

# LPA Concert Band Handbook 2015-2016



Mr. Matthew Karram, Director of Middle School Bands

[matthew.karram@stlucieschools.org](mailto:matthew.karram@stlucieschools.org)

[www.lpabands.com](http://www.lpabands.com)



## Concert Band Welcome Letter 2015-2016

August 10, 2015

Dear Parents and Returning Band Students,

Welcome back! We are excited to have you stay a part of the Lincoln Park Academy Band Program! The Concert Band will be working on fun yet challenging literature as well as building technical and creative skills throughout the year. We will also be performing as part of the WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival in Atlanta next Spring!

This is going to be a fun and eventful year for our band. This year's concert band will consist of a combined second and third year group of instrumentalists. Combining all of our returning Middle School students will allow each band member to experience music in a setting where all of the instruments are represented. With all of the instruments, we are able to create a full and meaningful music learning environment for everyone.

Our full Concert Band and our MS Jazz Band will begin rehearsals starting the second week of classes. Please make sure to look over our rehearsal schedule and arrange rides for all afterschool obligations. Concert Band rehearsals are required and will be counted as a significant portion of each student's grade.

I am very excited to work with this talented group of young musicians! We have some very fun and challenging music planned for this year. I am sure that we will succeed in performing at a high level with strong family and community support.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is: [matthew.karram@stlucieschools.org](mailto:matthew.karram@stlucieschools.org). I am excited to join the LPA family and look forward to a year of great music making!

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew J. Karram".

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

## **Course Description**

The LPA Concert Band is a combined group consisting of students who have enrolled in the Band 2 and Band 3 courses. The purpose of this course is to provide students with instruction in the development of musicianship and technical skills through study of varied band literature.

The content should include, but not be limited to, extending skill development in characteristic tone production, band performance techniques, musical literacy and music appreciation, identifying simple musical form and varied style periods; formulating aesthetic awareness.

## **Required Materials**

Instrument (with all necessary parts and supplies)  
Instrument cleaning kit  
Pencil  
Tuner with bell attachment  
1" Black 3-ring binder with several sheets of lined paper

## **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.

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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.

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## **After School Rehearsals**

At least twice per month, the Concert Band will have combined rehearsals after school. Students will be given a schedule of rehearsal dates at the beginning of the year. Rehearsals will run from 1:50 to 3:10 in the Middle School Band Room. Additional rehearsals may be added as needed when nearing a performance. At least one week notice will be given for added rehearsals. These combined rehearsals are **mandatory** and will be included in your grading system.

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## **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. Concert Band has 5 required concerts per year. Reminders will be sent home approximately one week prior to each performance. Practice records will begin 4 to 5 weeks before performances and will count toward the classwork grade. The dates for the concerts are:

Fall Concert: October

Winter Concert: December

Pre-MPA Concert: March, Location, Date and Time TBD

District MPA (Music Performance Assessment) - Time and place TBA

Spring Concert: April, Date and Time TBD

## **Uniform**

**Men:** Black long-sleeve button down shirt, orange tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes

**Women:** Black blouse, black dress pants or ankle-length skirt, or a full length black dress, black dress shoes (high heels strongly discouraged). Women may also wear the same uniform as the men if desired (with or without the tie).

**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.

## **Spring Band Trip**

The Concert Band will be traveling to Atlanta, GA in late March or early April (exact dates to be given in class). As details are set, parents and students will be notified. Students wishing to participate will be required to be in good behavioral standing with the school and cannot be failing any classes. Parents who wish to chaperon will receive information as it becomes available.

All trip payments will be processed immediately and will be used to make monthly installments to the travel company representing the program. 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.

## **Music Performance Assessment (MPA)**

Membership in the Concert Band includes mandatory participation in District MPA performances. 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 one month prior to the assessment. Please provide this information to any affected parties in order to avoid a conflict. 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.

## **Solo and Ensemble**

The Solo & Ensemble Festival of the Florida Bandmasters Association is held the first 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.
- 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.).

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## **Jazz Band**

Middle School Jazz Band is an after school group that meets once a week. It is open to students in Concert Band. Students who choose to join the Jazz Band should be highly motivated, responsible, reliable, and interested in learning new musical styles. This ensemble will start rehearsals on **Wednesdays**. Any student that joins the Jazz Band may be required, along with a parent, to sign a contract stating their intent to stay in the Jazz Band through the remainder of the year.

The MS Jazz Band performs on the same concerts as Beginning and Concert Bands starting with the Winter Concert. In rehearsal, students in Jazz band may work on several pieces at a time. The ensemble will choose two or three pieces to perform on the concert to showcase what they have learned.

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## **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 \$50.00 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.

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## **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. This will count for a grade.*

I have read the Concert 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.

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Student Signature

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

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Parent Signature

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## **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

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature