



2018-2019

Ledford Bands Handbook

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Statement of Purpose

At Ledford High School, we strongly believe that music has the ability to enrich every person's life in unique and powerful ways. Thus, our primary goal is to foster the development of a life-long relationship with music in every student. Whether our students go on to be symphony musicians, doctors who play in a community band or orchestra one night a week, or simply music fans, our goal is for them to have a love and appreciation of music and music-making.

Beyond the purely musical goals of the program, we also aim to develop students' interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Teamwork is a requirement for both the concert bands and the marching band. There are no "second-string" players in a band. Instead each individual in the ensemble - down to the last chair player - plays a vital role in the quality of the whole. Additionally, there are no right or wrong answers in music. Each musical performance is unique and can never be perfect. Even the best professional musicians spend their entire lives reaching for perfection, never quite attaining it. These two characteristics separate music from other subjects and are what make it is such an irreplaceable aspect of a student's education.

Given all of this, we are not in the business of producing only "conservatory players" who have ambitions to pursue music as a profession. We are - very much - in the business, however, of developing a life-long relationship with music in every student. Along the way we will also be providing and encouraging positive interactions and personal growth through the medium of music. The road towards these goals is extremely rewarding, yet very challenging. Only through positive effort on the part of everybody involved in the program can true excellence be achieved.

Goals and Objectives

1. Students will continually improve their individual playing ability and musical knowledge by participating in full ensemble experiences, chamber groups, and solos.
2. Students will increase their skill and comprehension levels by understanding and working towards mastery of various musical concepts, including, but not limited to: posture, breath control, embouchure structure, specific instrument background information, technical facility (including scales, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, sight singing, terminology, interpretation, form, style, etc.). These improvements will be monitored in class, but will require outside practice to master.
3. Students will be evaluated through various methods, including playing quizzes, verbal comprehension questions (in class), observation of class performance and participation, written work, teacher feedback and coaching in class, and performance outside of class time.

Specific Objectives

By the time a student graduates from Ledford High School, he or she will be able to demonstrate the following competencies to a high level of mastery:

1. The student will demonstrate - while standing and/or sitting - proper playing position, taking into consideration growth and motor ability.
2. The student will identify, define, and utilize the musical terms and symbols encountered in the musical literature being studied.
3. The student will perform music using mixed meters, changing meters, asymmetrical patterns, free rhythms, and non-traditional notation. Additionally, the student will perform music using note and rest values through the 32nd-note.
4. The student will play all major and minor scales and arpeggios in as many complete octaves as possible within the legitimate range of the instrument at a variety of speeds, articulations, and rhythms.
5. The student will play a chromatic scale encompassing the legitimate range of the instrument, performed in eighth-note values at a minimum tempo of 120 beats per minute, with a variety of different articulations.
6. The student will identify key signatures and apply them to any music being performed.
7. The student will describe - as a consumer and performer - musical literature of various styles, composers, and compositional techniques.
8. The student will interpret music with historical perspective and style.
9. The student will demonstrate sight-reading skills in music containing moderately difficult rhythmic structures and keys.
10. The student will demonstrate instrumental techniques including the use of advanced alternate fingerings and positions, as well as advanced techniques that are idiomatic to the full range of the instrument.
11. The student will demonstrate the ability to balance and blend his or her tone-quality within a performing group.
12. The student will describe career and vocational opportunities in music.
13. The student will produce a controlled and centered tone-quality throughout the legitimate range of his or her instrument.
14. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to perform any articulation found in the music in any style or period.
15. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to play within the equal temperament system of intonation.
16. Percussion students will play with expertise all instruments utilized in the band repertoire.
17. Percussion students will play the following rudiments from opened to closed to open position:
**•Single stroke roll •Nine stroke roll •Flam accent
•Multiple bounce roll •Single ratamacue •Flam tap
•Double stroke roll •Single paradiddle •Drag
•Five stroke roll •Double paradiddle
•Seven stroke roll •Flam**
18. The student will attend class regularly with music, instrument, musical equipment, and a sharpened pencil. Additionally, the student will complete homework assignments, pay attention in rehearsal, and participate fully in class and all performances.

General Calendar of Events

July/ August	February
Band Camp	All-District Clinic
School Starts	
Football Season Begins	March
	Pre-MPA Concert
September	Northwest District MPA
Football season continues	All-State Auditions
Marching Band Competitions begin	
	April
October	Spring Break
Football season continues	All-State Jazz Clinic
Marching Band Competitions continue	Solo & Ensemble MPA
Possible Fall Concert	
	May
November	All-State Clinic
	Drum Major Auditions
Parades	Spring Concert
All-County Auditions	Final Exams
NCMEA Conferences	
December	June
Winter Concert	Graduation
Final Exams	
January	
All-District Auditions	

Program Structure

Fall Semester Band Class:

Symphonic Band (all Marching Band Wind Player students)

This group, because of its' nature, requires the most out-of-school rehearsals, performances, time, and money. Much of Marching Band is extra-curricular. However, music is learned and polished in class time. Credit for all outside-of-class work is reflected for the time and work in the student's band class grade. Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursday's from 4:30-7:30pm.

The Symphonic Band serves as a fundamental skills ensemble in the Ledford Band Program. The group is composed of wind instrumentalists and color guard members whose musical commitment is the development of skills and performance of medium to medium-advanced level music in preparation to become a member of the Concert Band or Wind Ensemble. The music literature of this group is of recognized quality, primarily focusing on grade IV - VI. Members of the Symphonic Band represent varied in performance ability and are self-motivated. Grading is challenging, demanding, and rewarding. Acceptance in the Symphonic Band will be based on band director recommendation and prior performance experience. Individual/at home practice outside of normal school hours is imperative and required. The "Panther Regiment", Ledford's award-winning marching ensemble is also an integral part of the class curriculum. All Symphonic Band members are also members of the "Panther Regiment."

Open to wind instrumentalists, the Symphonic Band seeks to enhance and encourage each student's understanding of instrumental musical concepts and terms with an emphasis on rehearsals and performances combined with group methods and instruction.

Competitions take place on Saturdays from the fourth weekend in September to the first Saturday in November. A detailed competition schedule will be given to students at Band Camp. The band may not compete every Saturday during the season. It is normal to compete on five Saturdays, in addition to hosting our own contest. Events such as Christmas Parades and other local community functions are also required. Large extended trips (three days or more) may also take place. Any over night trips will be announced prior to the season starting so that plans can be made. Fundraising events for large trips will be provided. Students **MUST** attend all rehearsals and performances! When a member is out, it reflects negatively in the performance and in the judge's score. At rehearsals it is difficult to practice with "holes" in the show. Therefore, only in extreme cases should students miss (**DO NOT PLAN VACATIONS DURING THE MARCHING SEASON**). If an absence is unavoidable, a written note must be given to Mr. Gibson, preferably prior to the absence.

Percussion Ensemble – 4th period

Percussion Ensemble provides an opportunity for all percussion students to hone their skills in a much smaller setting. Students will learn the concepts of rhythms, texture, balance, blend, and rudiments as they develop their role as ensemble members. Students will learn concert music (to be played with the band) in class, and will also perform percussion-specific music.

Spring Semester Band Classes:

Wind Ensemble – 3rd period

The Wind Ensemble is a very selective "top" level group of musicians. Each member is expected to act as mature gentlemen and ladies. This group may travel and have more performances than the Concert Band. In all possible cases, at least three weeks notification of any extra performance will be given. Students are required to attend all outside-of-class performances and rehearsals. If a scheduled event is missed without a valid excuse, a "o" will be given to the student as a test grade. (The director will merit if the excuse is valid.) For concerts, a uniform will be chosen by the director and will be the student's responsibility to purchase or have made. Outside activities such as participation in other extra-curricular band activities,

honor's band organizations, performing in church, etc...are counted as extra credit.

Concert Band – 4th period

All freshmen (9th graders) band students take Concert Band, unless appointed otherwise by director. This class is the transition and development level band to Grade III and IV music. Concert Band is the “growing” area for the Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band. In addition, upper classmen may take this class if unable to take the 3rd period class or wishing to take an additional band class.

Assessment Plan

Students in all band classes will be graded according to the following plan:

Rehearsal Techniques/Performances (60%)

In the music classroom, students learn through experience. In band, students learn and grow by playing their instruments and actively participating in rehearsal techniques and classroom activities. This type of learning cannot be "made-up". Thus, full participation in the classroom is essential for musical growth.

Students will be evaluated on their level of participation in the classroom and rehearsal techniques on a daily basis. Active and full involvement in the rehearsal process is expected. Through observation the instructor will evaluate the individual student's achievement and preparedness. Failure to fully participate in class by coming unprepared, or not actively participating will result in a lower daily grade.

Rehearsal Technique includes frequent playing exams so students may demonstrate proper understanding of the music they are studying. During the Marching Season memorization tests will also be conducted to ensure music is memorized.

Performances are the culmination of student's rehearsal technique as described above. It is **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY** and **REQUIRED** the student participates in these performances. These performances will measure student progress toward attainment of specific musical goals.

Playing/Written Assignments and Tests (30%)

Playing/Written assignments will be given periodically throughout the semester to ensure individual practice is happening. These assignments/tests will happen in various settings such as individual pass off's, section pass-off's, and written tests. Failure to do well in these areas may affect performance status.

Materials (10%)

Students must have all materials to be successful in class. This includes all pertinent equipment needs to their instrument, accessories for instruments (reeds, valve oil, etc.), music, and a pencil. These materials must be accessible at all times throughout rehearsal.

Attendance Policy

Absence affects performance and the success of performance-oriented activities such as band depends upon full participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process. Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up. A calendar of events is published in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. The following attendance policy applies to both the

band class rehearsals and the extra-curricular rehearsals of the marching band, jazz ensembles, guard, etc

Excused Absences

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. Personal conflicts such as doctor's appointments, jobs, homework, etc. are **NOT EXCUSED**. If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must submit a request (form available on website), in writing, to the director at least one week prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval. Students will also have to communicate with their section leaders about the absence – failure to do this will result in automatic absence being unexcused.

In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student is required to inform the band director of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Additionally, the student is required to bring a parent note to the director on the day of his or her return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed above for excused absences. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a significant deduction in the student's grade and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals will similarly result in the above consequences. Multiple attendance issues may also result in an alteration of the student's participation status. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

Promptness

The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. Two unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence and with that comes all of the ramifications listed above. With respect to promptness students are encouraged to keep the following adage in mind:

To be early is to be on time
To be on time is to be late
To be late is to be left!!!

During the school day, students are expected to be in the band room preparing for rehearsal at the beginning of the assigned class time. Precisely two minutes after class is scheduled to begin, students must then be in their chairs warming up for class. Those students not in class when the tardy bell rings and/or not in their seats warming up two minutes afterwards will be marked tardy. Tardies will have an adverse effect on the daily participation grade.

Concert Attendance

A performance is the culmination of weeks and/or months of learning. Because concerts are the final step in this educational process, it is essential that students fully participate in all performances. Students will receive a grade for each concert. Full participation in the concert will result in the student receiving full credit. In the event that a student misses a concert, he or she has missed an educational experience that can not be replaced or "made-up". However, an alternate assignment is available, for students who must

miss a performance. This assignment is available, upon request, from the director and is due on the day following the performance.

Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the bands of Ledford High School. Whenever you are wearing a Ledford High School band uniform, or other Band attire, you are representing your school. Inappropriate or offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated. We represent ourselves, each other, and the school, and we strive to represent the best in high standards and traditions.

Specific Behavior Guidelines

1. All Davidson County Board of Education disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law enforcement authorities. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
3. No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.
4. No unauthorized use of school instruments. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play school instruments.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.
6. No profanity will be tolerated.
7. No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.
8. No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral and participation in extra-curricular events may be modified or suspended. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from extra-curricular events.

Duties of the Band Member

1. Be on time to all rehearsals and performances.
2. Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat.
3. When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
4. Come to rehearsal with a positive attitude.
5. There should be no excess playing (e.g., horsing around on the instrument), only good, solid material.
6. Make a genuine effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
7. At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
8. Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
9. Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
10. Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
11. Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

In the Band Room

1. Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy).
2. Over 100 students use the band room each day. Let's keep it clean and orderly. Trashcans are provided for your use. Instruments and music folders are to be kept only in the instrument storage located in the band room. Inappropriate behaviors include activities such as playing percussion (or other) instruments without permission, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than practice or music rehearsal. Common sense should take care of these issues.

3. There is to be absolutely **no food, drink, or gum in the band room.**
4. Music stands and chairs are to be put back on the racks if requested, after each rehearsal.
5. Books and personal belongings are not to be stored in cubbies. Band room cubbies are to be used only for instrument and music storage.
6. Vandalism, use of school equipment, or other student's property without permission is not tolerated.

Care of Instruments

All instruments should be treated with care whether they are student owned or school owned. Store them properly. Keep mouthpieces, reeds, valves, etc., in good playing condition. Have extra reeds. It is the player's responsibility to maintain his or her instrument and to keep the director informed of any problems with the instrument that could affect the player's ability to participate fully.

- Students may be excused for no more than two days of playing while an instrument is being repaired.
- An excuse will only be granted if a repair note is provided.
- If a store must keep an instrument for longer than two days to complete the repairs, a "loaner" instrument should be requested.

Care of Music

Band music is extraordinarily expensive. Music folders are designed to help protect this music from damage. Despite this we still must be very careful handling the music.

- All marks must be made in pencil and erased before turning in.
- Music not returned in good condition will be charged at the replacement rate.
- If replacement music parts are not available, the student may be required to purchase the complete set of parts.

Bus Trip Rules

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.
2. Only instruments saxophone size and smaller go on the bus. All other instruments go on the equipment truck. You are responsible for getting large instruments to the loading dock where they will be loaded for you.
3. Unless told otherwise, the complete uniform will be worn on the bus.
4. Keep the bus clean...in words and actions too.
5. All county and coach bus rules apply as well as specific rules of the individual driver.
6. Buses will be loaded in the following order: chaperones, then leadership and staff, then seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, then freshmen.
7. All students will ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent **ONLY** if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus before leaving the school prior to the event. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times. Students that do go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school that evening.
8. All students must stay for the entire game or event.
9. No changing from one bus to another.

Football Game Rules

1. No food or drink in the stands unless distributed by the chaperones.
2. All students must remain in full uniform and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
3. No conversations with friends outside of the band during the game.
4. No non-band members in the stands during the games.
5. Only people of authority (directors, police officers, administrators, etc.) may break rank.
6. No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by a Drum Major or director.

Marching Band Pass Offs

Pass offs are designed to insure that all players have memorized their music. All section members must play each piece of music by memory with two mistakes or less to pass it off. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off all show music, the Star Spangled Banner, the Fight Song, and any other piece assigned by the directors.

The pass off procedure begins with all section leaders passing off by memory to the Drum Majors. Once these students have passed off they will then begin listening to students in their sections.

Deadlines for the pass offs will be announced at band camp. Any student not passing off by the assigned deadline will not perform in the upcoming halftime shows until the necessary music is passed off. Students are required to attend all performances even if they have not passed off the music. Students with multiple performance issues due to pass-offs may find their participation in the ensemble modified. These students will stand on the sidelines during the show

Ledford Panthers Youth in Music and the Arts (LPYMA)

LPYMA is our parent led booster organization which supports the band director and the overall structure of the band program. For an organization of our size and scope it is imperative that we have active parent volunteers at all of our events.

Officers and contact information are below:

President – Morris Thompson
LHSBandPresident@yahoo.com

Vice President – Chris Mendenhall
plowboy2020@gmail.com

Secretary – Tammy Snow
sumbeam@triad.rr.com

Treasurer – Tim Reid
tim@ampayne.com

Assistant Treasurer – Cindy Mendenhall
redhead9094@aol.com

LHS Panther Regiment 2018 Band Fees

In order to run a band program like ours and provide all of the opportunities that we do, we need money. During band camp, your child will receive all of the music and instruction they will need in order to be successful in the fall. They will also be fitted for one of our band uniforms. All of this is costly. We have a band camp fee of \$335.00, which covers everything listed below:

The \$335 Band Camp Fee covers:

- Music and Drill for the field show
- Instructors for band camp and season
- ONE 2018 Field show shirt – extras may be ordered at additional cost.
- All new marching members will receive a black Panther Regiment t-shirt to be worn at select band functions – extras may be ordered at additional cost.
- 2 pairs of black marching gloves
- Uniform Dry Cleaning
- Transportation to competitions and away games

Additions:

-New marchers and members needing new sizes will be required to purchase a compression shirt that is part of our band uniform. The cost of this is \$50. This is to be worn underneath the uniform.

- New Marchers will need to purchase marching band shoes – \$40
- Colorguard members will pay an additional \$65 to cover cost of the uniform, which is unique to each year's show.
- Any student using a school owned instrument (including all percussionists) will pay a \$25 rental and maintenance fee.

School owned instruments include: Piccolo/Tenor Sax/Bari Sax/Mellophone/Baritone/Tuba/All Percussion.

Total Fees (including compression shirt) for 2018 Marching Season:

(Please note which amount applies to you!)

- \$335 for returning marchers not needing marching shoes
- \$360 for returning marchers that play school owned instruments (including percussion)
- \$375 for new marchers requiring marching shoes
- \$400 for new marchers requiring shoes AND that play a school owned instrument
- \$400 for colorguard members

**** Add \$50 to above amounts if student needs new compression shirt (wind players and percussion students only)****

Notes:

- There will be a \$35 discount for any member that pays their dues in full by June 8, 2018.
- For families with more than one child in the band there will be a \$100 discount per family.

REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE /TARDY

This form must be completed and submitted **ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE** of any anticipated absence, tardy, or early dismissal by a band student to Mr. Gibson

NOTE: Homework, relatives in town, make-up work, or employment are **NOT** reasons for an excused absence or tardy.

Today's Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Date of anticipated absence or tardy: _____

Portion of rehearsal to be missed:

ALL

First _____ minutes

Last _____ minutes

Reason for absence/tardy:

*Be specific. Give enough information so that directors can determine if the absence should be excused or not.

We understand that the absence is not guaranteed as being excused simply by filling out and submitting this form. We also understand that it is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up assignments and to make sure that the directors receive all make-up work and important information. We understand that if proper protocol is not followed then the student's grade will be reduced and performance status will be altered.

Parent's Signature

Student's Signature

To Be Completed By The Directors

EXCUSED

UNEXCUSED

Director's Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT AGREEMENT

I HAVE **DISCUSSED** AND **REVIEWED** ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE 2018-2019 LEDFORD BANDS HANDBOOK WITH MY PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND WILL ABIDE BY THE RULES STATED IN THE HANDBOOK. WE UNDERSTAND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME WITH BEING A MEMBER OF THE LEDFORD BAND AND WILL ACCEPT THE DECISIONS OF THE BAND DIRECTOR.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**THIS FORM IS DUE THURSDAY,
AUGUST 30th!**