

Lewisburg High School Band



Handbook 2019-2020

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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have questions concerning any aspect of the band program at Lewisburg. We have made an honest effort to include and explain every possible facet of the program.

It is our hope that as responsible students and interested parents, you will read this handbook very carefully so that you will better understand the entire program. Students, you will be responsible for knowing and abiding by all rules and regulations set forth in this book.

Administration

Corey Uselton – Superintendent

Chris Fleming – Principal

Spence Rodman – Asst. Principal

Regina Ross – Asst. Principal

Lawanda Wallace – Asst. Principal

To these administrators we are forever indebted for their continued cooperation and support.

Directors

Kim Pickering

B. M. Ed. – The University of Mississippi

Kim.pickering@dcsms.org

Ben McLemore

B. M. Ed. – The University of Mississippi

M. M. Ed. – The University of Mississippi

ben.mclemore@dcsms.org

Matt Pickering

B. M Ed. – University of Southern Mississippi

M. M. Ed. – University of Southern Mississippi

matt.pickering@dcsms.org

Nelson Coile

B. M. Ed. – The University of Mississippi

nelson.coile@dcsms.org

Paul Morgan

B. M. Ed – The University of Mississippi

M. M. Ed – The University of Mississippi

paul.morgan@dcsms.org

Band Booster Board

President – Tejal Patel

Vice President – David Huffman

Treasurer – Jason Morgan

Secretary – Renee Look

NETMA Coordinator – Norm Van Nostrand

Financial Contribution Coordinator – Angie Kirkland

Member At Large - Sherri Hankins

Ensembles

Marching Band

The Marching Band consists of all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders who are in the band. The marching band performs at home and away football games, various marching contests in the fall, parades and at State Marching Band festival in the fall. Through necessity, an alternate system is used, but with it every student still has the opportunity to march throughout the marching season. Due to sickness, moving, etc. it is necessary for the field show to be written for fewer students than are on the roster.

Concert Bands

The band is divided into Symphonic and Concert bands through instrumental auditions. Remedial band will be assigned for those needing the extra help. Through challenges, every student has another opportunity to move up in the section or into a higher band. Each of the two concert bands work daily to develop their fundamentals through rhythm studies, method books, major scales, and extensive reading of concert band literature. We work to challenge students to raise their level of playing to a higher standard.

Participation in BOTH marching band and concert band is required to be a member of the Lewisburg Band.

Scheduling and Objectives

Band students in the high school band are scheduled for full band one block daily. In the full band rehearsal period, the band(s) combine for full ensemble rehearsal and drill. It is during this period and any other extra rehearsals that preparation is made for all public performances, including football halftime shows, contests, pep rallies, community concerts, and state band evaluations. It is at these performances that the band is evaluated by the general public as well as by the contest

adjudicators. The performance aspect of the band program cultivates public support while allowing the students to show the results of their many hours of hard work. Performances also offer a tremendous amount of motivation, especially in contest situations.

Requirements for Membership

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Each band member is expected to attend: (a) all rehearsals during the school day (b) any after school and night rehearsals (c) the annual band camp (d) the rehearsals and picture day held after band camp, and (e) all performances. Band students who drop band from their schedule or are dismissed during the school year may receive a zero in band for the semester and no credit for the semester.
2. Absences from band rehearsal are either excused or unexcused. Absences due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, (d) personal involvement in another school function, or (e) special permission from the band director or principal obtained in advance by the parent of guardian shall be EXCUSED. Absence due to any other reason shall be considered UNEXCUSED. Doctor's notes must be presented for personal illness to be excused. The student must show consistent responsibility in these areas. Doctor or dental appointments should not be made when there is a rehearsal.
3. **Excessive absences from rehearsals may result in the student being moved to alternate status or being removed from the band program. An unexcused absence from a performance may result in the student being moved to alternate status or being removed from the band program.** A performance is considered any event in which the entire band or part of the band, i.e. symphonic band, is to perform and all members of the performing organization are required to attend. Band students who drop band from their schedule or are dismissed

during the school year may receive a zero in band for the performance grade.

4. It is the responsibility of the student and/or parents to contact your director PRIOR to a performance if you are going to be late or cannot attend. The day before or day of a performance is not considered advanced notice.

5. **Each student is responsible for hearing and seeing all announcements.** Failure to look and listen is not a reliable excuse. A time for meeting will be specified for all performances. This is a start time, NOT AN ARRIVAL TIME. A listing of performances and rehearsals complete with times can usually be found on the **Charms** or the band website.

6. Students should arrange personal jobs, extra church functions, and other outside of school function so as not to conflict with rehearsals or performances. Work is not considered an excused absence. Performances and rehearsals are announced well in advance so that these activities, as well as family trips, should not conflict. If you miss the practice before a performance, you may be ineligible to perform.

7. All students travel to football games, contests, and outings on the bus. If you wish to ride home with your parents, have them come with you to the director after the event and we will release you to them. If you wish to ride home with another band family, you must have your parent write a note or email to **Mr. Morgan** prior to the trip. Parents may check out their student after games or competitions are completed. Students, be certain you understand this routine. It is for your protection.

8. **Smoking, consumption of alcoholic beverages, use of chewing tobacco, vaping, and the use of controlled substances will not be tolerated in the band program. Students caught breaking this rule may be removed from the band program. We cannot control your actions outside of this band program. Please fully understand that you are an example-setting member of this program at ALL times.**

9. The staff and administration will make decisions about future participation in the band program for students that with any type of school suspension or any other major disciplinary action.
10. The band staff must approve section shirts prior to them being printed.
11. There will be no co-ed seating on buses or public displays of affection of any kind within the band program. Consider this your warning.
12. Students are expected to be on time for rehearsals and to be picked up on time each day. Please make sure that your child can be picked up on time for every event. Staff is not available for after hours baby-sitting. We will respect your time by letting your child out on time, so please respect ours by having your child picked up on time. If you are unable to pick your child up, please plan for someone else to pick him or her up.
13. ALL students are expected to help clean the stadium after football games and Southern Stars. Disciplinary actions will be taken if a student is found skipping these responsibilities. If everyone works together, this process does not take long.
14. Parents, please make every effort to attend Booster meetings. They usually do not last very long, and they share imperative information regarding your child's band program.
15. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that all instruments and equipment is loaded and unloaded. We have wonderful parents that help with this, but ultimately, it is your responsibility.
16. The policies and procedures of the LHS Band program were designed to teach responsibility and to provide the most positive and successful learning environment for the band members.

Alternate System

Attendance:

1. Band Camp – Attendance is mandatory.
2. All rehearsals are mandatory. Failure to attend may result in alternate status.
3. Alternates will be determined by marching and playing skills demonstrated during rehearsals scheduled throughout the summer or during kick off weekend.
4. Extended illness, injury, or absences: A person who misses rehearsals because of illness, injury, or absences may be placed on alternate status at the discretion of the director.

Equipment and Fees

1. Each student is expected to have all proper equipment at all rehearsals. Students are responsible for the welfare of any and all equipment, music, uniforms, etc. issued to him/her. Any lost or damaged music or equipment must be replaced or paid for by the student.
2. Students are required to have a binder and pencil each day along with any necessary instrument, sticks, music, **reeds** etc.
3. Students using school-owned instruments will be responsible for correcting any damage that may occur to their instrument due to negligence on their part.
4. Each student is responsible for a \$205 band fee that will cover consumables and travel. This amount cannot be fundraised due to the fact that it is going into our school account. Each student is also responsible for the Fundraising Goal. We ask that every student work very hard for this. The band fee itself does not cover the year.
5. Each student is assigned a special area for his/her instrument. Always leave your instrument in the area assigned to you, and have your name clearly marked on your instrument. Anything left

- out of your assigned area is subject to being thrown away. All items in the cubby should be clearly labeled at all time.
6. Take pride in your band room. Put trash in the trashcans. Do not write on shelves, doors, walls, stands, chairs, etc.
 7. You are to play only your instrument assigned to you. Damaging the band room or any of its equipment will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken and the student will pay for damage.
 8. When you are in uniform, you are no longer an individual. You are a representative of our band, school, and community.
 9. WE WILL BE IN NEW UNIFORMS THIS YEAR. YOUR UNIFORM IS TO BE COMPLETE AT ALL TIMES IN PUBLIC. This is including any undergarments that are required for the uniform and all parts of the uniform. GAUNTLETS, PLUMES, AND GLOVES ARE NOT TO BE STORED IN THE HAT BOXES. No jewelry, accessories, or anything that makes you un-uniformed, including odd colored hair, piercing, etc. is allowed while in uniform. If a student tries to evade this policy, it could prevent them from performing, and consequently, hurt their grade.
 10. Always remember that before, during and after a public performance you are in a public spotlight because of the uniform you wear. The impression you leave must be a good one.
 11. For concert season, we wear concert black to all performances. This includes tuxedos, all black, or white shirt and black pants for boys. Ladies will wear black skirts, dresses, or pantsuits. Keep in mind that all skirts MUST fall below the knee while standing.
 12. Food and drinks are not allowed in the band stands at football games except during break times. Only clear drinks will be permissible. NO pizza, nacho cheese, colored condiments, or chili. You may not bring non-band members into the stands. All students should stay in their section and stand when playing.
 13. Reeds may be purchased in an emergency. It is highly suggested

that students buy their own boxes of reeds and to have plenty on hand always. Reeds WILL NOT be given to any student without being paid for. Boxes of reeds may be purchased through local music stores or online. If a student does not have reeds, it is considered not having your supplies and may result in a lowered daily grade. Each student will be responsible for purchasing a lyre and flip folder. **These are approx. \$15 and will be ordered during the week of band camp.**

Grading System

1st 9 Weeks – Attendance and pass-offs of music

2nd 9 Weeks – Attendance, pass-offs of music, and chair audition score

3rd 9 weeks – Attendance and pass-offs of music

4th 9 weeks – Attendance and pass offs of music

Percentage of 9 Weeks grade - Missing a performance 20%, and missing 2 performances 50% and may be removal from the program.

Communication Opportunities

OUR MAIN COMMUNICATION WILL BE OUR CHARMS PROGRAM. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE UPDATED INFORMATION IN CHARMS, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE BAND INFORMATION.

*<http://www.lewisburgpatriotbands.com>– Our band’s website

*Remind - A mass texting service to update you through text message.

See Website for Updated Info on this.

Passoff email: patriotband1@gmail.com

Social Media Etiquette

Understand that when you are making comments or posting on websites (facebook, twitter, instagram, snapchat, etc) you are not only speaking for yourself but also for the band program. You may have the

best intentions but what you say can hurt the program. The best way to not have problems is to not make comments about any other program. I think it is great to have pride in our program as long as it is not at the expense of another. All comments made on these kinds of sites are for everyone to see. This includes snapchat – no it doesn't disappear forever. They cannot be taken back or apologized for. Please be cautious when making comments on these sites. Also be aware that you are a member of the Patriot Band during school and out of school. Anything that you say on these sites is reflective of you and the band program. Any comments made about individuals may also cause the administration to get involved. Again, please be cautious when posting. Be aware that other people see your posts and comments. Anything found offensive or negatively reflecting you as a member of the program may have to be discussed and taken care of by the staff.

Videoing the Band

We are under very strict copyright laws. You are welcome to video the band at any time for your own viewing pleasure. Please do not post these videos anywhere. **This includes youtube or any type of social media.**

Frequently Issues in the Band

This section is designed to inform parents and students how to properly handle various situations that may arise.

Q I lost my music.

A You should check the website or see your section leader to help you find another copy and have it copied. Your first stop should not be the band directors. It is generally a good idea to copy your music as soon as you receive them so you can have a spare at home to practice. DO NOT come to a rehearsal unprepared and try to fake it.

Q I cannot find a ride to rehearsal.

A Call the band room (662-890-6769). We will find one for you. Missing band because you do not have a ride WILL NOT be an excused absence. You should make arrangements ahead of time since you have a calendar of all events.

Q I am too sick to come to rehearsal or performance.

A You need to go to the doctor and get treatment. You will need a signed doctor's note stating you were too sick to participate. The staff can't make discernments when it comes to being sick. If you are not sick enough to go to the doctor, then you are not sick enough to miss. Please call and let us know. 662-890-6769.

Q I have instrument troubles or my instrument breaks.

A Get it fixed. Amro Music 1-800-626-2676

Q I am going to be late to a rehearsal or performance.

A You should call ahead and let us know. This does NOT excuse the tardy; it simply alerts the staff to the situation. Performances are very important and every effort should be made to get to the performance. If you miss the bus, it is your responsibility to make it to the performance.

Q I need to miss a performance for something unexcused.

A You have to make choices in life. It is professional to honor your first commitments. If you have a commitment on one of the band performances already, you should look at the grading policy and decide if you are willing to accept the consequences. Our area is very small and if you choose to lie, the likelihood of you getting caught is very high. Even if you are honest, however, it DOES NOT excuse the fact you are choosing to miss a performance. If you have missed a performance and it is unexcused, you may never be

eligible for a captain position, including drum major. **If you choose to miss a performance, regardless of your commitment to the band, 20% will be taken off of your nine weeks grade.** This is one of the most serious offenses in the band program. Missing a performance may also result in an alternate status for you.

Q I see a student commit a dismissible offense.

A Dismissible offenses include drinking alcohol, taking drugs, sexual harassment or abuse, and other serious actions. If anything this serious is witnessed, it should be reported to Ms. Hallmark, Mr. Coile, or Mr. McLemore immediately.

Q I feel like my directors or another member of the band is being unfair.

A We would like all grievances to follow a chain of command. If another band member is giving you a problem, please come to the directors. If you have a problem with the directors, please go to Mr. Chris Fleming. If you are unable to get satisfaction there, please call Mr. Corey Uselton.

Q I cannot get off work for a band event or rehearsal.

A This is an unexcused absence. You have the schedule ahead of time. Turn it in to your employer immediately. If you let Ms. Hallmark know, she will be more than happy to speak to your boss to get the conflict resolved. Please do not overload yourself during the school year, especially the fall.

Q I have an athletic practice the same day as a band event.

A The band staff, coaches, and administration have come to the realization that at times they may share students. Due to this, the administration has prioritized the importance of each event. The

administration will make the final call on individual conflicts and/or situations.

Q My brother/sister has an athletic game the same day as a band event.

A This is an unacceptable excuse for you to miss.

Q I miss school the day of a band event.

A If you miss the day of school of an event, you may not be able to perform. This will result in a lowered grade if the absence is unexcused.

Q I can only schedule my doctor's appointment during band practice.

A You may not schedule doctor's appointments during band practices. The remainder of the band is relying on YOU.

Hopefully this band handbook has been helpful in addressing any questions and/or concerns you may have about the Lewisburg Band Program. Following many questions, misunderstandings, and issues in the past over band policies and procedures, the band staff felt it would be helpful to provide you with this overview of rules, expectations, and policies for the 2018 – 2019 school year. The policies and procedures of the Lewisburg Band Program were designed to teach responsibility and to provide the most positive and successful learning environment for the band members.

Our band program is utilizing Charms Office Assistant Program. You **MUST** make sure that all of your child and your information is complete in the program. Use School Code: Lewisburg and use your child's FirstnameLastname as the password. This is imperative! Please sign and complete Appendix A, "Handbook Form". You must also have a physical, residency/insurance form, concussion form, and medical release form on file.

Please return your handbook form to the staff by Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Your signatures on the returned forms confirm that you have read, understand, and are willing to comply by these rules, expectations, and policies.

Thank you,

Mrs. Kim Pickering, Director of Bands

Mr. Nelson Coile, Assistant Director

Mr. Ben McLemore, Assistant Director

Mr. Matt Pickering, Assistant Director

Mr. Paul Morgan, Assistant Director



Appendix A

Handbook Form

(Please review handbook in the email sent out.)

We have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Lewisburg Band Program rules, expectations, and policies set forth in this handbook for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Please sign and return to the staff no later than Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

Band Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Band Member Signature

Date

