



Handbook for the Lyons High School Band Program 2011-2012

Objectives:

Each student will gain an understanding of the elements necessary for successful performance in an instrumental ensemble. This includes elements of rhythm, notation, melody, tuning and ensemble technique. Each student will be encouraged to develop individually as an independent musician. In addition, students will be exposed to a rich variety of different kinds of music in an effort to teach them about different styles and perceptions in music from around the world. The art of listening (which is *at least* as important as playing) will be taught and nurtured throughout the year.

Required Materials:

Each student will be expected to have the following at every rehearsal:

- Instrument, in working order
- All necessary accessories (reeds, mallets, mouthpieces, etc)
- A pencil!!
- Music folder with all music and method books

Class Rules and Expectations:

I have only one rule: RESPECT. However, this covers a lot..... me, other students, all equipment & instruments, time, space, the music, etc. There is an assumption that by respecting the music, kids will come to class prepared and with all materials (including a pencil).

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance/Participation: 10 points/day	50% of final grade
Concerts/Performances	35% of final grade
Quizzes/Playing Tests	15% of final grade

Extra credit may be granted to students based on specific extra credit projects and for attendance at outside concerts. For students in High School, outside concert attendance will apply towards lettering in Band (See Dr. Gregg for information on lettering).

Attendance/Tardy Policy:

Students receive 10 points per day for proper preparation and participation. Any student arriving late to class (unless excused by a parent or another teacher) will have 5 points deducted. After 10 minutes (according to school policy), that student will be marked “unexcused” and the loss of all 10 points cannot be made up.

Absence Make-up Policy:

Students will be allowed to make up 3 excused absences per quarter. Unexcused absences may not be made up. Dr. Gregg and the student will work together to find an appropriate make-up assignment, usually consisting of a 1-page paper on a musical topic of Dr. Gregg's choosing. Make-up opportunities for excused absences numbering more than 3 per quarter will only be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Concert Procedures and Expectations:

Concert Attendance:

Attendance is required at all performances! Concert schedules are listed on the bandroom calendar and on the school calendar. I will also distribute schedules to all students at school and on "Back to School Night". Attendance at all concerts is required to get (at minimum) a grade of "C" in the class. Please see me by the end of the third week of the semester if you have any conflicts. Attached to this packet is a written agreement that I am asking both parents and students to sign and return to me, so that I can be assured that everyone has the concerts in their yearly schedule.

Performance Expectations:

To make every performance as successful as possible, the following expectations should be noted:

1. Be early for all concerts! I will sometimes ask students to come early for a group warm-up. If I don't, students will be expected to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the concert start-time.
2. Be appropriately dressed (see "Concert Dress").
3. Make sure you have all necessary materials. Don't forget your reeds, music, mutes, or mallets.
4. Be proud! Performances are fun and exciting, so bring lots of friends and family to each concert!

Concert Dress:

High School Concert Band: All students will be issued a concert uniform consisting of a tuxedo shirt, a silk vest and a silk tie. These will be kept at the students' house and it is expected that the shirts will be cleaned after each use. Replacement fees will be charged for any lost items. Each student will need to provide their own pair of black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes. Absolutely no jeans, sandals, or heels allowed.

Jazz Band: All students will be issued shirts which will be worn with black dress pants, black shoes and black socks.

Parade & Football Game Uniforms: As in years past, all students are required to purchase their own blue nylon jacket for use at games. This is the same jacket from year to year, so you should only need one for the duration of high school. Parents/siblings are certainly welcome to order jackets as well. Please fill out the order form & submit with \$40 by Sept. 1st. Students will also be issued a marching uniform (replacement value: \$450) and will need to return it with a \$15 dry-cleaning fee in the spring. These uniforms will be worn at Disney.

Percussionists:

All percussionists are required to own their own stick bag containing the following items:

- Timpani mallets
- Concert snare sticks
- Marimba/vibes mallets
- Xylophone mallets
- Marching mallets (for their assigned instrument)

I will gladly order these items for you at a discount. All high school percussionists also are required to have a 3-ring binder for all of their music.

A note about..... PRACTICING!!!

Please know that I expect ALL students - all grades - to be practicing regularly at home. I'm not asking much: 3-4 practice sessions per week at 20 minutes each is enough to cause dramatic improvement. Students will not be graded on how often they practice, but they WILL be graded on how well they play their assigned music. So please help your student make sure they know their music and that they schedule practice time accordingly.

DisneyWorld Trip

The High School Music Program is going to Disney! The Band and Choir programs will participate in the Disney Performing Arts program by giving a concert and participating in a world-class workshop in Orlando, Florida. The dates of the trip are January 12-16, 2012. If you are not signed up for this trip and would like to do so, please speak with Dr. Gregg as soon as possible. The final balance of approximately \$1200 will be due in mid-December.

Facebook users:

Although my main forum for communication is through email, I have created a private site on Facebook where I will post reminders and updates. I will also add a link for the handbook form so that it is easier to access. Request to join "Lyons Middle Senior Bands".

SmartMusic

This year I will continue to use an online program called "SmartMusic" to record all playing tests and assessments (this replaces our old, broken tape-recorder!). This is also an outstanding practice tool for musicians of any age. The program has a tuner, a metronome, and a play-along program that includes all of our method book music as well as the majority of the sheet music we will use in class. Students who have SmartMusic at home will be able to record all of their playing tests at home and email them to me for grading. This is an outstanding investment and is easy to purchase & download at home – cost for the school year is \$36 (the cost of a tuner/metronome!!).

I am currently negotiating a group-discount opportunity with the company and will email everyone with the registration (and discount) details by the first week of September.

Handbook Understanding and Agreement Form 2011-2012

Please fill out the Handbook Form online and submit no later than September 1, 2010. This will count as each students' first test grade. If you do not have access to the internet, please let me know and I will provide you with a paper copy.

This form can be found on the school website <http://lms.hs.stvrain.k12.co.us> under "forms". Look for "High School Band Handbook Agreement Form", click on the link and it will take you to the agreement form. It will also be posted on the "Lyons Middle Senior Bands" Facebook page. **Parents of multiple band kids can fill out ONE form; please make sure all kids' names are in the "first name" section.**

****Before submitting the form, please make sure you have ALL concert dates written down!****

**Lyons High School Band
Concert Calendar
2011-2012**

****All events are absolutely required unless otherwise indicated**

September

- 16 Home Football Game – 7pm
- 30 Home Football Game – 7pm (Homecoming and Community Band!)

October

- 5 St. Vrain Band Night – 6pm
- 14 Home Football Game – 7pm
- 19 Band Concert – 7pm
- 28 Home Football Game – 7pm
- 29 Lyons Halloween Parade – 6pm

November

- 5 Possible Home Football Game – 1pm
- 11 Veteran’s Day Parade – 11:11am (during school hours)
- 12 Possible Home Football Game – 1pm
- 19 Possible Football Game – 1pm
- 26 Possible Football Game – 1pm

December

- 3 Lyons Parade of Lights – 6:30pm
- 5 Band Concert – 7pm

***Please note: 4 Basketball Pep-Band performances to be scheduled Dec-Feb (required!)*

January

- 12-16 Band/Choir trip to Disney World!! (optional)

March

- 7 Band Concert – 7pm

May

- 10 High School Band Banquet – 6pm (optional)
- 14/15 Fine Arts Concert – 7pm (please reserve both dates, more info to come)
- 25 Senior Night – 7pm
- 26 Graduation – 10am

****Make sure these dates are on your calendar before you submit the online handbook agreement form!****