

Lakeridge High School

# Band Handbook

2010-2011



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Dear band students and parents,

Despite how hard we tried to avoid it, another school year is upon us! For some, this might trigger thoughts of alarm clocks, deadlines, homework, responsibility, and stress in general. Fear not: another year means another set of opportunities. We have a clean slate in front of us, and I am eager to see all of the successes we'll know this year. We have the opportunity to take risks, to learn about ourselves, to forge new friendships, and to try something we never even considered trying.

As I welcome you back to Lakeridge, I also welcome you back to Lakeridge Band. This is a year of promise for us; the strides we took last year will springboard us toward a successful new year. With hard work, cooperation and a whole lot of enthusiasm, I have no doubt that positive things will happen.

I offer this advice as we return to the familiarity of school: don't approach any experience you have this year with preconceived notions or expectations. Whether it's in band, athletics, an English class or a club of which you're president, be open to unfamiliar experiences and be open to taking risks. The minute you try too hard to protect yourself from failure you also place limits on your successes. Don't react to a situation in a certain way just because that's how you have in the past. I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone this year - you'll be surprised by the view from the outside.

If you have any questions about this handbook or just want to drop a line, please feel free to send me an email. I hope you all had relaxing summers and look forward (as much as I do) to a year of excellent music-making!

Go Pacers,

Corey Alston

# CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Each ensemble member is expected to come to class on time and be ready to participate in a positive manner. Items to be brought daily include:

- Instrument in good playing condition
- Supplies
  - Woodwinds: at least 4 good reeds, a swab
  - Brass: Valve oil, mute if needed
  - Percussion: a set of drum sticks, and a pair of yarn mallets
- All music, in designated folder (Folder storage will be provided. Folders should not be stuffed into instrument lockers)
- **PENCIL!**

## Classroom Rules

Have a positive attitude! We all make mistakes; we're working together to fix them.

Contribute to a fun *and productive* bandroom environment.

No one shall prevent the teacher from teaching

No one shall prevent a fellow student from learning.

Be on time to all classes, rehearsals, events, games and performances.

Have instrument and related materials at rehearsals and performances.

Leave the band room as you found it. Or cleaner!

Office areas, music library and storage rooms are off-limits without a teacher present.

NO food or drink in the band room (including GUM) except for water bottles.

Cell phone use is not permitted in any manner during rehearsal.

Respect, respect, respect. We are working together! Be a team player.

## Lockers

Each student will be assigned a storage space for his or her instrument, and a lock if applicable. At no time should a lock ever leave its designated locker. If any locker storage problems persist, students may forfeit their right to use school storage space and any school-owned instrument.

# PERFORMANCES

Enclosed in this handbook is a list of dates for performances (these include athletic pep band events). Unexcused absences from any performance will result in a considerable grade deduction. This is a performance-based class, and without all of our members, we can't perform to our fullest capacity. You have a responsibility to your fellow bandmates. If a student must be absent from any performance, please let Mr. Alston know as soon as possible. Communication is essential. In addition, appropriate documentation will be needed to substantiate

an excused absence. Excused absences are based on the Lakeridge High School absence policy.

## GRADING POLICY

Grades will be weighted by the following categories:

Daily Preparation and Attitude:	50%
Performances:	24%
Playing assessments:	15%
'A' Grade requirement	11%

*Daily Preparation and Attitude:* Students will bring to class all necessary materials (see Class Expectations). Students will also continue to be of good wit and humor, treating each other with respect and integrity. Each day will be worth a total of 20 possible points.

*Performances:* see Performances.

*Playing assessments:* Throughout the year, it's essential that Mr. Alston know how each member of the band is progressing and learning. We will have a variety of assessments, including SmartMusic, group playing quizzes and chamber music performances.

*'A' Grade requirement:*

Choose a music project each semester from the following:

- Play a solo or ensemble (or be a part of an ensemble) at the TRL or District solo and ensemble contest in February, or if you are a pianist, do several accompaniments. (2nd semester only)
- Play a solo or ensemble in front of the class.
- Take weekly private lessons on your band instrument and get a letter signed by your private teacher detailing your progress.
- Practice an average of 4 hours per week. Keep a practice journal signed by a parent detailing your work.
- Attend 3 concerts (classical, jazz, etc.) outside of school. (You must get approval from the director before you attend the concert.) Submit 3 programs and 3 one page, single spaced typed reviews.
- Audition for WIBC, All-State or All-Northwest honor band or orchestra.
- Be a member of an ensemble outside of school that meets weekly. (Portland Youth Philharmonic, MYS, etc.) You must provide me with a program (your name on program) from the concert or a rehearsal/performance schedule signed by the conductor.
- Choose a project and have it approved (in advance) by the director.

# SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Students who are assigned school-owned instruments or those who use school-owned percussion equipment will sign an LOSD Instrument Use Contract and be held accountable for damages beyond normal wear and tear. Any student misusing or not storing the instrument in its proper location risks losing the privilege to use Lakeridge equipment. Instruments will be checked out at the beginning of each school year and collected toward the end. Speak with Mr. Alston if you would need an instrument over the summer.

# CONCERT ATTIRE

What an ensemble looks like on stage is an important part of a concert experience.

Wind Ensemble will be issued concert attire, and will need to fill out and return the concert attire use contract.

-Men

- Tuxedo pants
- Tuxedo jacket
- White tuxedo shirt
- Black bow tie
- Black cummerbund
- YOU must supply:
  - Black socks
  - Black dress shoes

-Women

- Black dress
- YOU must supply
  - Black dress shoes

The Symphonic Band will have to supply the following:

-Men

- Black shoes and socks
- Black pants
- Black belt
- White oxford-style long sleeve shirt
- Black bowtie

-Women

- Black shoes
- Black pants or ankle-length skirt
- White long sleeve shirt

Pep band will be dressed in jeans, sneakers and any Pacer blue shirt!

## POPS

Parents Of Performing Students is an organization of band and orchestra parents that supports the programs of Lakeridge. Parent support and involvement is essential to the success of the students and the band program. You are strongly encouraged to get more information about this organization. Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Mr. Alston ([alstonc@loswego.k12.or.us](mailto:alstonc@loswego.k12.or.us)) if you are interested in assisting with this important organization.

## SMARTMUSIC

This year we will be again be utilizing SmartMusic software, more extensively and effectively than last year. There will be a computer in the band practice room on which SmartMusic will be installed, so students can use this to complete assignments, but know that time cannot be guaranteed on the computer (don't procrastinate like everybody else!) ~ a home subscription is still very much encouraged. Please visit [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com) to get your subscription, and follow the directions to enroll in the appropriate class.

## PERFORMANCE DATES

Here is a list of known dates of Performances:

Homecoming Parade:	10/22/2010	All bands
TRL Jazz Competition:	11/16/10	Stage Band
Winter Concert:	12/6/10	All Bands
TRL Solo Competition:	2/5/11	
OMEA District Solo:	3/5/11	
Band Festival at GFU:	3/8/11	Wind Ensemble
Southside Band Festival:	3/16/11	All Bands
TRL Band Contest:	4/12/11	Wind Ensemble
State Solo Contest:	4/30/11	
State Band Contest:	5/14/11	Wind Ensemble (if qualified)
Spring Concert:	4/26/11	All Bands

### **Pep band performances (all band members)**

Football:	9/25/10	Basketball dates are TBA.
	10/1/10	
	10/15/10	
	10/22/10	

If either team makes it to postseason play, we will also play at those events. All dates are subject to change, and dates may be added. If this happens, Mr. Alston will notify you as soon as he is aware.

## STUDENT EXPENSES

Students are responsible for having the following items:

- Flip folder and lyre, appropriate for your instrument (by the first football game)
  - [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com), click on Band > marching band accessories
- SmartMusic student subscription and microphone (*encouraged*)
  - [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)
- A spiral notebook designated for band