intonation and poor tone and style. The flaws would be pointed out to the individual, but

would be passed off. Those who do not pass, will be asked to redo their assignment until it's up to standards. If a student doesn't redo their assignment they will receive the first grade they were assigned.

## Classroom Procedures

- You must be in your seat when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken as well as a supply check.
- Before the bell rings, you will grab your instrument and music and obtain your daily supplies; pencil, reeds, oil, etc. Percussionists will use this time to set up all equipment and music. All students will check the board to know what they will be doing in class that day to know how to set up for the class. Any announcements will be made at the beginning or end of class and will be written on the board.
- Talking will not be tolerated during rehearsal. If you have any questions, raise your hand.
- The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music!
- If you must leave your seat for any reason, please ask. Restroom breaks should be taken between classes.
- In your individual warm-up, it is important to practice long tones, lip slurs, scales, and that week's playing test on a daily basis.
- No phones will be allowed during rehearsals except for use as a tuner. **You will receive a 0 for the day if you are found not using your phone responsibly.**

## Materials Needed for Class

Each student should have the following items in class everyday:

- A sharpened pencil
- Instrument (sticks, mallets in stick bag)
- Music in flip folder (marching band) or black binder (concert band and percussion)
- Drill in a pouch or fanny pack with chalk (marching band)
- At least three reeds (clarinets and saxophones)
- At least two reeds (oboes) and water canisters for soaking
- \*NEW\* Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Intermediate Concert Band Method Book for your instrument (needed by October)

## Scholarships

There are a wide variety of scholarships available for both music majors and non-music majors on the collegiate level. Many universities grant partial scholarships or a one-time scholarship to students who simply agree to play in an ensemble, and some will waive out-of-state tuition. Ask for information and we will do our best we can to help in your future endeavours. When reaching out, don't wait! Do it at the beginning of the year so you have time to apply or audition.

# School-Owned Instruments

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost. To check-out an instrument, ask the director to help fill out a form. It will need to be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to be on file. Summer use is available but another check-out form will be required.

## Lost Music

Each student is required to keep up with their music. If it is lost, a PDF of it will be available on Google Classroom or on our website. If you need a new copy, please let the director know a day in advance for when you need your music. If you are consistently losing music, a fee will be required to print another copy.

## Use of the Band Facility

### Band Room

The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. No outside students are permitted in the band room, except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, e.g. throwing things in or around the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. There will be no storing of personal items--the band room is not a locker!

### Practice Rooms

Practice rooms are to be used for practice or private instruction. Keep the room neat with the appropriate music stands in place.

### Library and Printer

The library and printer are for director use only.

# Practice

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be fun unless you practice. There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, drive practice. Remember: “Perfect practice makes perfect!” Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Have a non-boomy place to practice
- Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo)
- Use our daily warm-up and think “tone”
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full-tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of the time
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc)
- “I will start with \_\_\_\_ minutes and increase to \_\_\_\_”
- Practice sight-reading

## Student Leadership Roles

Students can receive one of the following leadership roles. Auditions will be near the end of the year and announced before the year ends. Students are chosen based on their leadership and responsibility traits shown throughout the year. These students are also chosen based on their knowledge of band.

- Drum Major
- Woodwind Captain
- Woodwind Co-Captain
- Brass Captain
- Brass Co-Captain
- Percussion Captain
- Percussion Co-Captain
- Uniform Officers
- Loading Crew Leader

## Letters, Bars, and Awards

Students who qualify will receive a letter or bar by meeting the following requirements:

- Have a 90 or higher in band
- Pass all weekly playing tests
- Audition for All-Region
- Make All-Region
- Audition for All-State

- Make All-State
- Attend all performances
- Have no major disciplinary actions taken against them
- Volunteer at non mandatory band functions
- Attend concerts by outside organizations, such as the Army Band or Cameron University
- Earn a leadership Role

Letters are for first year members of the band. If you already have a letter, you will receive a bar for each year you qualify.

Awards are given to those who have earned the highest points to receive one of the following:

- Outstanding Woodwind
- Outstanding Brass
- Outstanding Percussion

Awards are also given to those who have progressed the most throughout the year deemed by directors, will receive one of the following:

- Improved Woodwind
- Improved Brass
- Improved Percussion

## Instrument Upgrades

Mouthpiece Upgrades:

Clarinet	Van Doren 5 RV Lyre Mouthpiece DEG Barrels Rovner Ligatures
Saxophones	Selmer C*
Trumpet	Bach 3C or 1 ½ C
Horn	Schilke 29 or 30
Trombone	Bach 5G or 4G Schilke 51 or 51D
Tuba	Helleberg 120S Bach 18

### Instruments Upgrades (Intermediate and Professional Models)

Piccolo	Yamaha YPC62
Flute	Yamaha 684 H
Clarinet	Buffet R-13
Oboe	Loree or Fox 400
Saxophone	Old Selmer Mark VI or Yamaha Custom
Trumpet	Bach Stradivarius
Horn	Paxman M20 or Holton 179
Trombone	Bach 42B, BO, or Edwards
Euphonium	Yamaha 321-S or Wilson
Tuba	St. Petersburg or Miraphone 191 or 187

Upgrading is pricey, if these are out of your budget, let the director help point you in the right direction. **DO NOT PURCHASE AMAZON INSTRUMENTS.** The price might look good, but it will not last long and it will sound terrible. Music stores will not be able to fix these instruments. Buyer beware.

## All-Region, All-State Method Books

If you are tired of waiting for a copy of the newest audition piece. Buy a copy of the book! You will always have material to practice if you purchase these method books. These books for the High School (10th-12th Grade) Auditions, not Jr. High School (9th Grade).

<http://www.swobda.com/> will have update the list every year along with the cuts needed for All-Region.

Flute	Selected Studies for Flute by H. Voxman
Clarinet	Selected Studies for Clarinet by H. Voxman
Oboe	48 Studies for Oboe Op. 31 by Ferling
Saxophone	Selected Studies for Saxophone by H. Voxman
Trumpet	Selected Studies for Cornet or Trumpet by H. Voxman

Horn	Sixty Selected Studies by Kopprasch Legato Etudes for French Horn by Shoemaker
Trombone	Melodious Etudes for Trombone Vocalises of Marco Bordogni Edited by Alan Raph Selected Studies for Trombone by H. Voxman
Baritone/Euphonium	Selected Studies for Baritone Bass Clef by H. Voxman
Tuba	40 Advanced Studies for Bb Bass by H.W. Tyrell 43 Bel Canto Studies for Tuba by Marco Borgodni
Percussion	Four-Mallet Marimba Playing by Nancy Zetlman Masterpieces for Marimba by thomas McMillan Portraits in Rhythm by Anthony J. Cirone Twenty Studies for Timpani by Jaques Delecluse