

Lincoln Park Academy Wind Symphony 2015-2016 Handbook and Syllabus



Mr. Jason J. Albert; Director of High School Bands

Mr. Matthew Karram; Director of Middle School Bands

Mr. Henry Sanabria; Principal

Ms. Candace Stone; Assistant Principal

Ms. Samantha Piscopo; Assistant Principal

Mr. Bradley Lehman; Assistant Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Lincoln Park Academy Band Department. Congratulations on joining a long-standing tradition of excellence in music education. For years, this program has been the model for all high school band programs in the state of Florida and throughout the country. The Music Department has been recognized as a “Music Demonstration School” and in addition was awarded the “Music Enrollment Award” by the Florida Music Educators Association. Our emphasis this year will be to place our application for renewal in November.

My primary goal here at Lincoln Park is to help all students reach their potential as musicians. This is my motivation for everything I do as a band director, the basis for all information contained in this handbook, and the reason I became a music teacher. Music can be a very important part of a child’s development-intellectually, emotionally, and socially-and I feel very fortunate to be a part of this process.

Please take the time to read and understand the information contained in the following pages, as the success of our band depends upon each individual working toward the same goals. I have outlined the main points of my policies so that everyone will understand these rules ahead of time. I’m sure you will find these guidelines fair and reasonable. Most of all, I hope you will see that this system is designed to help us maintain an open learning environment for all students in the band program.

If you need to contact either director for any reason, please feel free to email and we will promptly return your message. Please allow at least 24 hours to respond.

Mr. Albert’s email: jason.albert@stlucieschools.org

Thank you for your help and support of the Lincoln Park Academy Band Program. Let’s make great music together!!

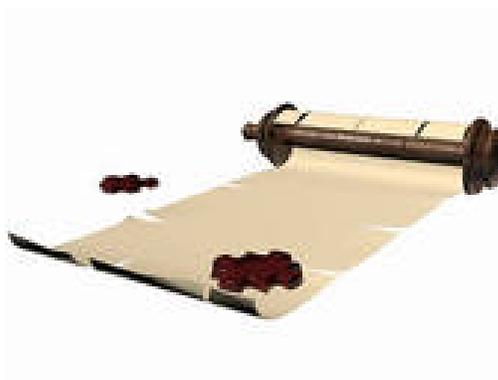
Musically Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason J. Albert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jason J. Albert
Director of High School Bands

Philosophy

It is our commitment that ALL students in the Lincoln Park Academy Band develop a lifelong appreciation for music in their lives. We realize that after they leave school, most of our students will enjoy music as listeners much more often than as performers. With that in mind, we will strive to help them develop the widest range of musical taste by exposing them to as many different musical styles, ideas, and experiences as possible. Through our rehearsals, we will instill a strong sense of self-discipline, self-motivation, and an inner drive for excellence. We will develop a better sense of citizenship for the world of tomorrow by developing the traits of a responsible citizen today through the mental and physical discipline of the program of music. From our performance opportunities, students will gain the self-confidence to know there is nothing that cannot be achieved and no obstacle that cannot be overcome as long as they are willing to utilize all their talents and work together. Through our social relationships within music, they will develop lifelong memories and friendships that are bonded by the variety of activities they will share. Most of all, students must view music as an experience that has a vital positive effect on their lives for years to come. The Lincoln Park Academy Band Program is intended to serve as a positive musical experience for our youth to lend dignity, spirit, and atmosphere to school and civic events. Besides the obvious intrinsic values of music, our primary objectives are character building, cooperation, loyalty, respect, dependability, responsibility, punctuality, and self-control. These are but a few examples of the many rewards of being associated with a Lincoln Park Academy Musical Ensemble.



The Wind Symphony Ensembles

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is comprised of the most outstanding wind instrumentalists at Lincoln Park Academy. Membership is through volunteer agreement only and instrumentation availability.

Dedicated to presenting the finest repertoire from all musical to its audiences, it draws from contemporary and historical wind works, orchestral transcriptions, as well as standard band literature. The Wind Ensemble meets during 1st hour and performs several concerts and festivals each year. Private study is highly encouraged of members for this ensemble. **Participation in Solo and Ensemble is mandatory. All scheduled performances and rehearsals are required and mandatory to retain membership in the ensemble and will be included in your grading system.** Please check the performance and rehearsal schedules in order to plan accordingly.

Refer to grading policy.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is comprised of 9th-12th grade students with previous instruction in wind instruments. It consists of modern band instrumentation and provides instruction in common-practice period and twentieth century wind literature and transcriptions. The Symphonic Band meets 2nd period (Woodwinds) and 6th period (Brass) and performs several concerts and festivals each year. Private study is encouraged for members of this ensemble. **Participation in Solo and Ensemble is mandatory. All scheduled performances and rehearsals are required and mandatory to retain membership in the ensemble and will be included in your grading system.**

Please check the performance and rehearsal schedules in order to plan accordingly.

Refer to grading policy.

Jazz Ensemble

Membership in the Jazz Ensemble is open to all Lincoln Park Academy instrumentalists. The

Jazz Ensemble consists of a full 20-member Big Band performing a wide variety of musical styles ranging from Swing, Rock, Blues, Funk, Latin, etc. Numerous performances will be held throughout the local community and school functions, and some may occur during normal class hours. The Jazz Ensembles meets during 3rd period. **All scheduled performances and rehearsals are mandatory and will be included in your grading system.** Please check the performance calendar to see which performances you are to participate in. Attendance is required for membership in the Jazz Ensemble.

Refer to grading policy.

Instrumental Techniques/Percussion Ensemble/Steel Drum Ensemble

The Instrumental Techniques class is comprised of students who wish to pursue musical excellence in a smaller atmosphere than the full-band ensembles. This class is open to all forms of instruments and styles. Students are expected to develop their abilities through solo performances, participation in exclusive instrument groups and chamber ensembles. **Participation in Solo and Ensemble is mandatory. All scheduled performances and rehearsals are required and mandatory to retain membership in the ensemble and will be included in your grading system.** Attendance is required for membership in the Jazz Ensemble.

Refer to grading policy.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are responsible for the reading of and adherence to the St. Lucie County Code of Student Conduct.

*Please respect both personal property and the property of the Band Department.

IF IT'S NOT YOURS, DON'T TOUCH IT! IF YOU TAKE IT OUT, PUT IT BACK!

*Rude, crude and socially unacceptable behavior (as defined by the instructors) will not be tolerated in the Music Building nor during band activities on or off campus.

* **Public Displays of Affection (PDA's)** will not be tolerated while on band activities.

GRADING POLICY

Daily Performance: 10% After-school rehearsal: 10%.

Daily Attendance: Daily attendance is linked with daily participation. UNEXCUSED absences will result in ZERO points earned for that class day. Points may only be earned through playing assessments. See daily attendance.

*Attendance at after-school rehearsals is mandatory for membership in all performing ensembles. Zero points are awarded for students who miss the regularly scheduled rehearsals/classes. To regain the loss of points, students must perform a graded playing test administered by the director. These test will occur monthly, so the more absences accumulated, the more extensive the playing tests. .

Performances (Summative): 50%

*Concerts and performances are a major part of the band program at Lincoln Park Academy. They are an opportunity for parents and members of the community to view how the ensembles are developing each season. There is no chance for students to make up for unexcused performance absences.

Playing and Written Tests (Formative): 30%

*After-school rehearsals: The schedule for after-school rehearsals will be announced the 1st day of school. These rehearsals are considered mandatory and part of the grading criteria. All conflict requests must be submitted to Mr. Albert. (Please note that this does not automatically excuse you). 2 excused absences may be allowed per semester. Work schedules are not considered excused. Failure to comply with the rehearsal policies will result in replacement of your position in the ensemble. See daily attendance.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

*Every band member should bring instruments, music, pencil, and ALL equipment to every rehearsal and performance.

*There is to be no talking or disturbance during rehearsals unless instructed by the director.

*Gum chewing or eating is not permitted during rehearsals or performances.

*Each student should be seated at the time designated by the director. Arrival after this time results in a tardy.

*The overhead projector should be read when entering the rehearsal room for daily instructions.

*Music folders, instruments and equipment should be kept in their proper storage places when not in use. Personal belongings should be removed after each rehearsal and should not be kept in lockers.

*All trash should be thrown in the waste container. Students should not bring books , personal belongings or study materials to their seats.

*Loud talking, shouting or horseplay is not allowed in the Music Building

CLASS ATTENDANCE/PROTOCOL: Downbeat will begin 2 minutes after the scheduled class time. You will be given that time to assemble your instrument and properly warm up. During that time, attendance will be taken and your progress will be evaluated. When the conductor stands on the podium that is your cue to stop all activities and await instruction.

INTRUMENT LOCKERS

Lockers and locks are assigned to students so they will have a place to safely store their instruments. Lockers will be assigned according to size and type of instrument. Any lost lock will result in a \$10.00 charge.

- *DO NOT give your combination to another student
- *Students may NOT share lockers unless assigned.
- *Food is NOT permitted in lockers. It grows and smells!!

BULLETIN BOARDS/WHITEBOARDS

- *Check the bulletin board and whiteboard daily for important information.
- *Each member is responsible for the information posted.
- *Students are NOT allowed to write on the whiteboard or add anything to the bulletin boards without the permission of the director. Posted information should never be removed.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

Large instruments, unique instruments and percussion instruments are owned by the band program and rented to those students to which they are assigned. The instrument rental fee is \$50 per year. Any damage to the instrument during the year must be repaired. Damage to any school instrument will be charged a repair fee if such damages occur. If you are unable to meet this policy, you may rent your own instrument. Please make checks payable to Lincoln Park Academy Band. Instrument accessory items may be purchased from the band department. Please see the cost list located on the band office door.

ATTENDANCE/PERFORMANCES

“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be out”-William Rivelli
(University of Michigan)

ABSENCE FROM PERFORMANCES: Performances are our major exam grades. Any absence which is not brought to the director’s attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered un-excused. Un-excused absences count as zeros for that major exam grade. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from a performance, please submit a written request at least 1 week prior to the intended absence. Any excuse given the week of a performance (with the exception of emergencies) will result in the student receiving a “C” letter grade for that performance.

What is excused?

- Religious holidays
- Handicapped students whose handicap prohibits participation
- Documented illness
- Family emergencies (approved by School Administration or designee)

*Work, after-school clubs and lack of planning is NOT considered an excused absence.

*Above information refers to both PERFORMANCES and REHEARSALS

**Attendance will be strictly enforced according to the St. Lucie County School Board

attendance policy.

UNIFORMS

It is the policy of the LPA Wind Symphony to provide every member of the band a concert uniform. Men will receive a black tuxedo coat and pants. Women will receive a black dress. The student will be responsible for providing the shoes and socks. Men will also be responsible for providing a white tuxedo shirt, bow-tie and cummerbund. *Please see the addendum to this portion for additional information on uniform expectations.*

*Uniforms will be checked out prior to each performance and returned immediately after each performance.

*Any part(s) of the uniform damaged, destroyed or misplaced by anything other than “normal” use will be the responsibility of the student. The band department has gone to great lengths to provide professional uniforms and it is expected that they are treated with care and respect.

BAND ROOM/MUSIC ROOMS

- a. Band Room: Band members are to keep the band room neat at all times. All chairs, stands and equipment are to be in their proper place.
- b. No food, drink, gum or candy is to be permitted in the band room.
- c. No visitors in the band room. For security reasons, you must have your friends wait outside the band room.
- d. Instrument storage: The instrument lockers are to be kept neat and orderly at all times. Instruments should be placed in lockers and not left any other places in the band room.
- e. All latches on instrument cases must be closed and secured. Books, clothing etc.. will not be allowed in the lockers
- f. Library/Uniform Room: The music library and uniform room, located in the band room, is off-limits to all students except authorized students.
- g. Restroom policy: Restroom time is NOT rehearsal time. Therefore, restroom passes will be issued in the case of emergency only. Please raise your hand, wait to be called upon and sign the restroom log.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the school year the Band Department will present a variety of fund raising opportunities projects for our students and parents to take advantage of. These projects are designed to assist our band families in meeting the financial obligations and also allow the Band Department to raise money for special events and equipment. We will do 1 fundraiser per quarter. All monies raised through these projects are in the name of the Band Department. Students are assigned individual accounts for record keeping purposes only. There will be no refunds of monies raised or paid, at any time throughout the school year, should a student not continue in the band program. Upon graduation monies remaining in a student’s account will be transferred into the general band account. The only exception made will be a “sibling” transfer from one child’s account to another.

TRIP PAYMENTS

All trip payments will be processed immediately and will be used to make monthly installments to the travel companies. It is the policy that trip payments may not be reimbursed for this reason. Please budget according to the payment plan listed in the trip packet.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

The Solo & Ensemble Festival of the Florida Bandmasters Association is held the 1st weekend in February. The educational experience of preparing a solo or a chamber ensemble is invaluable. In addition, the opportunity to perform for an audience and receive constructive comments from a qualified adjudicator is a wonderful learning experience. Participation in the ensemble portion of the festival may be required at the Director's discretion.

Participation in S&E is as follows:

- You must perform in at least 1 event. This may be a large ensemble.
- You may not perform 2 solos on the same instrument.
- You may perform in no more than 4 events.
- You must select music from the FBA Selected Music List. (**grade 3 or higher**)
- You must provide an original score for the judge (number measures).
- You must provide an accompanist, if the piece calls for accompaniment.
- You must contract with the Directors to perform at SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL.
- Once contracted for S&E performance, failure to perform will result in a lowering of your quarter grade.
- Choose your ensemble partners wisely!
- Begin rehearsals early and rehearse regularly.
- Create performance opportunities about two or three weeks before the festival (Nursing Homes, Churches, family, friends, etc.).

****All members of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Instrumental Techniques are required to perform at Solo & Ensemble Festival as a large ensemble. Solos and small ensembles are encouraged, but not mandatory.**

\$8.00 per event is required for registration in this event.

Music Performance Assessment

Membership in the Wind Symphony includes mandatory participation in District and State MPA performances. This includes: Concert Band MPA (if applicable), Jazz MPA (if applicable), Solo & Ensemble MPA (all members). This assessment is mandated by the State of Florida Department of Education and is required of all school music programs. The weekend of the assessments are announced in August but our performance date and time are usually not announced until approximately 1 month prior to the assessment. Please provide this information to any affected parties in order to avoid a conflict. Please refer to the attendance policy in this handbook for more information. Participation is MANDATORY and included in your grading policy. Failure to perform in the MPA event for your ensemble will result in a zero for the performance. Make-up grades are not possible.

CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

The success of any music program is dependent on teamwork, with each student completing his/her assigned task. With that understanding, all students who enroll in the Band Program, and their parents, are to sign this contract.

I understand the requirements and responsibilities for my son/daughter to be a member of the Band Program. I have read through and understand the rules and regulations covered in this handbook.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Parent Name - *Please print*

Student Name - *Please print*

Parent Email Address

Student Email Address

Home Phone

Work Phone



BAND VOLUNTEERS

Being a Band Volunteer is rewarding and fun!! As you a volunteer, you are invited to attend General Membership meetings during the school year. The dates will be announced in the Band Weekly Emails. Attending the General Membership Meetings keeps you up to date and informed on upcoming band activities and volunteer opportunities.

We encourage all parents to consider what part they can play in helping to bring about the great performances and activities of the LPA Band Department. Volunteering your time gives you the chance to get to know a great group of students and parents working together with the Band Directors to maintain the level of excellence that is the hallmark of this outstanding program

In addition to volunteering your time, please let us know if you are able to provide the Band with community, business and/or corporate contacts. The band department has many "large item" financial needs including uniform replacement, instrument purchase, and trip scholarships that is not provided by the school.

We could use your help and look forward to working with you!

*****If you are interested in joining our Band Volunteer, please check and you will receive an email including an invitation to our 1st meeting!! We look forward to seeing you there!*****

 I am interested in being a Band Volunteer!!!

Many times the band is need of certain services, which require assistance from parents and/or companies. If you feel comfortable, please include your occupation in the event we may need to call on you.

(optional information)

(Father's Occupation)

(Mother's Occupation)