

Syllabus: 8th Grade Instrumental Music 2025-2026

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Step 1:

This year, we are having all students sign up for Band on Final Forms. Those of you in 6th-8th grade band should find the activity called LMS All Year Coed MS Band. Those of you in 9th-12th grade should find LHS All Year Coed Music (Band). PLEASE select that you're in these so I have all the information I need to communicate with you each.

Scope

Instrumental Music is a student-oriented class where students learn to create music, play instruments, listen to one another, work together, build close relationships with fellow classmates, learn lifelong characteristics (discipline, dedication, organization, music, and more), and unify as one band with a common goal: to create beautiful music with one another. Instrumental music is intended to build upon knowledge gained in previous years but joining at a later time is acceptable. Students are asked to practice musical techniques outside of class in order to be prepared for their fellow musicians. This class requires going to multiple performances outside of school per year as listed later in this syllabus.

Classroom Procedures

Upon entering the classroom, students must get their instrument out and set up in a timely manner. *Please leave your instrument case out of the rehearsal space.* Remember that this is NOT the time for socializing or doing homework from another class. When the director steps in front of the ensemble, it is time for class to begin. The director will not tolerate talking, individual playing, shenanigans, or anything else disruptive once class has begun.

Instrument Storage – In the past, many instruments have been left out of their cases around the band room and in lockers. This will not be tolerated. Instruments are expensive and money is hard to come by now. Leaving instruments out of their cases can lead to potential catastrophic damage to occur to the instruments. Not only does it put every instrument at risk of damage and theft – it makes our space look messy and disgusting.

All instrument cases are to be latched, labeled, and neatly placed in the designated storage area. After getting your instrument out for class, please leave all cases in the storage area during class. You may keep your instrument in your locker during the day. When class is over – you MUST put instruments back in designated storage areas inside the proper cases.

Other Items – Students are to leave all other belongings such as books for other classes, purses, etc. in locker if time permits before class or by his/her instrument case. If time does not permit, other items are to be left in the storage lockers in the band room.

Expectations

Do your best every day! – *It works!*

Home practice is mandatory! – *It often acts as your homework grade!*

Enjoy yourself! – *Being involved in music is a very special opportunity for you to make some wonderful friends and to grow as a well-rounded person. Be proud of what you are doing, and show your pride.*

Communicate! – *If you have a problem, don't hesitate to talk with one of the directors. We have to have rules to make the group work, but we know that sometimes special problems call for special understanding.*

Grading Procedures

Grades are determined through the use of a point system. Points are accumulated through attendance, participation, playing achievement, home practice, written work, and concerts.

Your quarter grade is based on a formula of percentages of the total points possible.

1. Daily Participation = 25%

Each student earns 10 points each day of class by simply being in their seats on time and prepared. Points will be deducted for the following:

No instrument	-10
No music	-5
No Agenda Book	-5
No pencil	-5

2. Daily Class Performance = 25%

Each student earns 10 points each day by exhibiting improvement in playing and performance and putting forth the best effort with a good attitude. Points can be deducted for the following:

- Poor playing position/posture
- Inability to perform assignments at an acceptable level
- Failure to strive or improve identified weak areas

3. Performances = 50%

Attendance at the concerts listed in this packet is mandatory. The total points a student earns for each concert is 100. Points will be deducted for the following:

- Improper dress
- Tardiness
- Poor Audience Behavior

Unexcused Absence

Classroom Rules – not limited to the following but include:

1. No talking during rehearsal – *We are in a band to rehearse, create, share and experience music.*
2. Raise your hand – *always have open ears and silent mouths during a rehearsal.*
3. Be respectful – *Respect yourself, respect others, respect the school and personal property, and treat others (students and directors) as you expect to be treated.*
4. No gum or food in class – *would you really want to play an instrument with mold growing in it??*
5. Do not play other people's instruments – *instruments cost anywhere from several hundred to several thousands of dollars! Not to mention GERMS ☹*
6. Any guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook are applied in classes and performances – *i.e. dress code, conduct, attitude, etc*

Violations of expectations or conduct policies will result in one or more of the following consequences:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Detention issued, parents notified.
3. Administrative referral.
4. Conference with student, parent, principal, and director.
5. Removal from band... ☹

Rehearsal/Performance Checklist

Rehearsals

- √ Instrument/Equipment
 - Mouthpieces, Reeds (back-ups!), Music, Drumsticks (extra!), Drumpad, etc.

Performances

- √ Instrument/Equipment
 - Mouthpieces, Reeds (back-ups!), Music, Drumsticks (extra!), Drumpad, etc.
- √ Proper Concert Attire

Concert Attire

- **CONCERT ATTIRE:** All students will need to have a Lake MS Music Polo. An order form will be emailed to all students/parents during the school year. The polo only needs to be purchased ONCE as a Middle School Student. If a student outgrows their polo, we will exchange it, free of charge.
 - Polos are to be worn with black pants and *mostly* black shoes at every concert.

PERFORMANCES

Performances take place after school and are a large part of your grade. Attendance is required at these events unless 100% absolutely unavoidable. Contact Mr. Maran if any conflicts present themselves as soon as possible.

Concerts (2)

November, 24th 2025 - 7:30pm

May 18th, 2026 - 7:30pm

Football Game (1)

Friday, 09/19/25 - Home (v. Rossford) Game @ 7pm.

Students must arrive at 6:15pm.

Wear Lake Attire

Students may leave after halftime has finished.

LARGE GROUP CONTEST

We will perform May 9th or 10th, 2026 during the school day at the “Old Defiance Elementary” in Defiance, OH.

OPTIONAL PERFORMANCES - awarded as extra credit

D1 District Honors Band

Rehearsals:

January, 14, 2026 - Maumee HS, 6-8:30pm

January 17, 2026 - Maumee HS, 9am-4pm

Concert: January 18, 2026 – Stranahan Theatre, Toledo, OH – 2:30pm

Solo and Ensemble

Saturday, April 11th, 2026

Students that choose to participate may play a solo or as part of an ensemble for OMEA judges to rate and give comments.

Please note: The Lake Music Boosters are willing to cover the cost of Solo and Ensemble events AND/OR D1 Honors Bands however - students are expected to fundraise before they sign up/audition for these groups. If fundraising didn't happen before, parents/guardians will be responsible for the cost associated with the events.

Even with fundraising - Students that sign up and can't make performance (no matter excused or unexcused) need to reimburse the Music Boosters.

Chairs/Challenge Policy

During the school year, students will audition for chair placement. This is a mandatory assignment in which we will prepare for the audition together. The audition will be based off of a prepared excerpt, scales, and sightreading. Once all students have auditioned (during class), we will assign rankings 1 through however

many students are in the section. The odd number chairs will play the first part and the even number chairs will play the second part.

- Once students are placed in chairs, they will have the option of challenging for the chair above them.
- Students may only challenge the person directly ahead of them.
- If a student fails to win the next chair, they must wait 4 weeks to re-challenge.
- If a student wins the next chair, they must wait 1 week before challenging the NEXT chair.
- First chair does not automatically deem a member of the band as his/her "section leader."

Policies for athletes with conflicting events

All performances outweigh practices. Similarly, all games outweigh rehearsals. In the event that you are unable to attend a practice for the band due to a sporting event, there is a make-up assignment in place that is used through the entire music department.

If there is a sporting practice at the same time as a music practice, the director asks that you split the event or if there are multiple overlaps, split the number of overlaps in half. No precedence should be shown to one activity over the other. The commitment is the same to both organizations.

This only applies to LAKE Sponsored Sports - outside sports should come secondary to Lake School classes/class work.

Conduct

Students in band are expected to conduct themselves at a high level throughout the year, including the summer. Conduct that is unbecoming of a member may result in disciplinary measures for the band as well. Students involved in physical altercations during the school year are given one chance to change the behavior. After the second physical altercation, students will be removed from the band after a conference with parents.