



MARCHING BAND AND AUXILIARY

*"Relentlessly Pursuing
Excellence"*

Laguna Creek High School Band
Student/Parent Handbook
2011-2012

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Laguna Creek High School
Band/Auxiliary
Mission Statement

We, the students of the Laguna Creek High School Band and Auxiliary, commit ourselves to relentlessly pursue excellence by striving to be a group rooted in seven core values of respect, responsibility, dedication, teamwork, spirit, development, and integrity, with the value, respect, being the foundation of these seven.

- 1) We are RESPECTFUL to everything and every person's individual role in the group.
- 2) We are RESPONSIBLE: Showing self-discipline in fulfilling our obligation to the group.
- 3) We are DEDICATED: Demonstrating effort and personal sacrifice of time and energy to improve the group.
- 4) We display TEAMWORK: Communicating and collaborating within the group.
- 5) We are SPIRITED: Contributing a fun and motivational attitude to the group.
- 6) We promote DEVELOPMENT: Commitment to the shared goals, knowledge, and experience within the group.
- 7) We have INTEGRITY: Honesty and devotion to doing what you're supposed to when no one is looking.

We, the students, define adhering these seven core values as the bare minimum of success. In joining the Laguna Creek High School Band and Auxiliary, we are committed to go above and beyond these seven core values. Upon doing so, we can, then, define ourselves as being outstanding, contributing members of society.

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your decision to be part of the fine tradition of the Laguna Creek High School Band and Auxiliary! This handbook is designed as a guide for both parents and students to offer specific details regarding all aspects of the band program. If you are unable to find information within this handbook or on the band website (<http://www.thelchsband.org/>) please contact the band office at 916-683-1339, ext 6946.

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BAND ORGANIZATIONS

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons”. The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. Following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the Laguna Creek High School band program.

LCHS MARCHING BAND and AUXILIARY

The LCHS Marching Band and Auxiliary (aka the marching band) is made up of students from **all** bands. The marching band enjoys a long history of great traditions, pride and excellence. The marching band performs at all LCHS rallies, football games, various marching contests and exhibitions. **Membership in the marching band is required of all band students.** In addition to the daily class rehearsal, the marching band rehearses on select Mondays from 6-9 PM, and select Saturdays from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm as scheduled throughout the fall marching season. Band Camp is held one week each summer and participation is mandatory.

LCHS COLORGUARD/WINTERGUARD

The colorguard is the primary visual component of the marching band. Membership in this organization is by audition and is open to all students at Laguna Creek High School. Emphasis is placed on the development of movement and visual artistry through the use of equipment, props and dance techniques. The colorguard rehearses/performs in conjunction with all marching band related activities. Students will be required to attend all marching band rehearsals and additional separate rehearsals set by the colorguard director. In addition, students and parents should refer to the band handbook as the primary governing document for this organization. Due to the group’s unique nature, however, the director may provide more specific information and expectations in the form of separate handbook addendums. Winterguard is the spring semester version of colorguard and is open to current colorguard students. Winterguard rehearses and performs independently of the marching band. Colorguard/winterguard auditions are held each spring.

CONCERT BANDS:

There are two concert bands at Laguna Creek High School – Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Students are placed in a concert band according to playing ability, attitude, participation, classification and instrumental needs. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. Students will have the opportunity to experience full band rehearsals, sectionals, and individual attention. Additional rehearsal expectations and membership requirements are noted in the following descriptors. The director of each ensemble will provide detailed information regarding these expectations at the beginning of the spring semester.

LCHS WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is the top performing concert band at Laguna Creek High School. This band performs high level literature and performs numerous concerts during the year. Wind Ensemble students are required to attend sectionals outside of school time weekly. Wind Ensemble students are expected to be very serious about improving their musical abilities and are encouraged to invest in professional quality musical instruments and obtain a private instructor for regular lessons. The Wind Ensemble performs on all major band department concerts and typically attends a major music festival each spring. This group is comprised of students in grades 9-12.

LCHS SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is the second concert band at Laguna Creek High School. The Symphonic Band performs standard concert band literature. Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals outside of school time as scheduled. Symphonic Band members are also encouraged to invest in professional quality instruments. The Symphonic Band performs on all major band department concerts and typically attends a major music festival each spring. The Symphonic Band serves for many students as a preparation for the Wind Ensemble. This group is comprised of students in grades 9-12.

LCHS JAZZ ENSEMBLES

The A.M. Jazz Ensemble meets during zero period at LCHS. The P.M. Jazz Ensemble meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:10 – 4:00 pm. Membership in the Jazz Ensemble is by audition and approval of the director. A student **must** be a member of one of the other performing ensembles at LCHS in order to be a member of the Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Ensemble will compete at jazz festivals and other community events, in addition to performing at school concerts. These groups will be comprised of students in grades 9-12.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A yearly band calendar is provided for use in planning your family schedule for the 2010-2011 school year. Each band student is important to the success of our many activities. We **must** be able to count on 100% attendance at rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs, parents must contact the director. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (i.e., weddings, graduations) of a nature that must be attended by your student. Parents must make the conflict known to the director as soon as it is known to conflict with the band schedule. Decisions for participation in such circumstances will be made on a case by case basis; however, communicating the conflict to the director does not necessarily make the absence excused.

Student job commitments and participation in various other sporting activities are **not** considered valid excused absences from band performances or rehearsals. Many band students work outside jobs or participate in other sporting activities and continue to participate successfully in band. It

is suggested that the band calendar and/or policies listed in this handbook be communicated with the student's employer and/or coach and clear all rehearsals and performances well in advance. Most employers of teenagers are very understanding of school commitments when they are aware well in advance and when they know it is a vital requirement of the coursework. Remember, that almost every Saturday during marching season will be either an all-day rehearsal or an all-day competition band review – plan accordingly. **Students are subject to immediate removal from the band program with one (1) unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance.**

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

By nature, band rehearsals are a largely creative process with considerably more students to work with at a time than other classrooms. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to perform during a rehearsal, it affects the whole group, as well as the individual. Specifically, students are expected to be present and on time with their music, instrument in proper working condition, along with any additional required supplies, such as reeds, valve oil, slide grease, mallets, drum sticks, etc. The creative rehearsal process cannot begin unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not meet these rehearsal expectations will be counseled, and, if necessary, reassigned or removed from the band program completely.

GRADING

Students are members of the program because they want to be, not because they are required to be so. Grading is based upon participation and performance. Band students receive a grade for each performance attended, i.e., football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students receive additional grades based on daily participation in rehearsals, participation in sectionals and playing and written tests, etc. Students must participate with all required equipment in good working order at rehearsals and performances for participation grades – their grade will be adversely affected if expectations are not met. Breakdown of the grading policy is as follows: 50% attendance at rehearsals and performances, (these include sectionals) 30% practice records as signed by parents, 20% playing tests and equipment checks.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) with no Fs or unsatisfactory citizenship marks in order to be eligible to perform in competitive band activities. **Ineligible students are still required to attend all band activities and participate and perform tasks as assigned and directed.** Failure to attend all band activities while ineligible will result in an appropriate grade reduction in band class. Grades will be checked at progress report time and at end of each term. If a student raises an F grade or an unsatisfactory citizenship mark, with teacher confirmation to the band director, and earned a minimum 2.0 GPA at the last grading period, the

student will be considered eligible from that point. If a student received less than a 2.0 GPA the student cannot be considered eligible again until the next grading period.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. While directors are skilled instructors, there is simply no substitute for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. We are fortunate in the Elk Grove area to have universities in close proximity, as well as several music stores throughout the region, who employ a vast array of skilled musicians who teach privately. University music students are often a great resource for instruction as they are usually offer economical pricing, compared to degreed professors. If interested in employing a private instructor for your student, the band director is able to make recommendations, as well.

USE OF BAND FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the band room for practice either before or after school, when the director is present and when sectionals and/or private lessons are not in session. Since the band room is filled with very expensive equipment and instruments, band students **only** are allowed in the band room. Students must ask their non-band friends to meet them elsewhere on campus. Lockers with locks are provided to assist students and parents in protecting their investment. It is imperative that students keep their instruments and equipment locked in their lockers when not in use.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

A variety of school instruments are available for student use during the school year. While there is no fee for using a school instrument, it is expected that the instrument will be well cared for, maintained in the same or better condition than it was issued, and free of any damage upon return. Any costs related to maintenance and/or repair is assumed by the student and parent. School instruments which require maintenance or repair upon return will be fixed by a professional repair technician, with the expectation that the student and/or parent will reimburse the school or booster club for the total expense. Failure to submit payment will result in a hold upon the student's school account, and possible collection action.

If a school-owned instrument is lost or stolen while checked out to a student, it is the student's and/or parent's responsibility to replace the instrument via its monetary value. Failure to submit payment for a lost or stolen school-owned instrument will result in a hold upon the student's school account, and possible collection action. Some insurance policies allow the purchase of additional coverage to extend to either school-owned, or privately owned musical instruments.

UNIFORMS & BAND SHIRTS

Each band member will receive one free band t-shirt when they first join band. The band t-shirt is part of the uniform and is expected to be worn under the uniform, whenever the uniform is required. Additional t-shirts can be ordered and purchased from the LCHS Band Boosters.

Uniforms vary with each activity but are basically comprised of black tux pants, white tux shirt, white band t-shirt, red vest, red bow tie, black socks, black Drillmaster marching shoes, and garment bag. The pants, shirt and socks are purchased and owned by the student and/or parent, with the expectation that laundering, pressing, and general care is provided by the student and/or parent. The vest and bow tie are purchased, owned and cleaned by the LCHS Band Boosters. The vest and bow tie will be checked out to the student for the season. The marching shoes are available for a nominal fee and can be checked out to the student for the duration of their participation in the program. Additional information regarding uniforms, fittings, ordering and pricing is available from the LCHS Band Boosters.

Following are vitally important rules and tips to follow regarding uniforms:

- **DO** remember to bring all parts of your uniform when required, including the all important **black socks** and band t-shirt.
- **DO** transport your uniform in your garment bag every time.
- **DO** take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants need to be hung on the crease, not the seat. Vest and shirts need to be on a hanger to avoid wrinkling.
- **DO** launder your pants, socks, tux shirt and t-shirt regularly. Your uniform and the people sitting next to you will thank you.
- **DO** remember to bring your instrument, in spite of your attention to detail over your uniform.
- **DO NOT** remove any material from the uniform if alternations are necessary. Contact the uniform coordinator with the LCHS Band Boosters.
- **DO NOT** store your uniform long term in your garment bag with the bag zipped closed. Air flow through the garment bag is essential, especially if your uniform is damp after wearing.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR AND TRAVEL POLICY

Membership in the LCHS Band program is an honor and a privilege. Participation comes with a higher standard of behavior than the LCHS Student Code of Conduct and condition membership or participation on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. Extracurricular behavioral standards shall not have the effect of discriminating on the basis of gender, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity or national origin. Student's and parent's signature acknowledge they have read these behavioral standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the LCHS Band program.

Students who represent Laguna Creek High School are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the designated times. Each student will be responsible to one or more parent chaperones that will assist the director and may direct students accordingly.

Students are responsible for adhering to all school and district rules and discipline policies while traveling away from school. Violators will be subject to the same consequences as if at school. Additionally, violators may be directed to return home prior to the end of an event or trip at the student's/parent's expense and will be directed school administrators upon return to be assigned appropriate consequences. If damage to school property or private property occurs due to conduct of a student, the student/parent will be held responsible for damage recovery.

REMEMBER – be courteous and polite at all times. You represent Laguna Creek High School and the Laguna Creek High School Band whenever you are traveling with the band, whether or not you are in uniform. This is definitely a time when what people see and think really matters and our conduct will speak for itself – good, or bad.

FOOTBALL GAME POLICY

Football games serve two primary purposes for the LCHS Band: opportunities to provide “unparalleled” support for our team through the use of music, cheers and chants; and to provide a quality, entertaining halftime performance as partial fulfillment of the band class requirement. Students are expected and encouraged to show their spirit for the team and fellow band members. After all, football games are great fun! Students should, however, remember to represent their school, teachers, classmates, bandmates, parents and themselves in a positive manner at all times. Following are specific guidelines:

- Each student must have and be responsible for his/her own equipment at all times.
- Students must be in full uniform, properly worn, at all times. Caps, headbands, jewelry and piercing studs are not permitted.
- Hair must be clean and well-groomed at all times.
- Sit in your assigned seat/section and do not move about the band during the game.
- Non-band members are **NEVER** allowed in the band seating area. On occasion, alumni may visit with the director's permission.
- Watch the game and your directors. Be alert and ready to play at all times.
- Food and gum are not permitted in the band seating area. Parents should not attempt to deliver food or drink at any time. Meals must be consumed prior to changing into uniform.
- Radios, jam boxes, iPods, or similar devices are not permitted at any time. Cell phones are permitted provided they remain off during the game. Non-permitted items or disallowed cell phone use may result in confiscation of the item and must be returned to a parent.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct or comments will not be tolerated at any time and may result in dismissal from the performance and/or organization.

- Follow directions given by any authorized staff member, parent, chaperone with respect and politeness.
- Complete assigned tasks with regard to equipment loading/unloading/transporting and display a positive attitude and team spirit while doing so.
- Use good judgment at all times. When in doubt, don't do it!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The LCHS Band program is extremely fortunate to have outstanding student leaders working within the organization. These students are invaluable to the success of the band program. The director and band staff auditions and interviews drum majors and section leaders each spring for the following school year. The result of these auditions and interviews are subjective and based on a holistic evaluation of each interested student from every aspect of their band experience, including, but not limited to: playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, and leadership potential as it relates to the band environment. While all students have the opportunity to be considered for one of these positions, it should be understood that only a limited number of positions can be filled and will vary from year to year. As a member of the LCHS Band, there is an expectation for all students to foster and develop positive leadership skills, regardless of title.

FUNDRAISING

Without the support, both financial and labor, of the LCHS Band Boosters and hard work of the band members and staff, this organization would not be able to provide the quality education currently available. There is currently no school district funding available for any of the activities students participate in. Transportation costs, entry fees, uniform costs, food costs, etc., must be funded by the students, parents, families and community members associated with this organization. As such, various fundraising activities are available from year to year. For more information and policies regarding fundraising, please plan to attend regularly scheduled band booster club meetings, search the band website or contact one of the booster club officers.

Laguna Creek High School Band Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement

I have read and discussed all the information contained in this handbook and I understand its contents and my responsibility to these policies and consent to them as a condition of participation in band events and activities. I understand that my signature below represents an acknowledgement that participation in the LCHS Band program requires a higher standard of behavior than is stated in the LCHS Student handbook and that membership and participation is conditioned upon adherence to a higher standard.

Student Name – print

Parent Name – print

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Student ID #