

LPA Beginning Band Handbook
2015-2016



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www.lpabands.com

LPA 2015-2016 Beginning Band Parent Welcome Letter

August 10, 2015

Dear Parents and Beginning Band Students,

Welcome to the Lincoln Park Academy Band Program! Thank you for taking a brief moment to review some important information that could have a lasting impact on the future of your child. All parents are interested in providing the most advantageous opportunity for the welfare of their children; these next few sentences will help you in that vitally important goal.

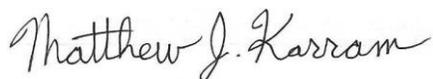
Current research shows the study of music is one of the most effective tools to improve learning throughout a child's academic curriculum. Each year, Lincoln Park Academy offers the chance for all incoming 6th grade and returning middle school students to participate in beginning band. We are very excited about our band program and eagerly look forward to this new group of emerging young artists who will make up this year's class of talented musicians.

Please accept our sincere thanks for encouraging your student to enroll in our instrumental music program. We would like to invite you to the instrument fitting night on Wednesday, August 26th from 6:00 to 7:30pm in the Lincoln Park Academy Middle School Band Room. This evening will offer the opportunity for students to try out any instruments that interest them and give you a chance to speak with and ask questions of the instrument rental company face to face. There will also be representatives there to assist you with the rental process.

Even if your student is already in possession of an instrument, we would appreciate your attendance in order to answer any questions you might have about the LPA band program and to assist you in ordering books and other supplies to help the year start up smoothly. I eagerly look forward to meeting you and offering further details and assistance as you and your student begin your band career at Lincoln Park Academy. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is matthew.karram@stlucieschools.org.

Thank you for your time as we prepare to begin what is sure to be a fantastic musical journey with your child. We look forward to the chance to help each student grow artistically and perform in the musical spotlight.

Musically yours,



Matthew J. Karram
Director of Middle School Bands
Lincoln Park Academy

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with opportunities to develop musicianship skills in band and instrumental ensembles.

The content should include, but not be limited to, enabling students to develop fundamental skills in characteristic tone production, band performance techniques, musical literacy and music appreciation.

Required Materials

Instrument (with all necessary parts and supplies)

Instrument cleaning kit

Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 (with DVD)

Pencil

1" Black 3-ring binder with several sheets of lined paper

tuner with bell attachment

Suggested materials (not required):

metronome

highlighter

Grading

Classwork 10%

-Worksheets, class participation, practice logs, and projects

Formative Assessments 30%

-Playing quizzes, written quizzes

Summative Assessments 50%

-Concerts, written tests

Taking Notes 10%

-Theory notes, vocabulary, markings in books/sheet music

Classroom Procedures and Expectations

Students are expected to adhere to all parts of the St. Lucie County Code of Student Conduct.

All students must be in their seats with instruments out **within 3 minutes of the start of class**. Any students not in their seats will be marked tardy.

During class, all students are expected to **remain quiet during instruction and transitions** unless told otherwise. There will be numerous opportunities given in class for individual work or helping neighbors. Band members must be attentive to instructions the first time given in order to ensure a productive learning environment.

There is to be absolutely no gum chewing in the music room. All trash must be placed in the trash bin. The music room must be kept neat and organized. If you use the restroom located in the music room, it must be left clean and you must wash your hands before returning to class.

Disruptive students may be asked to remove themselves from the class until they are prepared to focus. Any student removed from the group during class will fill out a reflection form. Depending on the severity of the disruption, a referral may be filled out. Three reflection forms will automatically lead to a referral and/or a call home.

Daily warm-ups: A significant portion of each class will be devoted to breathing exercises as well as developing basic skills in tone and technique. All students are expected to participate to the best of their ability. Failure to participate will cause a loss of participation points for the day.

Book Exercises and Literature: Each class will include a new exercise out of the book, review of previous exercises, or work on separate sheet music. Students are expected to be prepared to perform to the best of their ability. If the class is reviewing an exercise or piece of music, students should have a working knowledge of the skills required to perform it and/or come prepared with questions for clarification. **Not practicing is not an excuse** for being unable to play an exercise. Band homework is largely a matter of practicing.

Listening Exercises: Most class periods will include a listening exercise. During a listening example, students **must remain silent**. These activities may include a worksheet, free write, discussion, or marking-up of music.

Playing quizzes: All students will be required to perform playing quizzes in class. During these quizzes, all students are required to listen attentively and finger along on their own instrument.

Occasionally, students will be asked to give supportive and constructive comments to their classmates. **Negative comments will NOT be tolerated.** Our goal is to maintain a safe atmosphere for all members of our band to grow and improve.

Band Belts

Students are expected to perform in class in order to assess progress throughout the year. One way that we will accomplish this is through the Band Belt program. Students will perform certain exercises from their method books as well as from sheet music in order to earn different "belts" throughout the year. Students will track their progress and will be given a ribbon with the appropriate belt color once they have completed the required exercises.

We will work on belt songs as part of our regular class, but students are expected to take initiative and practice them individually as well as be engaged and ask questions during instruction.

Concert Requirements

All scheduled performances and rehearsals are mandatory and will be included in your grading system. Students are expected to be on time and dressed in uniform for each concert. Beginning Band has 4 required concerts per year. Reminders will be sent home approximately one week prior to each performance. The dates for the concerts are:

Fall Concert: October

Winter Concert: December

Spring Concert: April

Uniform

The concert uniform for beginning band members is a black uniform polo (bought through LPA), khaki pants, belt, and dress shoes.

Sports shoes, sandals, jeans, and t-shirts are unacceptable and will lead to a loss of points for the concert and the student being asked not to perform on stage. No large jewelry or anything that will distract the audience during performance.

Instrument Lockers

Lockers and locks are assigned to students so they will have a place to safely keep their instruments. We may have more students than lockers, so it is possible that not everyone will be assigned a locker. Some students may be assigned to share lockers. Lockers will be assigned according to the 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 allowed in lockers—it grows and smells!

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 Repair Donation is \$75.00 per instrument per year (not to exceed \$175.00). We provide percussion sticks, mallets, mouthpieces, ligatures and reeds. These are all on SALE at cost with no tax. A list of prices is available on the band office door.

Repair donations cannot possibly maintain and replace instruments as they wear out. Therefore, unscheduled maintenance and repair become the responsibility of the student during the rental period. 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.

Fund Raising

Throughout the school year the Band Department will present a variety of fund raising projects for our parents and students to take advantage of. These projects are designed to assist our band families in meeting our financial obligations and also allow the Band Department to raise money for special events and trips. We will do 4 major fundraisers (1 each 9 weeks). 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 during 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 fund. The only exception made will be a "sibling" transfer from one child's account to another.

Student/Parent Agreement

Please sign and return both parts of this form by Monday, August 24, 2015. This will count for a grade.

I have read the Beginning Band Handbook and agree to abide by band policy. I understand that my involvement in band is very important and my classmates are counting on me to be responsible and work to improve my skills and knowledge.

Student Signature

I have read the Concert Band Handbook and understand the commitment that my student is making for this school year.

Parent Signature

Locker Combination Request

All middle school band students will be assigned an instrument locker in the middle school band room. Since not all students will choose to use the locker on a regular basis, this form must be filled out in order to receive the combination to the lock and to help maintain a record of who has requested full use of the locks. Students will keep the same locker as long as they are in middle school band (new lockers will be provided in high school band),

Please be aware that once the combination is given out, it is the student's responsibility to keep the combination secure and make sure that the lock stays on the correct locker at all times. Lost locks have a \$10 replacement fee.

Please select one of the following:

- I would like the combination
- I prefer NOT to have the combination

Student Signature

Parent Signature