Lima North Middle School Band Manual





2025-2026

Mr. David Harris, Director

Welcome to the Lima North Middle School Band Program! I hope you are excited about starting or continuing your musical development with the band. As with any organization, individual commitment and dedication will determine the group's success. I am confident that you will find membership to be a satisfying and rewarding experience.

This handbook has been compiled for band members and their parents to provide detailed information regarding the various policies, regulations, and activities of the Lima North Middle School Band Program.

The Band Program

As a member of the Lima North Middle School Band, you will have the opportunity to participate in several diverse musical activities.

Beginning Band – The Beginning Band will meet every day for the entire school year. The goal of the Lima North Middle School Beginning Band is to teach the basics of the student's instrument, build musicianship, fundamental skills, and performance techniques. The Beginning Band presents one concert in the spring. This is the time for the students to show their friends and family all that they have worked so hard to achieve.

Intermediate Band – The Intermediate Band will meet every day for the entire school year. The goal of the Lima North Middle School Intermediate Band is to continue to build musicianship, fundamental skills, performance techniques, and to teach the concepts of ensemble playing. The Intermediate Band presents two concerts throughout the year. This is the time for the students to show their friends and family all that they have worked so hard to achieve.

Expectations

Attendance Policy – Band members must attend all performances. To grow as musicians, it is imperative that every student comes to class and performances on time and prepared. Members who are not in their places at the designated time with the proper equipment may have their daily grades lowered.

Excused absences - The few exceptions to the rule include personal illness or injury, a family emergency, a religious holiday, or participation in another school-sponsored activity (with the director's permission). Also, if the student is absent from school, he/she is not allowed to participate in any after-school activities (Please refer to the Lima City Schools Attendance Policy for exceptions to this rule, which is included in the packet). If he/she is too sick to go to school, he/she is too sick to participate in after-school concerts. Attached to this manual is a calendar of events in which your child will be participating. Please mark your calendar now to avoid any conflicts. If conflicts should arise for any reason, please talk to me as soon as possible. In most cases, a request for an excused absence must be presented to the director in writing at least two weeks before the conflict.

Definitions of excused and unexcused absences from concerts as well as how grades are affected are explained in the attached Lima City Schools Concert Attendance Policy. I, as the director of the Lima North Middle School Bands, intend to follow and abide by the district definitions and policies in all cases of conflict with a band concert.

Lima City Schools Concert Attendance Guideline

1. Definition of excused absence
a. It is timely – at least two weeks in advance and/or at the discretion of the director.
b. It is accompanied by a note and signature of parent or guardian
c. There is also - excused absence in the case of extreme hardship, Example: death in family etc.
d. There is also - excused absence due to illness
1. If the student is ill the day of the performance
e. A student must be in attendance by 11:15 a.m. on the date of the performance in order to participate in any after-school performance, event, etc.

2. Response to excused absence
a. Student must complete make-up work that is deemed equivalent to percentage of points for quarter's grade as the missed performance. This assignment is at the discretion of the instructor and must be within reason. (Time frame: according to Student Rights and Responsibility Handbook).
b. Students excused in case of "extreme hardship" will be required to do make-up work: also those students who are legitimately ill. Their intent was to be at the performance and reasons well beyond their control prevented it.

3. Definition of unexcused absence
a. Student does not give notice in a timely manner that they will not be attending a performance, example: one day prior, no hardship – even with a parental note, this is still an unexcused absence.
b. Student attends school day of and day post but is not present for performance. Without warning. If performance is on a Saturday or any non-school day, the matter of being present for school would be the last day prior to a concert.

4. Response to unexcused absence
a. Student loses percentage of points the performance represented toward quarter's grade.
b. Regarding make-up work, refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

5. The issue of choice
Regarding the issue of a student being able to choose between a performance and another school function when these conflicts arise and are entirely unavoidable.
a. All pains will be taken to accommodate schedules. An example: Solo & Ensemble scheduled on the same day as a District Swim Meet, etc.
Music will attempt to negotiate and integrate said students schedule with appropriate Advisor/coach.
b. When there is an unavoidable conflict caused by the system and the student does not attend the performance after giving the appropriate advance notice. We will operate as under section 2-a, (Response to excused absence).

Concert Attire

Men – Black pants and a white dress shirt. No shorts, blue jeans, or denim jeans. As a minimum, the student must be in campus wear.
Women – Black pants or a **LONG** (ankle length) skirt, and a white blouse. No shorts, blue jeans, or denim jeans. As a minimum, the student must be in campus wear.

Grading – Band is a class supported by the Ohio Board of Education as core-curriculum, however, due to after-school concerts, the band is also considered co-curricular. Therefore, every band activity in which a student participates, both inside and outside of the classroom, must be taken into consideration in the grading process. Grades will be based on a weekly grade average based on 5 (five) points a day for class participation. Also, a percentage of the grade will be devoted to attendance and participation in after-school concerts.

Deductions off of the daily grade can occur for the following reasons:

- Minus 2 point – failure to bring music to class or concerts.
- Minus 2 points – Late for class or concerts without permission.
- Minus 2 points – failure to bring your instrument, but remember to bring your music to class and concerts.
- Minus 4 points – failure to bring your instrument and music to class and concerts.
- Minus 5 points – unexcused absences.

Class and Rules – "Be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe"

- Respect others.
- Be in the right place at the right time with the right equipment!
- NO gum, food, or drink is allowed in ANY band rehearsal area
- Always give your personal best! – 100% effort 100% of the time = SUCCESS!
- HAVE FUN!

Required Materials

This list is what students will need every day in class, and must have every day. If students misuse, lose, or damage these materials they will be asked to pay for the replacement.

1. Instrument (school assigned or parent purchase). School assigned instruments will be provided with a signed instrument contract. An example of a blank instrument contract is below.
2. Book (school assigned)
3. 1 inch 3 Ring Binder stored in the band room.
4. Band Pencil that will be kept in their instrument case(will be given one at the beginning of the year)
5. Reeds, Drum Sticks, Valve Oil, Slide Cream (will be issued by the school, but parents and students may want to buy their own).

LIMA CITY SCHOOLS
INSTRUMENT USE AGREEMENT



Student's Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Parent/ Guardian Name _____

For Director Use Only: ISSUING SCHOOL: WEST-SENIOR-NORTH-LIBERTY-SOUTH

INSTRUMENT _____ MAKE _____

SERIAL #: _____ Use for School Year: 20__ - 20___

Issue Date _____ Condition (circle one) New Excellent Good Satisfactory

Accessories: Case ____ Mouthpiece _____ Neck Strap _____ Bow ____ Other _____

Comments:

The parent or legal guardian, student and school agree to the following conditions:

1. The instrument is subject to inspection by the instrumental music director at all times.
2. No person, other than the student listed on this agreement is permitted to handle or use this instrument without the consent of the instrumental music director.
3. The student or his/ her parent or guardian will report immediately to the instrumental music director any damage or loss to the above instrument or accessories.
4. The student will make no repairs, nor permit anyone else to make repairs, to the instrument without the consent of the director.
5. The student and his/her parent or guardian will be responsible for the instrument(s) including any damage caused by carelessness or negligence and agree to return the loaned instrument in the same condition in which it was issued with the exception of normal and customary use. Dents, scratches, broken parts and all other such conditions are not considered part of normal and customary use. The cost of returning the instrument to the condition in which it was issued is to be the responsibility of the student and/or his legal guardian. If the instrument cannot be repaired or it is lost, the parent agrees to pay for replacement of the instrument.
6. Lima City Schools agrees to be responsible for normal and usual maintenance of the instrument.

The replacement value of this instrument and accessories at the time of signing of this agreement is $__.



I, _____ (Parent/ Guardian) of the above named student have read this agreement and agree to accept full responsibility for the instrument and accessories described according to the conditions above.

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parents! Thank you for being active supporters of the Lima North Middle School Band Program!!

Thanks for taking the time to read and understand this manual. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime. On the following page is the rehearsal and performance schedule. Please mark your calendars now and address any questions or problems to the director. I will update students and parents as changes and updates occur.

Musically,

David Harris
Band/Music Director
Lima North Middle School
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Concert Dates:

December 18, 2025 **North Holiday Concert - 6th Grade Band**

May 18 or 19, 2026 **North Spring Concert (Exact Date will be coming) -5th and 6th Grade**

Please Return by September 12, 2025

My child and I have read and understand this manual. We will uphold these guidelines and help make the Lima North Middle School Band the best it can be.

_____
Student Signature

_____
Parent/Guardian Signature

_____
Date