



Lincoln-Way West High School Bands/Percussion

Syllabus, Classroom, and Ensemble Rules 2024-2025

Philosophy

Through the Lincoln-Way West Music Department, students will be able to:

- Develop a picture of who they are - a whole person, a valuable person
- Develop a sense of belonging, of connecting with society
- Develop reliability, responsibility, patience and the willingness to try something new
- Take pleasure in rehearsal and performance, and pride in their success
- Have high expectations for themselves and be active participants in their lives – not spectators
- Learn to develop their skills through sustained effort
- Develop an understanding of human nature and the ability to empathize
- Become tolerant and open to others' ideas and ways
- Develop a love for all arts

PURPOSE: These courses offer opportunities for students to perform in a concert ensemble performing the highest quality literature. Students will advance their musical knowledge as well as their playing ability through this course.

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Class Guidelines

- All rules and guidelines explained in the Lincoln-Way West High School Parent-Student Handbook apply in this classroom.
- Class will begin 3 minutes after the bell has sounded.
- Students must come to rehearsal prepared with their instrument, music, and pencil. Students will be asked to mark in the music on a regular basis. Backpacks and other school or personal items should be left in lockers or the music hallway during band class.
- Attendance is required at all rehearsals and public performances. Rehearsals and sectionals will be scheduled occasionally after school. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals outside of class and should plan accordingly to accommodate these music making opportunities. Acceptable excuses are illness, family emergency, or other excused school activity and must be explained in writing.

Class Expectations

- 1) **LEARN YOUR MUSIC**—Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time at home.
- 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 it's case, and store the case appropriately.
- 3) **RESPECT THE FACILITY**—This is your band room. Everyone is expected to pick up after themselves, store instruments in their proper location, and not bring food or drink into the room. Lockers in the music hallway should be used for instruments and band equipment only. Personal items (clothes, shoes, books, etc.) should be stored in the hallway lockers unless special approval is given.
- 4) **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 as well.
- 5) **BE PROFESSIONAL**—This is perhaps the most important expectation of all because it embodies and encompasses everything we do from rehearsal, to practice at home, to performance, to attending a concert.
 - 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.
- Dress according to the concert attire guidelines—professionally.
- 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
- When in a concert (band, choir, orchestra etc.) never speak during the performance, either on stage or in the audience.
- 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!

Concert Schedule and Attendance

Dress rehearsal and concert attendance is MANDATORY! Missing a concert or dress rehearsal will result in a zero for that part of your grade.

Required Dates

Tuesday, September 10 – Ice Cream Social*

Tuesday, October 29—Fall Concert (6:30pm)

Friday, December 13 - West Winterfest (6:30pm)

TBA – West Band Chamber Night*

Thursday, February 27—Band Concert with Liberty and Manhattan (6:30pm)

Friday, February 28 - SWSC Band Festival*

Thursday, May 1 – Band Concert (6:30pm)

TBA – Spring Concert Band Festival*

*Required attendance by just Wind Ensemble

Required Course Materials

- Scott Rush "Habits of a Successful Musician."
 - available for purchase through the West Music Department, \$10
- 2 pencils
- Working Instrument
- Music Folder (provided)

Percussion Required Materials

All percussionists are required to own the following;

- Stick bag
- General pair of marimba mallets
- General pair of timpani mallets
- Concert pair of snare sticks
- Practice pad
- Ear plugs
 - suggestions on vendors and brands distributed in handout

Grading

Summative Assessments—70% of Grade

Possible examples include; concerts, dress rehearsals, "Box of Destiny" playing test, written quizzes

Formative Assessments—30% of Grade

Possible examples include; scale tests, music theory assignments, written reflections

Concert Attire

All students will rent LWW Tuxedos and Dresses. The rental fee is \$15. Students will be responsible for getting the tuxedos and dresses hemmed to their appropriate length. When hemming, **DO NOT** cut off excess material! The rental fee will be billed through PRESTO.

- **Tuxedo**: Must purchase a white tuxedo shirt from a formalwear store or Kohl's, black socks, black shoes.
- **Dress**: Black dress shoes

Instrument Rental

West offers a variety of larger and "specialty" instruments. Each student must sign an instrument rental contract.

Locker Usage

Students will be issued a "band locker" in the music hallway. It is expected that students will keep their instrument, either personal or LWW, in their assigned locker and locked at all times. No food or drink should be kept in your lockers and they are accessible at all times during the school day. Use of instrument lockers is a privilege, not a right. Improper use of an instrument locker will result in loss of use.

Private Lessons

It is strongly recommended that ALL band students take private lessons. What you learn from an individual lesson will only enhance your performance abilities and make you a better player. Private lessons are a small investment that helps ensure success on your instrument. Times are arranged convenient to your schedule and prices for instruction are reasonable. If you would like more information about private lessons, contact a director.

What is a private music lesson?

Your son or daughter is tutored by a professional musician who is an expert at the same instrument your child plays, once each week for a 30 minute session.

Can lessons fit in my child's busy schedule?

The time lessons are scheduled can be very flexible. Some instructors are even available to teach during your child's study hall.

What are the benefits of private instruction?

Private lessons are a great motivator for kids to practice.

A one on one experience can greatly enhance the child's musical experience.

As students improve, they enjoy playing more.

Acknowledgement

Lincoln-Way West Bands/Percussion Classes 2024-2025

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

Return this form by Friday, September 6.