

LINCOLN-WAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL
SYMPHONIC BAND
WIND ENSEMBLE

BAND HANDBOOK, 2021-2022



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mr. Barnish, Mr. Ruklic
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Website: www.lwwmusic.org

PHILOSOPHY & GOALS

The goals of the Lincoln-Way West Band Program are:

1. To study, rehearse, and prepare music to the highest level of understanding and excellence so that students can experience the exciting rewards of sharing musical gifts with others through performance.
2. To provide students with an opportunity to be a part of the greater whole – to know that each individual is equally important to the success of the entire group.
3. To learn about ourselves through the journey of studying, preparing, and performing those things that will help make us better people.

The Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are both an integral part of the Lincoln-Way West Band Program. A “fusion” arena for other subjects, both classes foster high performance standards while offering members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and musical horizons. Both are devoted to the study, preparation, and performance of quality traditional and contemporary literature. The curriculum is designed to emphasize the development of comprehensive musicianship, general musical knowledge, and instrumental performance fundamentals, through the study of mid-level high school literature. Percussionists will meet in a separate class and join the winds via after school rehearsals prior to performances.

GENERAL REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsal Time: 1st (WE Winds, WE PERC.), 2nd (SB PERC.), 3rd (SB Winds)

Rehearsal Schedule: A weekly schedule will be posted online or in the band room.

Class Materials: All personnel are expected to have a folder to keep music (provided), **the method book (\$10)**, instrument (w/accessories to keep in good condition), a pencil at all rehearsals, and the “Tonal Energy” smartphone app (or a metronome/tuner).

Percussion: All percussionists are required to own the following: *Stick bag, general pair of marimba mallets, general pair of timpani mallets, pair of concert snare sticks, practice pad, ear plugs*

**suggestions on vendors and brands can be found here:

http://www.lwwmusic.org/uploads/2/7/0/8/27087589/lww_percussion_required_materials.pdf

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Treat others the way you wish to be treated:

1. **RESPECT ONE ANOTHER** -- Respect one another by not worrying about anyone other than yourself when it comes to roles within the ensemble. Show respect for each other's instruments and personal property. Work together with your classmates!
2. **RESPECT YOUR INSTRUMENT** -- If you own your instrument, you know how important it is to maintain it. If you are using a school owned instrument, treat it as if it were your own. Polish it, clean it, put it properly in the case, and store the case appropriately.
3. **RESPECT THE FACILITY** -- This is your band room - be proactive! Everyone is expected to pick up after themselves, store instruments in their proper location, and not bring food or drink into the room.
4. **RESPECT THE MUSIC** -- Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time at home. Practice your instrument routinely outside of class.
5. **RESPECT THE CRAFT** -- This is perhaps the most important expectation of all because it embodies and encompasses everything we do.
 - Be prepared for rehearsal.
 - Practice at home, not at rehearsal. Amateurs practice until they get it right. Professionals practice until they can't get it wrong!
 - Remain quiet during rehearsal when you are not being addressed.
 - Always mind what you say when representing the ensemble.
 - **Profanity is NOT tolerated.**
 - Extend respect to others outside the ensemble and music department. Leave a positive impression in the minds of others about our band and school
 - Be human. Kindness can have the most profound impact of all. If you have nothing nice to say, keep it to yourself. If it will brighten someone's day, say it!

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Cell phones should be stored out of sight for the rehearsal.
1. No food, drinks, or gum in the band room.
 - a. Why? – They can cause damage to school instruments.
2. Leave all backpacks, cases, and other unnecessary items outside of the band set-up.
 - a. Why? – They create distractions.
3. If "it" is not yours, do not touch "it."
 - a. Why? – Instruments are expensive. Instrument *repairs* are expensive.
4. Do not "hack" (play) when you are not being directly worked with.
 - a. Why? – It is a distraction and disrespectful to other students and the conductor.

REHEARSAL PHILOSOPHY & PROCEDURES

Rehearsals (Re-“HEAR”-sals) are not to learn your part – rather they are to learn everyone else’s part and therefore, the music. Rehearsals are a time to work together, not individually. The development of music fundamentals and the discovery of how the composition works in relation to the composer’s intent is the focus of rehearsal time. Your part is your responsibility. This standard is important because it is the professional standard and it is what good musicians do.

Before rehearsals the:

1. Musician prepares for rehearsal through frequent and focused practice.
2. Musician is inside the band room or at his/her band locker when the bell rings.
3. Musician sets up his/her own stand and chair properly and in the correct area.
4. Musician attends rehearsal with music (including method books), pencil, music stand, and instrument in good working order and with all accessories.
5. Musician prepares for rehearsal that day by demonstrating proper warm-up technique (long tones, lip slurs, scales, etc.), then demonstrates proper decorum by concluding all preparations when the conductor starts rehearsal.

During rehearsals the:

1. Musician works and performs to the best of his/her ability.
2. Musician demonstrates proper posture, hand position, and embouchure.
3. Musician demonstrates frequent eye contact with the conductor while playing and receiving verbal instructions. Musician takes notes or marks the music for future improvement and individual practice.
4. Musician demonstrates proper rehearsal decorum by not talking while the conductor is rehearsing another instrument group.

After rehearsal the:

1. Musician prepares their chair and stand for the next ensemble rehearsal.
2. Musician demonstrates proper instrument, equipment, music care, and storage. Instruments should be disassembled, swabbed (if necessary), and put in cases.
3. Musician prepares for the next rehearsal through frequent and focused practice.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students should follow the rules and expectations stated above and in the **Lincoln-Way High School Parent-Student Handbook** at all times. If a student is not following the rules and expectations, being disruptive, or misbehaving, the student will be subject to the Lincoln-Way High School Discipline Policy, and the following system:

1. First offense: Verbal warning.
2. Second offense: Verbal warning. Written referral to main office. Parents will be notified.
3. Third offense: Written referral to main office. Parents will be notified. A Parent-Teacher conference will be scheduled. Students may be removed from class.

Steps in this hierarchy can be passed over as a result of extreme misconduct.

GRADING POLICY

The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:

80% Semester

20% **Final Exam**

- Summative Assessments – 70% of your semester grade
 - Daily rehearsals culminate in performances. It is mandatory that students attend dress rehearsals and performances, be on time, and prepared.
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- Formative Assessment – 30% of your semester grade
 - Students will be assessed on musical material distributed and worked on daily in class. **Students will NOT “fail” these assessments, they can be re-taken until the student earns a passing grade.**

ATTENDANCE & TARDY POLICY

Students must be in the **band room**, at the scheduled start time, or they are **tardy**. Days that students are **tardy** will be tracked and reported to the SSO.

If a student is absent from a regular school day, it is the **student's** responsibility to check with the director, practice music to maintain classroom standards, and take care of any make-up work.

As a member of the Lincoln-Way West Concert Bands, students are expected to:

1. Attend all concerts and dress rehearsals as outlined by Mr. Barnish and Mr. Ruklic
2. Demonstrate responsibility by informing your parents of rehearsal/performance dates.
3. Demonstrate responsibility by informing a director of potential conflicts in advance.

If a student misses a performance (or dress rehearsal) for ANY reason, the instructor will determine an appropriate make-up assignment and due date commensurate with the cornerstone assessment that the concert represents.

Makeup assignments will be assigned on a case-by-case basis and decided upon as a mutual agreement between teacher and student.

ADVISORY PERIODS

The LWW Music Department is equipped with several practice rooms for student use. Students are encouraged to use their Advisory period to practice their music in the Music Department facilities. Students who wish to use these facilities during Advisory periods will need a Hall Pass from a teacher.

WEBSITE

The Lincoln-Way West High School Music Department has a website, www.lwwmusic.org. From this website, students and parents can access the LWW “Charms” system. This web-based system contains, among many things, an updated music department calendar, which should be checked regularly for important upcoming dates or schedule changes.

PRACTICE

Individual practice/review of music and other related classroom materials outside of the school day is essential to the success of the student musician and the ensemble as a whole. Students should set aside time to do so. **Practice time is more effective if completed in smaller portions on a frequent basis instead of all at once.**

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private instrument lessons from a highly qualified instructor can be a highly rewarding and worthwhile experience for any band student. Students are not required to take private lessons but will be encouraged.

A full list of private instructors is available on the LWW Music Website: www.lwwmusic.org

Assistance and contact information for a variety of private lesson teachers is available from Mr. Barnish and Mr. Ruklic.

MUSIC

"Parts" will be assigned by the director on a "rotating" basis, challenging every student equally.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School owned instruments are available and will be checked out by Mr. Barnish and Mr. Ruklic. Per L-W #210 policy, students will need to pay a fee of \$150.00/yr. (\$75/sem. or \$12/month) to rent an instrument from the school. This fee covers the cost of annual service and repair for the instrument. Please see the "Equipment Loan Contract" for conditions and expectations.

Percussion students will be assessed a \$75 fee to cover maintenance and basic repairs to school owned percussion instruments.

REQUIRED INSTRUMENT MATERIALS

LWW Concert Band students are expected to take high quality care of their, or any school owned, instruments. This includes owning and having instrument maintenance accessories at each rehearsal.

WOODWINDS: Woodwind students must own a cleaning rod/swab and swab their instruments every day. Reed players should own 3-5 reeds at all times. Clarinet and saxophone players need cork grease in their cases and use it every day. Clarinet and saxophone players need a mouthpiece brush and should clean their mouthpieces regularly to avoid health issues.

BRASS: Brass students should own their own valve oil and slide grease. Valves and slides should be oiled/greased *before* rehearsal (not during). Polish cloths are also recommended to keep the instrument finish from wearing. **Trumpet and trombone players need to own a straight mute.** Brass students should also own a mouthpiece brush and clean their mouthpieces regularly to avoid health issues.

These maintenance items can be purchased at local music stores.

REQUIRED DATES FOR A GRADE

A complete list of concert dates can be found at:

<http://www.lwwmusic.org/concert-schedule.html>

Acknowledgement
Lincoln-Way West Bands/Percussion Classes 2021-2022

The syllabus is posted on lwwmusic.org/bands.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES AND RULES FOR BAND AND FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME FOR THIS COURSE.

Student Name-Please Print Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name-Please Print Parent/Guardian Signature

Print and return this form by Friday, August 20.