

“A goal without a plan is a wish.”



La Grange Middle School Band

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2009-2010 Band Handbook

Objectives

- **Educational** – To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of all types of musical literature. This will be based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Music 7 and 8.
- **Experience** – To experience music in a variety of settings and to add color and atmosphere to selected events while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the school through various performances.
- **Teamwork** – To provide all students with an opportunity to learn teamwork and the satisfaction of cooperation with people from a variety of backgrounds.

To achieve our objectives, we must be **dedicated** to our cause, **determined** to succeed, and have the **discipline** to work hard and make progress each day.

Expectations

- Each **student and director** will:
 1. Work hard and do his/her best.
 2. Be prepared.
 3. Be on time.
 4. Be supportive and respectful of other band members and directors.
 5. Pursue every band activity with an open mind.

Commitment

Personal commitment and dedication are important concepts in the band curriculum. **For this reason, students are expected to remain band members for the entire school year.**

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Class Procedures

1. Always display good manners.
2. Take care of your music and binder.
3. Take care of your instrument and keep it in good condition.
4. Come prepared to all rehearsals with instrument, music, accessories, and A PENCIL.
5. Classes and performances begin promptly. Plan to arrive early.
6. Make up missed schoolwork.
7. All procedures in the LMS Parent and Student Handbook and the Code of Conduct will be followed.
8. Food, drinks, gum, and toys are not allowed in the Band Hall at any time, including after school. Seventh Grade Band members may bring their packed lunches to the Band Hall during class and store them in their instrument lockers.
9. Do not touch or handle instruments and equipment not issued to you.
10. Respect all areas of the Band Hall. Students who damage or deface property will be handled at the administrative level.

To and From the Band Hall

Because band students have to walk so far to class, a few special guidelines are required. **All of the expectations on the front page apply.** Also:

- Walk with a purpose, but do not run.
- Stay on paved sidewalks.
- Refrain from yelling or making other loud noises.
- Do not push or otherwise touch another student.
- Use language appropriate for school. Remember that young children are all around you and they are listening.

If the above expectations are not followed, we will have to walk to band as a group.

Consequences

Consequences for violation of classroom procedures will include the following:

- Verbal Warning
- Remedial Assignment
- Teacher/student conference
- Lunch detention
- Disciplinary referral
- Parent notification and discussion
- Teacher/student/principal conference
- Teacher/student/principal/parent conference

The Band Director reserves the right to use any of the above consequences as well as those required by the La Grange Middle School Parent and Student Handbook.

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Extracurricular Discipline Management Plan

Because some elements of the band program are extracurricular, students enrolled in the La Grange Middle School Band are subject to La Grange ISD's Extracurricular Discipline Management Plan. This plan is included at the end of this handbook. Please read the plan. Please sign and return the form indicating that you have received and read this information. This form will then be filed in the principal's office. Any questions about the Extracurricular Discipline Management Plan should be directed to the principal.

Instrument Storage

Instruments are to be placed in their cases with the latches latched. All band instruments will be securely stored in a Band Hall locker. Each band student (including tuba players) will be assigned a locker and padlock in the Band Hall. Band instruments and folders are to be stored in these lockers, with the lock secured, during the school day. During class, students will store their empty instrument cases and any other extra materials in the lockers and **LOCK THE PADLOCKS**. After school, **ALL BAND INSTRUMENTS MUST GO HOME**. **Students will be allowed to leave seventh period class a few minutes early to collect their instruments before the buses leave**. Do not abuse this privilege. The Band Hall will usually remain open until after athletics practice so that students may pick up their instruments. It is understood that band athletes will not be able to take their instruments home on some game days. Please feel free to call me at 968-4780 to discuss any special arrangements. . **Band instruments are to be taken home at the end of each school day. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen instruments. It is the student and parent's responsibility to keep records of serial numbers of personal instruments.**

Grading System

Assignments will be made each six-weeks based upon that period's activities. These assignments will include practice records, practice journals, in-class playing assignments, out-of-class playing assignments, chair tests, notebook checks, help sessions, written work, and performance participation. Categories and point values change each six weeks. The six-weeks' assignments will be handed out at the beginning of every grading period and will be posted on the band's web page.

Make Up Work

The nature of band class makes make-up work difficult or impossible. In the event of an absence from class, students may make up missed assignments in accordance with the La Grange Middle School Parent and Student handbook. Students may not be allowed to make up work missed because of forgotten or lost materials.

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SmartMusic

Many of our class assignments will be completed using SmartMusic, a sophisticated computer program. We will be using this program during class, but students will be expected to use SmartMusic independently as well. Use of this program will be required in order to turn in some assignments. There will be computers available before and after school for students to complete these assignments. However, students may also purchase a subscription at home. The current price for this program is \$30 per year for students. Go to <http://www.smartmusic.com> for information regarding system requirements and purchasing. I strongly suggest that you get this program.

Supplies

A selection of supplies will be maintained in the Band Hall office. Please see the enclosed price list. Checks are to be made out to La Grange Middle School Band Activity. If you require supplies other than those on the price list, please call a music retailer and ask that it be brought to La Grange for you. **Please make every effort to purchase supplies before or after school.** Supplies may not be available immediately before your class time.

Concession Stand (Eighth Grade Only)

As part of our continued fundraising efforts, parents of eighth grade band students will be assigned an evening to work in the football concession stand. The funds raised at the concession stands go toward middle school and high school band needs. A letter will be sent home during the first week of school describing this activity in detail.

Band Folders

Middle School Band students will be using 3-ring binders for their band music this year. These binders will be issued at the beginning of the school year and again in the spring before contest season. Music will have holes punched in it so that it can be placed in the binder. Students will be expected to keep all music bound in the binder. Binders will be checked once each six weeks for a grade. The binder will also have a place for a pencil to be kept. These binders have been paid for by the LMS Band Activity fund. They are school property and must be returned in good condition at the end of the school year. **Please do not write on the binders or place stickers on them.** Lost or damaged folders can be replaced for a \$2.00 fee.

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Band Uniform

La Grange Middle School Band students will be required to purchase a shirt for use during performances. This shirt will cost \$15 and will be ordered early in October. We will wear these shirts during our concerts and contests. This shirt will be a required part of performing with the La Grange Middle School Bands. Detailed information will be sent home near the end of September.

Performances

PARTICIPATION IN BAND EVENTS IS REQUIRED OF ALL BAND MEMBERS. PERFORMANCES ARE PART OF THE BAND REPORT CARD GRADE. PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED CALENDAR FOR REQUIRED EVENTS.

Excused absences will be accepted for personal illness, death in family, conflict with other school activities, and academic ineligibility (applies only to some activities). Absences will not be excused for reasons such as transportation problems, conflicts with non-school activities, and other reasons. Communication about conflicts should take place no fewer than two weeks prior to the conflict. Please ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to resolve potential schedule conflicts. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the most current calendar of band activities. **Excused absences must be made up within one week of the original absence. Students should see the director for an appropriate assignment. Unexcused absences may not be made up and will not earn points for a grade. Students will not be allowed to perform with the La Grange Middle School Bands without the required uniform (see above). Not having the required uniform will count as an unexcused absence.**

Students must be in attendance the full day in order to participate in after-school performances. Please refer to the LMS Student Handbook for the full policy. Please follow this policy carefully. Absences from performances by any student affect the full band's quality of performance.

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Repairs

1. Complete repair form available in the Band Hall.
2. Turn in completed form (with parent signature) to Mr. DeLuca or Mr. Sweet. Also provide the instrument to be repaired.
3. In several days, a bill will be delivered from the repair shop. Some instruments will be repaired here at school by a qualified repair person.
4. Make check out to repair shop specified on the bill.
5. Give payment to Mr. DeLuca or Mr. Sweet and the repaired instrument will be returned.

School Instruments

School-owned band instruments will be issued based on instrumentation needs of the band and the availability of the instrument. **No student is guaranteed use of a school instrument.** Students using school instruments will be responsible for repair of the instrument if the repair is required due to abuse or neglect. All school-owned instruments must be returned at the end of the school year or when the student leaves the La Grange ISD band program.

Instrument Insurance

It is suggested that parents purchase insurance for their child’s band instrument. While many homeowners’ policies cover band instruments, they often have a high deductible or do not cover all types of losses. Insurance is often available from music retailers or from Music Agency, Inc. Applications from Music Agency, Inc. are available from the band director or call 800/421-1283. Their website is <http://www.musicagencyinc.com>. This insurance is not required and is in no way connected to the band program at La Grange Middle School.

Help Sessions and Sectionals

During the school year, students will be asked to come to the band hall after school for extra help. Sometimes this help will be offered on an individual basis; sometimes on a group basis. The request to come to a help session does not indicate that the student is having trouble in band. In addition, students will have the opportunity to sign up for times to come have private study time and extra help. Extra help is also available before and after school almost every day. Please call me at 968-4780 or email delucad@lgsd.net if you have any questions.

Band Booster Club

Parents of Middle School Band students are invited to join the La Grange Band Booster Club. Our booster club works hard to support the efforts of all band students from grades six through twelve. A membership enrollment form is attached to this handbook.

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Student Pick-up and Drop-off

Please drop off students and their instruments in the Intermediate School’s circle-drive on Vail Street. However, if you will be waiting for your child to come back out, pull into the Band Hall parking area and stop with your passenger door facing the handicap parking space next to the Vail Street door. When your child returns to the car, pull directly back out onto Vail Street. **DO NOT DRIVE IN REVERSE AT ANY TIME IN THE BAND HALL PARKING LOT.** Please do not drive around the Band Hall into the teacher’s parking lot by the Intermediate School. **STUDENT SAFETY MUST BE EVERYONE’S CONCERN.**

Important Websites

- YOUR BAND:
<http://www.lgisd.net/portal/Activities/Music/MiddleSchoolBand/tabid/386/Default.aspx>
- The La Grange High School Mighty Leopard Marching Band:
<http://www.lgisd.net/portal/Activities/Music/HighSchoolMusic/LaGrangeHighSchoolBand/tabid/387/Default.aspx>
- Association of Texas Small School Bands: <http://www.atssb.org>
- ATSSB Region Band Information: <http://www.atssb.org/region18/default.htm>
- Texas Music Educators Association: <http://www.tmea.org>
- SmartMusic: <http://www.smartmusic.com>
- Music Agency, Inc.: <http://www.musicagencyinc.com>

Important Phone Numbers

- La Grange Middle School Band Hall: 968-4780
- La Grange High School Band Hall: 968-4843
- Music Agency, Inc.: 800/421-1283
- SmartMusic Technical Support: 800/240-4041
- Collins Music Center (El Campo): 800/365-9815 (salesman and owner is Randy Collins)

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Student Information Sheet 2009-2010

STUDENT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____

STUDENT EMAIL: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT EMAIL: _____

MOTHER'S WORK PHONE: _____

FATHER'S WORK PHONE: _____

INSTRUMENT MAKE: _____

SERIAL NUMBER: _____

(This information will be kept on file to assist families in case of loss or theft.)

We have read and understood the *Middle School Band Handbook*. **We understand that participation in band requires commitment that lasts the entire school year.** If we have any questions regarding participating in Band, we will contact Mr. DeLuca at 968-4780 or email at delucad@lgisd.net.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

[IMPORTANT: Parent MUST complete and sign the form on the other side of this page.]

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La Grange Middle School Band Travel Permission Form

I agree to allow my child to attend ALL BAND ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH HE/SHE IS ELIGIBLE. I understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under State Law, the school is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury.

I expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of my child.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them which result from my child's actions on each trip.

I understand that the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents are not waiving any sovereign or governmental immunity which it or they have under Texas law.

I have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

AUTHORIZATION TO SECURE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT OF A MINOR STUDENT

1. Name of Minor: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

2. Name of parent, guardian, or conservator: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

3. Name of other parent (or both of different from #2):

Father: _____ Phone: _____

Mother: _____ Phone: _____

4. Friend or relative who will probably know where to locate the parent in the event of

temporary absence. Name: _____ Phone: _____

This is to certify that I authorize the Superintendent of La Grange ISD or a designated representative to secure any and all emergency medical care and treatment for _____ for acute illness suffered or injury sustained while at school or participating in school-related activities. Emergency treatment may be secured at a licensed hospital, clinic, or medical facility, or by a licensed physician or dentist with the following exceptions:

I _____ **do not** have medical insurance _____ **do** have medical insurance coverage for my child with _____ Insurance Company, policy or certificate # _____ and I will assume financial responsibility for any medical treatment of my child. I understand the cost of services provided by ambulance, private physician, clinic, hospital, or dentist remains the responsibility of the parent or guardian and will not be assumed by the Superintendent, the designee, or the Board of Trustees of La Grange ISD.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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