

Longleaf Middle School Bands



2011-2012 Band Handbook

Chase Morin, Band Director
Longleaf Middle School
1160 Longreen Parkway
Columbia, SC 29229
(803) 691-4870 ext. 31302
cmorin@richland2.org
www.blythewoodbands.org



Longleaf Middle School Bands

Dear Band Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year, and thank you for being a member of the Longleaf Middle School Band Program! I encourage you to be an active advocate for music in the educational life of your child. The study of music can contribute in a unique way to the overall development of all young people. Instrumental training and performance are invaluable parts of that process. Students will not only learn musical skills, but how to budget their time and how to work in a large group setting. They will also learn discipline, commitment, hard work, and other extremely important life skills. Together with your child, your investment of time, effort, and energy can produce a lifetime of wonderful memories and enjoyment of music!

To function in a manner which benefits its members to the fullest, any program must have certain organizational procedures, rules, and regulations, and it is in this light that the Longleaf Middle School Band Handbook has been created. Its purpose is to answer any questions you may have concerning the band program, as well as establish clear guidelines and procedures by which the program will operate. The intent is to establish a common ground of agreement from which all members can accomplish both their individual goals and the goals of the entire organization. Please read it carefully with your child and become familiar with its content. Once you have read the handbook, please sign the form Handbook Contract form with your student. (last page of handbook)

Throughout the school year you will be receiving communications, via paper and e-mail, concerning upcoming concerts, musical opportunities, rehearsals, and other information vital to the musical development and well-being of your child. I believe strongly in the power and value of good parent communication, since no band program can survive without a well-informed and committed parent base.

I am looking forward to an extremely successful and rewarding year! Please feel free to contact me if I may be of any help or may answer any questions or concerns you might have. I am honored to be your band director, and I look forward to working with you and your child this year at Longleaf Middle School.

Sincerely,

Chase Morin
Band Director

Philosophy

The band program at Longleaf Middle School strives to create an environment conducive to stimulating creativity and positive attitudes about the performance and enjoyment of music. **Music is a true transmission of culture, and it is with this in mind that, through learning basic performance skills on an instrument, the band program attempts to develop a lifelong appreciation for the value of music.** This three year program is designed to foster a basic understanding and appreciation for music, as well as provide the necessary skills to allow students to continue participation in band through high school and to be successful in the path that they choose to follow after graduation. Music performance in a group setting instills discipline, respect, the value of teamwork, and concern for others and the Longleaf Middle School band program is designed to continuously develop these traits in its members.

Objectives

- Students will develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument both as a solo instrumentalist as well as a member of an ensemble
- Students will develop the skills necessary to read music notation
- Students will develop the discipline that is required to successfully play an instrument
- Students will learn about the proper care and maintenance of their instrument
- Students will demonstrate the requirements of dependability, punctuality, leadership and cooperation necessary for group participation of any sort

Student Expectations

1. Students are to be polite at all times to their fellow band members, director, chaperones, and guests.
2. Students should always have their parents read all materials sent home by the band director. Correspondence sent home will need to be signed by both a parent and the student and returned in a timely manner. This will be a consideration in the nine weeks grading process.
3. Students should always make plans to be a little ahead of any announced schedule. Remember: Punctuality is respect for the time of others.
4. Students will need to attend all rehearsals with the following items:
 - Instrument in good, clean, working condition
 - Music binder with all music and method books
 - All reeds, oil, cork grease, etc. to keep instrument in playable condition for the duration of the rehearsal
 - **PENCIL**
 - Positive attitude
5. Students should always follow the rehearsal and performance routines, policies, and procedures explained by the director.
6. Students should take all suggestions and constructive criticism in the proper spirit with a positive attitude. Remember: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!
7. Members of performing ensembles will be responsible for acquiring uniform items that match and compliment the group. The uniform will need to be worn in its entirety in public (shirts buttoned and tucked in, etc.) Our appearance at a public performance indicates the level of pride we have in our program.
8. **Students should show proper care and respect for the band facility and all band property. Each band member is to do his/her share in helping to keep the band room neat and clean at all times. Band members should always get permission from the director before handling any electronic equipment, percussion equipment, or instrument other than their own.**
9. All students should take care to abide by all Longleaf Middle School rules and Richland School District Two policies.
10. Students should always have a clear understanding as to what is expected of them. If in doubt, students should never be afraid to ask for clarification.

Class Materials

-6th Grade-

Instrument with appropriate accessories

***Please DO NOT purchase an instrument until one is assigned by the director.**

Standard of Excellence - Book 1 Enhanced (for appropriate instrument)

***Please WAIT to purchase**

Master Theory - Book 1 (provided)

Metronome (suggested purchase)

*There is an online metronome at www.metronomeonline.com.

Luggage Tag to mark instrument case

1" Black Three Ring Black Binder

At least 10 plastic sheet protectors

Pencil (in class EVERY day)

-7th Grade-

Instrument with appropriate accessories

Standard of Excellence - Book 2 Enhanced (for appropriate instrument)

Standard of Excellence - Book 1 (for appropriate instrument)

Metronome

Tuner (suggested purchase)

Luggage Tag to mark instrument case

1" Black Three Ring Binder

At least 10 plastic sheet protectors

Pencil (in class EVERY day)

-8th Grade-

Instrument with appropriate accessories

Foundations for Superior Performance (for appropriate instrument)

Standard of Excellence - Book 2 (for appropriate instrument)

Metronome

Tuner

Luggage Tag to mark instrument case

1" Black Three Ring Binder

At least 10 plastic sheet protectors

Pencil (in class every day)

(See list of local music stores on page 15)

Sheet music will be issued to students throughout the school year. If a student is absent, he or she is responsible for obtaining a copy of the music from the director before the next class. Sheet music should be placed in a plastic sheet protector before being placed in the student's binder.

IMPORTANT: Students who attend class without materials will receive a grade deduction and will be given an alternate reading/writing assignment to complete during the class.

Procedures for Entering the Band Room

1. Upon entering the band room, drop off any signed forms, permission slips, or notes from parents in the designated box.
2. Take your seat **quietly**, and wait until the director dismisses you to the storage room.
3. Bring your instrument in its case and **ALL MATERIALS** to your assigned seat. (Larger instruments such as tuba, baritones, trombones, and bass clarinet will need to remove their instruments from the case before proceeding to their assigned seat and leave their case in its assigned place in the instrument storage room.) **DO NOT SOCIALIZE IN THE INSTRUMENT STORAGE AREA!!!**
3. Assemble your instrument. **DO NOT PLAY.**
4. Check the board for the agenda and plan for the day.
5. Wait quietly until all students have their instruments and the director begins class.

Rehearsal/Classroom Procedures

1. Watch for the director to begin class. At that moment, you should be silent and ready with eyes and ears to receive instructions.
2. During the class/rehearsal, **there is to be no talking or extraneous noise**. If you have a question or would like to speak, raise your hand and wait for permission from the director.
3. **No food or drink** will be allowed in the band room with the exception of water.
4. Always do your **BEST** and be encouraging and supportive of your fellow band members. We are all on the same team and our words and actions should reflect such.
6. Students will not be allowed to leave the room for any reason for the first or the last 15 minutes of rehearsal. This is a Longleaf Middle School policy.
5. Always remember to **L.E.A.P.!**
 - **Lead by Example**
 - **Exercise Good Judgment**
 - **Achieve Excellence**
 - **Participate Responsibly**

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

Band students and parents must be aware of the rules and procedures of the band and be committed to following them, as well as committed to the ideals and goals of our program. Our goal is to represent Longleaf Middle School to the best of our abilities, and bad behavior reflects poorly on us, our classmates, and our school.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior will be:

1st Offense – Verbal warning

2nd Offense – Parent Contact/ Lunch Detention

3rd Offense – Parent Contact/Afterschool Detention

4th Offense – Parent Contact/Discipline Referral

Severe Clause - In all grades, severe or habitual misbehavior may result in ineligibility for concerts, field trips, and other special events/activities. Extreme discipline problems will warrant automatic referral to the administration.

REMEMBER: Make it a great day or not, the choice is YOURS

Students who consistently come to class without their materials, or cause extreme disruptions for a significant portion of the semester may be asked to drop band beginning the following semester. Being unprepared for or disruptive during class destroys individual student progress and hinders the progress of the class as a whole.

Fundraising

Most of the cost of running a quality band program is not covered by the county, school budget, or the school-required band fee. As with all aspects of school budgets, needs and desires exceed the provided resources. Fundraising is the only way to meet the budgetary needs of a successful band program. Only when parents and others support the school program and the Band Boosters will the bands have the optimal conditions to become the consistently superior groups they can be. We encourage students to participate in the fundraisers as it will help them to develop a sense of ownership and pride in the Longleaf Middle School Band program.

Grading System

Students will be graded based on playing tests, theory assignments, rehearsal and performance attendance and participation, and other teacher-made assignments. On all written assignments, the student will have the opportunity to re-submit the work to improve the grade received. The break-down for grading will be based on the following:

25% Major Assessments: playing tests/written tests/concert and rehearsal attendance

30% Minor Assessments: daily participation/listening activities and responses

35% Classwork: materials/written class work

10% Homework: practice records

Course Descriptions for Band

The bands at Longleaf Middle School are performance based. Each student learns technique, tone production, rhythms, teamwork, precision, creativity, and pride as he/she learns to perform on his/her instrument.

6th grade band

Sixth grade band begins with a six-week theory course. Students who pass the theory portion are then mouth-piece tested for every instrument. This helps to determine which instrument a student will have the most success playing. In October, students will first begin to work with their instruments. The objectives of the remainder of the year are focused on developing strong fundamentals in music reading, tone and technique.

7th grade band

This class is designed for students entering their 2nd year of playing a wind/percussion instrument. Students continuing in band will demonstrate characteristic tone, listening skills, rhythmic knowledge, the ability to interpret musical symbols, an acceptable level of proficiency in executive skills and the ability to demonstrate these major goals through independent performance. Assessment will be based on successful completion of Standard of Excellence Book II material, student's ability to pass off required scales and musical passages, daily practice, class participation, and performances.

8th grade band

This class is designed for students in entering their 3rd year of playing a wind/percussion instrument. Comprehensive development of band students will provide the opportunity for 8th grade band students to perform a more mature characteristic tone on their instrument. The entire 8th grade year is more performance based than the 6th or 7th grade. Assessment will be based on the student's ability to pass off required scales and musical passages, daily practice, class participation, and performances. Many students are motivated to audition for Region Band and/or All-State Band and to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Chair Placement

Chair placement will be determined according to playing tests and will fluctuate during the semester. Chair placements for concerts will be determined by averaging the students' playing test grades. Students who are disruptive during a rehearsal may be demoted within their section due to behavior issues. Chair placement is completely independent of a student's nine-weeks grade.

Afterschool Rehearsal Attendance

Band is one of the most interdependent activities in which a young person can participate. It is for this reason that all band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances for their group. An unexcused absence from concerts or after-school rehearsals will result in a test grade of a zero.

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- Director must be notified in advance of the absence by phone, email, or note
- For an absence due to illness, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day must be cleared with the director as well – please call the band room.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student!

The only excusable absences are pre-arranged school conflicts that have been cleared with the director (i.e. a club or sport activity) and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records (i.e. illness, death in the family, or religious holiday). Every effort should be made to make medical appointments at times not in conflict with the band rehearsal schedule, as the absence of one band member affects the entire group.

Contacting the director in advance does not guarantee that an absence is excused. The above policy is cut and dry in regards to what is excused. Please do not call and request that an absence be excused if it does not fall within these guidelines.

Rehearsals will be held in the LMS band room. A student is expected to be at a rehearsal if he or she was at school that day. Punctuality is important and an unexcused tardy will result in half credit for that rehearsal. If we are all on time our band will be outstanding!

Parents are expected to pick up their child promptly after each rehearsal or concert. Parents who are running 10 minutes late, or who have an emergency, should contact Mr. Morin so that he may be made aware of the situation.

School Instrument Rental

Students may either rent an instrument from a local music store or from the school. **Only** students selected to play oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, French horn, euphonium, or tuba may rent an instrument from the school.

Students using school-owned instruments will be held responsible for the maintenance and repair of that equipment. Students will also be held liable for instruments damaged through abuse, neglect or horseplay. If you notice a problem with a school instrument, PLEASE tell the director right away to avoid being held responsible. Rental contracts will be issued for all school owned instruments. The rental fee for school owned wind instruments is \$50 per year. (This fee may be made payable to Longleaf Middle School.)

Instrument Storage

Each student will be assigned a storage place for her/his instrument. It is the student's responsibility to store his/her property in the correct location. Any student wishing to store their personal instrument in the band room should have her/his name clearly marked on a tag on the outside of the instrument case. Please be mindful, if a student leaves his/her instrument in the storage room, they are leaving it at their own risk. Neither Longleaf Middle School nor Richland School District Two will accept responsibility for any damage or theft of any instrument left in a storage room.

Lost or Stolen Instruments

Neither the band program, the band booster, the school district, nor the director is responsible for student-owned or rented instruments and materials that are lost or stolen. **Each parent and student is responsible for recording the instrument's serial number at home, and each student is responsible for making sure his or her instrument is always taken home at the end of the school day.** Parents who rent their child's instrument from a music store or from the school instrument inventory are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance on the instrument. Parents who purchase an instrument are recommended to check with their home-owner's insurance policy regarding potential loss or theft of that instrument during the school day.

If an instrument is lost or stolen:

1. Obtain the make, model, and serial number of the instrument.
2. Determine where your child last saw the instrument.
3. Contact the director immediately.
4. Upon teacher request, file a police report.

Broken Instrument Policy

If your instrument is broken, you need a note, phone call, or email from a parent indicating the music store and date you took it to get repaired. The band director reserves the right to call and verify this with the music store. **PLEASE KEEP YOUR INSTRUMENT MOUTHPIECE (AND REED IF APPLICABLE)** - The director may have a loaner instrument for you to use with your mouthpiece until yours has been repaired. If no loaner is available, you are required to follow along quietly with the band during class. You are NOT permitted to do homework for another class. Failure to follow along quietly will result in a reduction of the class participation grade and disciplinary action.

Band Uniforms/Personal Appearance

General Uniform Rules and Guidelines

- Uniforms are to be neatly pressed and clean for each performance.
- No jewelry is to be worn with the uniform, other than discreet, stud-type earrings for young ladies.
- Under **NO** circumstances are tennis shoes, even black tennis shoes, considered appropriate. Also, brown dress shoes are NOT a suitable substitute!

Uniform for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band members

Gentlemen: White, button-up dress shirt, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes.
(Tennis shoes are NOT permitted)

Ladies: black dress (must cover shoulders and go past knees), black shoes (low heel or no heel), and black hosiery

OR

white dress top, black dress pants, black shoes, and black hosiery

Students out of uniform **WILL NOT PERFORM** concerts at school or other venues. **THEY ARE UNPREPARED.**

Concert Etiquette

1. Dress nicely for all live performances.
2. Arrive at a concert ten to fifteen minutes early. If you are late, wait until you hear applause before entering the concert area to find a seat.
3. Clap when the conductor comes onto the stage. This is a sign of welcome to the musicians.
4. Be quiet and attentive during the performance.
5. Do not bring food, drinks, or gum into a concert area.
6. Clap only at the end of an entire selection. If there are movements within a selection, wait until the conductor turns around and faces the audience before applauding.
8. Please never leave a performance until the entire program is complete. This is disrespectful to the other performers. Plan to make the concert night an evening to relax and enjoy the performance(s).

Private Lessons

Private lessons should be considered for all students. A class setting with large numbers of students has limitations on the amount of information each student can learn about their own playing progress. As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over 40 students. A recent survey of students in the South Carolina All-State Band revealed that 80% of those students in the ensemble studied privately. Simply put, **private lessons work!** The Columbia area has numerous trained musicians who are available to teach private lessons to students of any age or ability. A list of local private lesson teachers will be emailed and sent home with your student sometime in the first few weeks of school.

Regional Performance Opportunities and Events

REGION BAND (7th and 8th Graders)

The Region Band is a group of students selected by audition from the Midlands of South Carolina. Auditions for Region Band will be held on Saturday, January 2012, at Dutch Fork High School. The event itself involves an all-day Friday and Saturday morning rehearsal. Students are responsible for their own meal expenses. Participation is an honor and a responsibility. If a student auditions and achieves membership in the Region Band, he/she must fulfill the obligations of membership. Failure to do so will eliminate the student's ability to participate in the following year's event.

ALL-STATE BAND (7th and 8th Graders)

The All-State Band is a group of students selected by audition from all over South Carolina. The event requires the student to miss one Friday of classes and stay three nights at the event location. Students are responsible for their own meal expenses with travel and lodging being subsidized by the Band Booster budget. The event culminates in a concert on Sunday afternoon at Furman University that is open to the public. Participation is an honor and a responsibility. This is the highest honor band a student can reach in the State of South Carolina. Students are expected to participate if they achieve membership. If a student auditions and becomes a member of the Region Band, he/she must fulfill the obligations of membership in the honor band. Failure to do so will eliminate the student's ability to participate in the following year's event.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE (open to all students)

Solo & Ensemble will take place on May 6-7, 2012 at Irmo Middle School. Students may play solos and ensembles for ratings and earn medals. Solos published with a written accompaniment **MUST** be accompanied. Students are responsible for their own transportation, entry fees, and accompanist. A list of accompanists will be available second semester. Registration forms will be distributed in the second semester.

CONCERT FESTIVAL

This is an event where bands are evaluated based on their live performance of prepared music and sight-reading. The South Carolina Band Director's Association sponsors Concert Festival and attendance is required for all students who are members of the Symphonic Band. Transportation and fees are provided by the Band Boosters. Meals, if necessary, are the students' responsibility.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Arrange a regular practice time for your student and **PROVIDE PRIVATE INSTRUCTION WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE SPECIALIST IN OUR AREA!**
3. Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruptions. (Provide a straight-backed chair, a music stand, and a metronome.)
4. Help the student keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
5. Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice
6. Provide a safe place in which to keep the instrument.
7. Keep the instrument in good repair with needed supplies in the case.
8. Help your child be very careful with instruments, **repair costs are high!**
9. Teach the importance of being prepared and on time for rehearsals, performances, classes, and lessons.
10. Make faithful attendance at all band activities a priority. (Children tend to value what adults value by example.)
11. Encourage him/her to play for others when opportunities arise in the e, church, school and community.
12. See that he/she takes the instrument and materials to school every day and brings them home every day.
13. Discuss with the band director anything that might help him to understand your child.
14. Buy your child a personal planner in which he/she can put event and project dates.
15. Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
16. Notify the director as soon as possible if your child is to be absent from rehearsals or lessons.
17. See that he/she keeps up with academic studies.
18. Attend booster meetings, concerts, recitals and any other activities.
19. Turn in fundraising money and orders on time.
20. **Be a positive, encouraging force in the musical growth of your child!**

Band Booster Organization

The Longleaf Middle School Band Boosters is an organization of parents and friends of the Longleaf Band who are dedicated to the success and growth of the Longleaf Middle School Band Program and its students. The purpose of the Band Boosters is to provide financial and physical support to the Longleaf Band, its students, and the directors. Without this organization, students would not have many of the opportunities that make the band program at Longleaf so rewarding. It is not a policy-making organization. There will be several opportunities to join our band booster organization. The basic membership fee is only \$5.00. **Please join**, and support your child's success.

GET INVOLVED!!!

Local Music Stores

This list of Local Music Stores is here for your convenience. Before you head to one of the area music stores, it's a good idea to give a call first to see if they have what you need. If not, they can order it for you, and you will have just saved yourself the unnecessary trip. Most orders arrive in a very reasonable amount of time -- usually in just a few days.

Music & Arts Center Columbia Plaza

7201-C Parklane Road (near Columbia Mall) Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 622-4910
www.musicarts.com

Pecknel Music Company

732 Saluda Avenue at 5 Points Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 7999-6860
www.pecknelmusic.com

STAR MUSIC

9810 Two Notch Rd # B Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 699-5200
<http://www.starmusicsc.com/>



Longleaf Middle School Band Handbook Contract

As an LMS Band Member, I have completely read the Longleaf Middle School Band Handbook with my parent(s). I understand the expectations for my behavior and participation as a Longleaf Band member. I will respect the band facility and all of its contents, always support and encourage my peers, and always be prepared for class with my materials and my positive attitude.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

As an LMS Band Parent, I have completely read the Longleaf Middle School Band Handbook with my child. I understand that my child is expected to follow each rule outlined in the handbook, including those on classroom behavior, rehearsal behavior, after-school rehearsal attendance, and concerts. I understand that my child's contribution to the band is an important part of the ensemble's success. I understand that if my child misses an after school rehearsal or band concert that his or her grade and participation in the ensemble will be affected, unless that absence has been excused. I agree to do the best I can to ensure that my child is successful by providing them with all necessary supplies and materials, arranging punctual transportation to all band events and to always encourage him/her to work hard and do his/her best.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Chase Morin, Band Director _____

Katinia Davis, Principal _____