

Lincoln-Way West High School Wind Symphony & Percussion



Syllabus, Classroom, and Ensemble Rules
2015-2016

Acknowledgement

WIND SYMPHONY 2015-2016

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES AND RULES FOR WIND SYMPHONY 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

Remove this form and return it with \$15 payment to Mr. Ruklic by **Friday, August 21** .

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 insure 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 Mr. Ruklic.

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.

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 of being
- Develop a love for all arts

WIND SYMPHONY

PURPOSE: This course offers an opportunity 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.

Mr. Cary Ruklic, Director
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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 2 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 you 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 approved through Mr. Ruklic.
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.

CONTINUED....

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.

Care & respect for equipment and facilities

We are fortunate to have fantastic equipment and facilities here at West, therefore you must take great pride and care in how you treat your school.

Facilities: School

- Always wipe your feet before coming into the building.
- At no time will you deface any part of the school or music department or the equipment. This includes, but not limited to, the lockers, music stands, chairs, walls, doors, storage rooms, buses, truck, etc.
- Trash will be placed in proper receptacles. If you see trash on the ground, pick it up whether it's yours or not.
- Any damage that does occur should be reported immediately to Mr. Ruklic.

Equipment

- Instruments: everyone needs to take care of their instruments, whether they are personal or LW owned. Take caution when placing them on the ground, marching, moving etc. Repairs can be very costly. School owned instrument will be assessed a usage fee, this will cover basic repairs and maintenance.

Percussion Set-up and Storage

Percussion students will be responsible for set-up and storage of their equipment for class. These duties will count as a portion of the students daily participation grade in band class. Failure to set up equipment on time and store it properly can result in a lowered grade.

Concert Review Rubric continued

Consider the following when writing your review:

- Indicate WHY you thought what you did. i.e. The band's second piece, *Blessed Are They*, was boring. What made it boring? Was it a slow tempo, soft dynamic, not an interesting melodic line, no interesting harmonies? Give detail.
- Instead of saying something was always "good," please elaborate more. The choir's ensemble sound was very balanced and demonstrated that they listened to those around them to be sure that their tones matched.
- When reviewing *any* ensemble consider the following ideas: balance across the sections/parts, tone of a particular instrument/voice, blending, dynamic contrast, conveying the composers intention of the piece (review program notes, if provided, to aid you in this), stylistic considerations (again, review program notes), intonation, rhythm, attacks and releases, professionalism on stage, response to the conductor
- When reviewing a choral ensemble, consider the following: diction, articulation, range considerations
- When reviewing an instrumental ensemble, consider the following: articulations, technical skills
- When reviewing a musical, consider the following: balance of cast to orchestra, choreography as it relates to the music, acting roles, facial expressions

Remember the following when writing your review:

- Complete sentences, well-organized, thought out, professional review
- Use of musical terms: dynamics, tempo, articulations, balance, blend, etc.
- Grammar: anything sung/with lyrics in "quotes," all instrumental pieces are *italicized* or underlined.
- Format: 1" margins, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font
- How to professionally and properly write negative comments, would YOU want to hear some of these things said about you?
- *Do NOT submit a program!* In the first paragraph indicate the date, location, and ensembles that performed.

Instrument Rental

West offers a variety of larger and "specialty" instruments for rent. Each student must pay \$75/semester (\$150/year) for each instrument rented during the school year. This will cover routine maintenance and basic repairs. Large repairs will be assessed to the student.

Be Professional Continued

- 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 & Attendance

Concert attendance is MANDATORY! Missing a concert will result in a zero for that part of your grade. Dress Rehearsals will be announced at a later date.

Concert Dates

Thursday, October 1—Fall Concert
Sunday, December 13 (3:00 p.m.) -West Winterfest
Thursday, February 25—Band Concert with Liberty and Manhattan
Thursday, May 5 -Senior Honors Band Concert

2nd Semester festival dates TBA

Optional attendance:

IMEA Auditions: October 13, Carl Sandburg High School
Solo & Ensemble contest: Date and Location TBA

Course Materials

Required Texts:

IMEA All-State Audition Material
Treasury of Scales
Foundations for Superior Performance
Published Band Literature
Supplemental Material

Required Material:

2 pencils
Working Instrument/sticks
Music Folder (provided)
Practice Pad (percussion only)
Optional (highly encouraged):
Metronome/Tuner (standalone or App)

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!

Boys: Must purchase a white tuxedo shirt from a formalwear store or Kohl's, black socks, black shoes.

Girls: Black dress shoes

Grading

Participation —50% of Grade

Daily Participation*, Dress Rehearsals (50 pts each), Concerts (100 pts each)

**Every student will start at 100 points for the semester. This grade will be lowered 5 points for the first and 10 points for each additional infraction. Infractions include no music at rehearsal, no instrument at rehearsal, no equipment necessary to play or contribute to the rehearsal (i.e. reeds, sticks, valve oil, pencil)*

Tests—20% of Grade

Scale Tests, Music Tests, Smart Music Tests, Written Tests

Written Work—30% of Grade

Concert Reflections, Concert Reviews, Article Reviews

Honors Credit (Wind Ensemble students only)

All students enrolled in the Wind Ensemble section of the band are required to do the following in addition per quarter to the above:

Write one 5-7 page scholarly paper on a musical topic of your choice (topics must be approved by Mr. Ruklic). You must do proper, reputable research with citations, etc. as well as write a well thought out paper.

-OR-

Perform a 4-5 minute solo or ensemble of appropriate difficulty in front of the band. Sign up for dates/times with Mr. Ruklic.

All Wind Ensemble students are strongly encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble contest in some capacity.

All Wind Ensemble students are strongly encouraged to audition for IMEA on October 15. Students must first pass an audition screening with Mr. Ruklic.

Concert Review guidelines

- You must attend concerts outside of our own. Some possibilities include: band, choir, orchestra, musicals, jazz bands. *Attend ONLY concerts performed by high school ensembles or a higher level.* Some unacceptable concerts: anything marching band related, rock concerts, junior high bands. If you have a question of whether or not it is acceptable, ask Mr. Ruklic.
- Write a 1 page (TYPED) review of what you heard. Critique the playing of the ensembles and the pieces selected. The following questions **must** be answered: How was the ensemble's blend/balance/pitch, etc? Did the ensemble play with correct style? Were the pieces played well? Was there anything unique about the concert? Comment on individual solos. How was the selection of music: good variety, fun to listen to, etc. Refer to the back of this sheet to see what you will be graded on.
- **YOU MUST DO 1 PER QUARTER.**

Concert Review Rubric

	1	2	3	4	5
Grammar	Very poor, several mistakes	Weak, many misspellings & mistakes	Several errors, not proofread	Few, minor errors	Excellent
Organization	Not at all	Extremely hard to follow	Major errors in reading	Good flow, minor flaws	Logical flow
Content	Not covering the guidelines	No depth in reasoning	Missing details and elaboration	Good with few flaws in details	Excellent
Musical content	No use of musical terms or pedagogy	Very little use of musical terms/ pedagogy	Average use of musical terms/ pedagogy	Good, with few errors	Excellent
Directions	Not reviewing an entire concert	Disregard of format	Minimal effort in format	Lacking in format and/ or full content	Excellent-full page, reviewed all aspects