

Learwood Middle School
BAND PROGRAM
2019-2020 School Year



Band Handbook
Pride In Excellence



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Letter from the director.....3

Learwood Bands Mission Statement.....4
Communication
Rehearsal Rules
Discipline Policy

Method Books.....5
Performance Participation
Excused Absence Policy
Communication with Coaches/Group Leaders
Concert Attire
Grading

Band Activities Throughout the Year.....6
OMEA Solo and Ensemble Event
LW Jazz Ensemble
OMEA Honors Band
8th Grade Chair Placement and Challenging

Fall and Spring Fundraisers.....7
OMEA Large Group Adjudicated Events
ALHS Marching Shoremen Band Helpers
The Avon Lake Band Aids, Inc
Learwood Bands on Social Media (Facebook & Instagram)

Learwood Bands Event Calendar.....8
Handbook Acknowledgement Form (detach & return)
Instrument Loan Agreement for School-Owned Instruments





Learwood Middle School Instrumental Music

**Avon Lake City Schools
340 Lear Rd.
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012**

**Mr. Christopher Ewald, Director
Christopher.Ewald@avonlakecityschools.org
(440) 933-8142, ext. 2105**

Welcome back to the Learwood Band Program and for our new members, welcome to Band! 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.

The keys to our successful program are pride, respect, responsibility, practice, discipline, and reliability. Though your child joined band through their own desire to do so, your child is obliged to attend and participate according to established guidelines for success. When a student is part of this program, there must be a common understanding among our parents, students, and teachers that the students abide by the policies in this handbook. **This handbook should be kept throughout the year as a reference to policies and pertaining to grading, class attendance, and schedules throughout the school year.** Please take time to read and discuss the policies and procedures with your child.

Parental support is very important to our program and is appreciated. I urge parents to attend all performances, help with fundraising, and chaperone performance and activities. Parental support is also needed through active participation in the Avon Lake Band Aids meeting. **Band Aids Meetings are every third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the ALHS Band Room.**

Please feel free to contact me via telephone or e-mail if there are any questions. Let's continue to support our tradition of high quality music education.

Sincerely,
Christopher Ewald
Director, Learwood Middle School Instrumental Music Program
Assistant Director, ALHS Marching Shoremen



Learwood Middle School Band Mission Statement

The Mission of the Learwood Middle School Bands is to provide students with opportunities to participate in quality musical experiences, fostering discipline, excellence, and self-expression in order to create life-long performers and supporters of quality music.

Communications

There are four ways to communicate and get information in the Learwood Bands:

1. Remind App:
 - a. 7th Grade Band: Text **81010** to **@lwband7**
 - b. 8th Grade Band: Text **81010** to **@lwband8**
 - c. Jazz Ensemble: Text **81010** to **@learwoodj**
2. Email: Christopher.Ewald@avonlakecityschools.org
3. Telephone: 440-933-8142, ext. 2105
4. The Learwood Bands website: www.learwoodbands.weebly.com

BAND REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

Positive Ensemble Contribution: Quality time and effort in that the 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 Rules

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **No touching the things that don't belong to you-** Keep your hands off other instruments (especially percussion), music stands, the director's belongings, and each other.
4. **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. Listen for intonation, style, dynamics, balance, and blend.

Discipline

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 detention assigned to the student and a phone call to parents is placed.

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.



Methods Books

The following methods books will be used in each ensemble for exercises, etudes, and practicing material in conjunction with ensemble music. Students will be required to purchase the Measures of Success methods book for class and individual participation.

7th Grade Introduction to Band: *Measures of Success Book 1;*

7th Grade Concert Band: *Measures of Success Series Books 1 & 2 ;*

8th Grade Bands: *Continuing Measures of Success Series Book 2.*

Performance Participation

To maintain excellence while ensuring a rewarding educational experience for all, an attendance policy has been instituted: ***ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED PARTICIPATION FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS.*** A schedule of all events is published at the beginning of each school year so that you are aware of your commitments. Your attendance affects not only you but all of the others in the group. All school rules apply during all in-school and out-of-school band activities.

EXCUSED ABSENCES MAY ONLY BE DUE TO ILLNESS, AN ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY, OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY. Call 933-8142, ext. 2105 or email Mr. Ewald prior to the performance.

Communicate with coaches and group leaders: When you commit to being a member of the band, it is your responsibility to talk to the adults who direct activities in which you participate. They must know your schedule in order to help you avoid conflicts.

Concert Attire: (required for all performances)

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

Gentlemen: White dress shirt (short or long sleeve), black dress pants, black dress shoes, dress socks, and necktie. 8th Grade boys will be provided with a maroon necktie.

Grading

Each student is observed and evaluated on:

Preparedness/Ensemble Contribution	34%
<i>Performance Participation</i>	33%
<i>Assessments/Scale Wars pass-offs</i>	33%
<i>Quarterly Grade</i>	100%

EXTRA CREDIT: Credit will be received for special projects such as solo and ensemble contest, honors groups, and jazz ensemble. 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. Students will be given extra credit for anything above and beyond the Learwood Bands curricular activities.



BAND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Scale Wars: Throughout the 7th & 8th grade year of band, students participate in a motivational program entitled **Scale Wars**. The program runs for the entire year and counts as a portion of each student's grade in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter grading periods. Students receive a **Trainee Record tracking sheets** that has additional information and is used to track their training progress. Students have a minimum 3 ranks they need to achieve during the year. Students are also encouraged to work ahead and ultimately accomplish the advanced three ranks. All materials and information are located on the Learwood Bands website. The students' 4th quarter will consist of playing assessments for preparing the music performed in the OMEA Middle School Large Group Adjudicated Event.

Full Band Rehearsals: Since the 8th Grade Concert Band is split into two separate periods but is expected to perform as one band, 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 rehearsals. Full Band Rehearsal Dates: 10/9, 11/6, 12/4, 1/15, 2/26, 3/25, 4/29, 5/13

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 Wednesday and Friday 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.

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.

8th Grade Chair Placements and Challenges: During the first two weeks of school, we will be holding a pre-assessment. Students will sight-read music in order to demonstrate their ability to recall scales and other exercises. Chair placements determine part assignments. Parts are assigned with several factors in mind: ability of the player, difficulty of part, and where a student would be best suited to help their section and the entire ensemble. From time to time, the students in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd chairs will find themselves placed as head performers in the second and third parts to help their peers and strengthen the overall musicality of the upcoming performance. There will always be a first and last chair, and if a student does not do well on their placement, there are plenty of opportunities to improve where a student sits. Students are strongly encouraged to go for the higher seat and challenge the next student up. Challenges are only upon the approval of the director.



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

In recent years, we have been able to eliminate a pay-to-participate fee for the band program. However, we have to rely on fundraising for 100% of our expenses. Since the cost of buying music, repairing school-owned instruments, attending instrumental music events, and other expenses continue to increase, it is necessary to subsidize the play-to-participate fee through fundraising. Students are expected to contribute in all fundraiser activities.

PARENTAL SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT:

The Avon Lake Band Aids, Inc.

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. 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.

Learwood Bands Social Media

The Learwood Bands are on Facebook and Instagram!

Learwood Bands on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1991684601117925/>
or search for Learwood Bands and request to join!

Learwood Bands on Instagram: @lwbands



SAVE! SAVE! SAVE! SAVE!

2018-2019 Learwood Bands Event Calendar

This calendar can be subject to change. Notification of change will be sent ASAP.

*****TBD***: 8th Grade Band Night with the Marching Shoremen**

Memorial Stadium Varsity Football Game, 5:00 PM. 8th Grade Band only.

Monday, November 11: Annual Veterans' Day Ceremony

Learwood Auditorium, in-school. 8th Grade Concert Band only.

Tuesday, December 10: Holiday Band Concert

ALHS Performing Arts Center, 7:00 PM. ALHS Bands, Learwood 7th Grade Concert and 8th Grade Concert Bands. Jazz Ensemble to perform at reception following the concert.

Saturday, February 29: All District Band Festival and Pancake Breakfast

ALHS Commons area, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, All Bands 5-12

Saturday, March 14: OMEA District 4 Honors Festival

Only for 8th Grade students selected to participate. Festival will take place at Westlake High School. All-Day.

Saturday, March 28: OMEA Middle School Solo and Ensemble Event

Cuyahoga Community College West Campus, Parma. Participation is voluntary. Performance times will be available 1-2 weeks prior to this event.

Monday, May 4: Learwood Bands Spring Concert

ALHS Performing Arts Center, 7:00 PM, All Learwood Bands

Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16:

OMEA District 4 Junior High Large Group Adjudicated Event

8th Grade Concert Band-Date and Time TBA

7th Grade Concert Band-Date and Time TBA

Firelands High School, Performance times will be available 1-2 weeks prior to the event.



SAVE! SAVE! SAVE! SAVE!

RETURN DIRECTLY TO MR. EWALD BY WED., AUGUST 28, 2019
Band Handbook Agreement Form & Family Contact Information Form

Students Name _____ Instrument _____ Grade _____

Address: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Primary Telephone (_____) _____

Mother's Mobile Phone (_____) _____

Father's Mobile Phone (_____) _____

Family Email address: _____

Used for teacher to parent communications, Avon Lake Band Aids on-line newsletter, and all other course-based communications.

Please place check to indicate if either or both parents can help in any of the following areas

- ____ Learwood Representative to Band Aids
____ December Concert Reception
____ Chaperoning OMEA Large Group Contest (in May)

We have read the Learwood Bands Handbook. We understand and support all policies and procedures required for participation in the Learwood Band Program. Furthermore, we understand that all activities, including all performances, are mandatory participation.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parents!!!

I will be spending a lot of time with your child during this school year and would like to get to know them as a person, their likes, their dislikes, their strengths, their weaknesses, and anything else that makes your child unique. Please tell me something about your child that you would like me to know. This information will be kept confidential so I will be the only person seeing this.



****This form should be completed only if your child will be using a school-owned instrument.****

**Learwood Instrumental Music Department
Instrument Loan Agreement for School-Owned Instruments**

Student Name _____ Date _____

I will treat the instrument below 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.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Phone _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Phone _____

Address

To be completed by the director:

Instrument _____ Make _____

Serial # _____ Case _____ Condition _____

Accessories _____ Value _____

