

WELCOME

Learwood Bands

2021-2022



Mr. Ewald

Room # 105

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OVERVIEW

Welcome back to the Learwood Bands and, for those new to Learwood, welcome to our program! The Learwood Instrumental Music Program has a tradition of high quality music education in the Avon Lake City Schools. It is through dedication, positive effort, and cooperation that all can grow and benefit from instrumental music education. We strive to develop responsibility, practice, discipline, reliability, respect, and good citizenship in all our members. Music Education is more than just playing an instrument or singing. It is immersing yourself in a culture of success. It challenges each of you to use the creative side of their brain while, at the same time, learning how to work as a member of a team and pursue excellence while having fun. More importantly, studies have shown that students who participate in music develop a sense of ownership and respect for the overall learning process.

GOALS

#GOALS



- ✓ To review correct embouchure, hand positions, posture, tonguing, and breathing techniques.
- ✓ To further develop technical facilities.
- ✓ To develop a characteristic tone quality throughout the appropriate playing range of the instrument.
- ✓ To develop an awareness of proper unison and chordal intonation needed to produce harmonic balance.
- ✓ To play rhythm patterns and phrases with dynamic control.
- ✓ To identify and respond appropriately to musical terms, tempo markings, dynamics, and expression markings.
- ✓ To demonstrate the fingerings and slide positions of all notes within the appropriate playing range of the instrument.
- ✓ To utilize acquired musical skills in a public performance.

GRADING POLICY

I grade using a total points system. Different assignments are worth different amounts of points and rubrics/ criteria guides will be given for each assignment. Students will earn credit through weekly practice assignments and weekly effort/participation points for contributing to class progress and being a positive influence on the success of the band. To earn an A, students must learn and develop music performance skills and technique, complete all assignments according to the rubrics used in each assignment, participate in all performance activities, all linked to the the Ohio State Music Standards.

Each student is observed and evaluated on:

<i>Playing/Written Assessments, Projects</i>	45%
<i>Positive Contribution to Class Rehearsal/Activity</i>	10%
<i>Home Practice/Written Assignments</i>	20%
<i>Performance Participation</i>	25%
<i>Quarterly Grade</i>	100%

PowerSchool: I usually update grades at the end of the week. Be aware and follow your grades as they go in. If you see a "0" for an assignment, that means I do not have it. In this case you can see me for the opportunity to get your points back.



REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Be respectful to everyone and everything - This includes the director, guests, each other AND the room and its contents. Respect rehearsal time by not talking out of turn or playing when not instructed to do so.

Accept responsibility for yourself, your actions, and your learning - Pick up after yourself, pay attention, listen to directions when given, and work hard! Participate in class and practice at home.

No touching the things that don't belong to you

Do your best every day - Be prepared with your instrument, materials, a pencil, and your music learned. Set up and get to your seat quickly. Do your best at listening because it is the key to good musicianship.

Positive Ensemble Contribution: Quality time and effort that a student puts into daily rehearsing, inside and outside of band rehearsal, is a very important part-learning and developing musical skills. Demonstrate your positive attitude and best effort at rehearsals and performances by showing your enthusiasm and your interest in music.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS



Communication

Communication for band activities will be sent out through email, website posts, and through the Remind app.

Remind App codes for joining:

- 7th Grade Band: Text **81010** to **@lwband7**
- 8th Grade Band: Text **81010** to **@lwband8**
- Jazz Ensemble: Text **81010** to **@LWjazzband**

Mr. Ewald's email addresses are on the first page.

Band website: www.learwoodbands.weebly.com



MATERIALS

- Instrument
- 1/2" 3 ring binder
- plastic page protectors (15-20)
- pencil, (dry erase marker-optional)
- Measures of Success Books 1 & 2 (see "Method Books on pg. 3)

PERFORMANCES

All performances are required participation. Performance is a unique and very important part of music education. Because this experience cannot be recreated or taught in the classroom, attendance is crucial. Each member is essential to our success. Points are credited for attendance, punctuality, behavior/concert etiquette, and proper uniform. No points will be awarded to students who cannot attend performances. Absences from any performance must be cleared with the director as soon as the absence is anticipated so that arrangements can be made in order to cover the part.

In addition, a parent note stating the reason for the absence needs to be given to the director as soon as the conflict is known. If the reason for absence is a legitimate emergency, the excuse may be given to the director upon return to school. Please keep in mind that notes do not automatically approve performance absences. The director must approve the absence for make-up work to be assigned. If there is a problem with an excuse, the director will make every effort to make contact with parents to discuss the problem prior to the concert. Excuses Such as no ride, sports, or not having the proper uniform will not be considered acceptable. An unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for the quarter. The only acceptable excuses would be death in the family or illness with a doctor's verification. Performing is such a big part of this class so please encourage your son/daughter to be prepared.

TARDY AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES

A student is considered tardy when both feet are not in the classroom when the bell begins to ring. All students are expected to be in class on time. Tardy students will be reported to the office to report and will receive consequences in accordance with the school-wide tardy policy. When a student is in a situation that requires discipline, the following steps will be taken:
1st instance: a verbal warning. A warning may be skipped if necessary.
2nd instance: a phone call to parents and probable disciplinary action at school/detention.
3rd instance: an office referral is submitted. The student may also be removed and a phone call to the parents is placed at the earliest possible moment.

PRACTICING & PLAYING ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of practicing is to reinforce the skills and concepts that are taught in class. Assessments are for checking in with each student to make sure they understand the concepts taught and are developing the skills and techniques required to play an instrument. Assignments are not meant to be difficult, but are scaffolding to help students climb and achieve new concepts and techniques.

All assignments and assessments are run through Google Classroom and Flipgrid, and must be completed this way. Flipgrid links will always be imbedded in the Google Classroom assignment. Students may complete the assignments during free time in school, but are strongly encouraged to complete the assignments and assessments at home. If you are having any difficulty or have any concerns, please contact Mr. Ewald anytime.



LATE WORK POLICY

Any homework, whether it is a practicing assignment or a playing assessment is expected to be turned-in on the day it is due. If an assignment is turned in after its due date, the grade will be penalized 5% for each day it is late. Assignments will only be accepted up to five days following the due date unless alternative arrangements have been made with the teacher. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated and will result in a zero for the grade.

CONCERT DRESS ATTIRE

The following descriptions for concert dress have been agreed upon by the Learwood Middle School Music Staff and Administration. This specific dress code is required for all performance events so that each group has a proper and formal uniform appearance for our performance. See the [LEARWOOD BANDS](#) website for visual examples of appropriate concert dress.

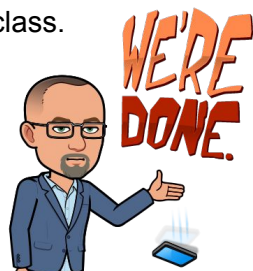
Ladies: White blouse, black dress pants, dress shoes
(*No skirts, no leggings*)

Gentlemen: White dress shirt (short or long sleeve), black dress pants, black dress shoes, dress socks, and necktie.

DEVICES

Students will be able to use their chromebooks and other devices WHEN INSTRUCTED TO USE THEM IN CLASS. Students may not use their devices for anything other than the activity being done in class.

Students are responsible for making sure their Chromebook/device is fully charged.



METHOD BOOKS

Students will be required to purchase their own band textbook. The band textbook may be purchased from the band department (approx. cost \$9.00 to \$16.00). The school is not responsible for lost or stolen books, so in the event this happens, the student will be required to replace it. These books may be purchased through Rettig Music or online. Book 1 is the book you should still have from Band in Troy.

7th Grade Concert Band: Measures of Success Band Series 1 (used in Troy)
8th Grade Concert Band: Measures of Success Band Series Book 2; full band ensemble series TBA.

BAND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Full Band Rehearsals: With the both 7th Grade and 8th Grade Concert Bands are split into separate periods and are expected to perform as full bands (woodwinds, brass, and percussion together), extra full band rehearsals are scheduled throughout the school year to allow students to practice and prepare the music together, learning from the whole ensemble experience. *Students are required to attend these after school rehearsals which end by 4PM.*

7th Grade Full Band Rehearsal Dates: 10/13, 11/10, 12/8, 2/16, 3/16, 4/13, 5/10 (All Wednesdays except for Tues, May 10)

8th Grade Full Band Rehearsal Dates: 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 2/9, 3/9, 4/6, 5/4 (All Wednesdays)

Private lessons: Private lessons are not required but highly encouraged. Private study on your instrument with a qualified teacher is the best way to develop and improve your playing skills. A list of approved private instructors can be obtained from Mr. Ewald.

OMEA Solo and Ensemble Event: Students have the unique opportunity to study musical performance in a different environment from the large group aspect. Students will practice individual or small ensemble pieces that will provide opportunities for self-expression, self-discipline, and musical excellence.

The Learwood Jazz Ensemble: Students interested in performing non-classical music are encouraged to participate in The Learwood Jazz Ensemble. This ensemble meets before school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Students must be a participating member of the concert bands in order to participate in this group, except for those that play guitar and bass. Participation is at the discretion of the band director.

The Learwood Percussion Ensemble: Students interested in trying something different are encouraged to participate in the Learwood Percussion Ensemble. This ensemble meets after school on Tuesdays from 3:00-3:45. Students must be a participating member of the concert bands in order to participate in this group. Participation is by approval from the band director.

OMEA Middle School Honors Band: 8th Grade students who display an accelerated level of learning and performance may be nominated to participate in the OMEA Middle School Honors Band during the spring semester. Nominations are made by the band director and acceptance into the honors band is determined by the honors band committee.

OMEA Middle School Large Group Adjudicated Events: In May, Learwood Bands participate in the OMEA District IV Middle School Large Group Adjudicated Events. This event is a key performance as part of instrumental music pedagogy. Dates and times of each band's performance are scheduled approximately one month prior to the event. Please arrange personal schedules to accommodate for this group performance.

Fall and Spring Fundraisers: Fundraising will be an important part of ensuring our future success. We will most likely have 3-4 fundraising events this year. Our goal is to keep these events simple and productive. Fundraising will help offset costs for equipment maintenance, music/materials purchased, and events in which the bands participate during the school year.

Band Performance and Activity Calendar

Here is a list of important events during the school year, their dates and times. Any changes or additions of events will be communicated to all parents and students as soon as possible. Please check into the [Learwood Bands website](#) for up to date information and the Band Google Calendar. All performances are required participation.

Friday, September 17, 5:30 PM: 8th Grade Band Night with the ALHS Marching Shoremen, *8th Grade only*

Thursday, November 11, tentatively scheduled, 8:30 AM: Learwood Veterans Day Ceremony, *8th Grade only*

Thursday, December 9, 7:00 PM: Holiday Concert, ALHS PAC, *ALHS Bands, 7th Gr, 8th Gr, & LW Jazz, ALHS Jazz*

January 2022, TBA: OMEA D4 MS Honors Band participants announced, *Select 8th Gr students*

February 2022 TBA: Avon Lake Bands District Pancake Breakfast, *Troy 5th and 6th Grade Bands, 7th Grade, 8th Grade, LW Jazz, ALHS Jazz, ALHS Bands*

Saturday, March 12, All Day: OMEA D4 MS Honors Festival, ALHS, *Select 8th Gr*

Saturday, March 26: OMEA D4 MS Solo & Ensemble Event, Tri-C West, Times TBA, *Volunteer participants*

Wednesday, May 10: Spring Band Concert, 7:00 PM, ALHS PAC, *7th Gr, 8th Gr, Jazz*

Friday/Saturday, May 13/14: OMEA D4 MS Large Group Adjudicated Event, *7th Gr, 8th Gr. Times TBA*

Saturday, May 21, tentatively scheduled, Band Clinic and Cedar Point Trip, All Day: *8th Grade*

PARENTS! PARTICIPATE IN THE BAND BOOSTERS!!!

Avon Lake Band Aids, Inc. was formed in 1964 to provide support to the Instrumental Music Program in Avon Lake. It was organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including financial and moral support to the entire Avon Lake Band Program (grades 5-12), encourage attendance at all instrumental music programs, promote the interests of parents of instrumental music students, and to cooperate with and assist school officials to maintain a high quality program. In order to support the Learwood Bands and Avon Lake Band Program, parents and students are asked to contribute in projects, events, and fundraising events. The Avon Lake Band Aids hold meetings on the third Wednesday of each month in the ALHS Band Room. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM at the ALHS Band Room (or via Zoom when necessary). All parents (and students) are welcome to attend. The Avon Lake Band Aids Newsletter is published via email every other month during the calendar year. **We are looking for parents who can represent the Learwood parents and students at the booster meetings. Please let Mr. Ewald know if you can help!**

LEARWOOD BAND HANDBOOK COMMITMENT FORM

After reading this handbook, please click the link below and complete the online Band Handbook Commitment form no later than Friday, August 27, 2021.

- Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies and regulations, please contact the director.
- Student and parent understand the following: Behavior expectations, grading procedures, and responsibilities in this handbook.
- It is the responsibility of the student to maintain proper care of the school-issued instrument.
- Student and parent are responsible for any repairs or replacement of instrument issued to student.
- Participation and attendance at concerts is mandatory.
- Parent and student understand expectations outlined in this handbook.

Link: [Band Handbook Commitment Form](#)

LOAN AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Please complete only if the student is using a school-owned instrument.

I will treat the instrument given to me to borrow as my own, giving all consideration to correct care and upkeep, and agree to pay for any damages resulting from carelessness or improper handling. I will not be assessed for any costs associated with what is considered to be normal wear and tear. I will be the only person to handle or play this instrument, and will be responsible for damages that may occur if I have permitted someone else to handle or play this instrument. I agree to turn in this instrument at the end of the school year or whenever I am asked to do so by the band director or other authorized school personnel.

Link: [Learwood School-owned Instrument Agreement Form](#)