



## **MARCHING BAND AND COLOR GUARD**

*“Relentlessly Pursuing Excellence”*

*Laguna Creek High School Bands  
Student/Parent Handbook  
2021-2022*

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*<http://www.thelchsband.org>*

## **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 916-892-2913.

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## **COVID 19 CONSIDERATIONS**

During this time of uncertainty, our band and guard will continue to function as a year-long activity adhering to the best possible practices. We hope to be able to facilitate in person performances, but understand that the situation is complicated and fluid in nature. While we will make every effort to accommodate specific needs, we also want to make sure that the band continues to function with a level of excellence: musically, academically, and socially. We are committed to continued growth of musical and other performance skills in anticipation of returning to normal band performance activities, both in the community, and in competition.

Because of this, our schedule will not be as predictable as a normal year. We will make accommodations as best we can, but still expect all of our students to participate fully in band activities throughout the year. As always, if you have questions or concerns about band activities, please reach out to one of the directors for clarification at any time.

competition from January to April, competing throughout California. In addition to class time this competitive unit has extensive co-curricular responsibilities, including evening rehearsals, Saturday rehearsals, and competitions throughout the spring. Enrollment in the percussion class is not required for membership in the winter percussion ensemble, however all members must be a member in good standing of a band class.

### **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. Auditions are held each spring for admission to this group. This band performs advanced 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. Students in Wind Ensemble must be enrolled in Intermediate Band.

#### **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. Students in Symphonic Band must be enrolled in Intro to Concert/Marching Band.

#### **LCHS JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

The Jazz Ensemble meets during zero period at LCHS. 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

expectations are not met. Breakdown of the grading policy is as follows: 75% attendance at rehearsals and performances, (these include sectionals), 25% 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.

### **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 for the total expense. Failure to submit payment will result in a hold upon the student's school account, and possible collection action.

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**

The LCHS Band performs at all home football games. Home games take place at Cosumnes River College. 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.
- 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.

## STUDENT SUPPLY NEEDS FOR BAND SUCCESS

### 1. BLACK, three-ring binder.

- a. Pencil Bag (should fit inside binder) with 3 sharpened pencils.
- b. Sheet Protectors
- c. Dividers (4 Tabs)

### 2. Access to a metronome for at home practice (required for everyone)

\*\*\*Note: It is acceptable to have a smartphone/tablet metronome application that ranges anywhere from free to \$2.00 to purchase. There are also websites that provide free metronomes.

\*\*\*Free Online Metronome: <http://www.metronomeonline.com/>

### 3. Tuner for wind instruments.

\*\*\*Note: Again, most smartphones/tablets offer downloadable tuners from as low as \$0.99 to free\*\*\*

4. Black Hand Towel All students will be required to have a black hand towel. This hand towel should be stored in the case of the instrument or in the instrument locker. Please label the hand towel with the student name.

### 5. Reeds (Woodwinds only)

*Single Reed Players* (Clarinet/Saxophone) need to have at least 4 good reeds on hand at all times.

We provide single reeds for \$4 apiece. Reeds can also be purchased in boxes of 5-10 from amazon.com. Recommended brands are Vandoren, and LaVoz. Students should keep their reeds in a reed saver, and removed daily from the mouthpiece to avoid bacterial or fungal growth.

*Double Reed players* (Bassoon/Oboe) should have at least 2 good reeds at all times.

Supplies for Oboe and Bassoon are quite specialized, but also carried on amazon.com. A more reliable source for double reeds may be bocalmajority.com which is a site specializing in double reeds instruments.

6. Mouthpieces (Brass only) – All brass players are encouraged to purchase their own mouthpiece (see below for recommendations). While most brass instruments provided by the school have a mouthpiece, a mouthpiece which fits the students embouchure and individual lip sizes can be an enormous help to success. Clarinet and Saxophone players are encouraged to use high quality mouthpieces (see list below). Most mouthpieces that come with the instrument are low quality mouthpieces.

8. Concert Attire All formal performances require a basic black “uniform.” Concert attire is part of the performance grade. For formal concerts, all Laguna Creek High School students will wear proper “concert attire” listed below:

High School Gentlemen:

- Black slacks. (not denim)
- A black dress shirt and black tie.
- Black Dress Shoes (if you don’t have dress shoes, wear the marching band shoes).

High School Ladies:

*Option 1:*

- Long Black dress, or skirt and blouse which extends at least 5 inches below the knee. The blouse or dress should cover the students knees and shoulders while seated. Remember when you are seated and your will rise higher on stage.
- Black dress shoes (may be heels or open toed as appropriate)

*Option 2:*

- Black Slacks.
- Solid Black Blouse/Dress Shirt
- Black Dress shoes (low heel height)

Please contact us if you have any questions about the above information. We are very excited to see you all soon!



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# **BAND CONSENT AND HANDBOOK**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **SIGNATURE PAGE**

Student Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent Statement: Please read carefully and sign below.**

- ❖ I hereby give my consent for the above-named student to participate in the Band Program
- ❖ I hereby authorize the E.G.U.S.D. or its representative to transport and supervise the above-named student on any band field trip.
- ❖ I hereby give my consent, in case this student is injured or becomes ill, for the school and/or its representative to secure medical aid, ambulance transportation, and for the medical agency to render treatment.
- ❖ I understand that there are costs associated with the band. I understand that it is the responsibility of each student and his or her family to contribute towards these costs.
- ❖ I hereby grant permission for my student's image to appear on the Laguna Creek High School Band web page ([www.thelchsband.org](http://www.thelchsband.org)).

#### **Handbook and Participation Requirements Acknowledgement**

My Student and I have read the **Laguna Creek Band Handbook**. We have read and discussed all of the information contained in the handbook. We understand its contents and my responsibility to these policies and consent to them as a condition of participation in band/guard events and activities. I understand our responsibilities and obligations to the music program. 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 conditional upon adherence to this higher standard. Additional copies of the handbook can be found on the website at [www.thelchsband.org](http://www.thelchsband.org)

My Student and I have read the Laguna Creek Band Calendar and have noted all dates on our personal calendar(s) for the year. I acknowledge that failure to attend all required band/guard related activities will negatively affect my/my student's grade.

I agree to accept the responsibility for band/guard program costs as related to my student. Guard students are responsible for purchase of jacket, gloves, shoes, and leggings.

I acknowledge the value and need for parental involvement to ensure a successful program. I agree to volunteer a minimum of four (4) hours over the course of the year. (These hours are not included in volunteer fundraising opportunities.)

I agree to submit all required Program documentation by **Tuesday, July 27, 2021**. **All forms must be turned in for your student to get full credit for this assignment!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature