

# Lakota East High School Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, Concert Band Handbook

## 2009-2010

### **Dear Band Members and Parents/Guardians:**

**Welcome to LEHS!**

### **For Band Students:**

Welcome to the Lakota East Bands! You will soon discover what others before you have discovered – that the LEHS Bands are awesome! Whatever your taste in music may be, whatever your talent level is; there is a place here for you.

### **For Band Parents:**

By the time your student reaches Lakota East, he or she probably has been playing an instrument part-time for about four years. Now that they have learned the basics, it's time to accelerate the process and have some fun at the same time!

The Lakota East Band Program has several curricular and co-curricular ensembles that allow students to showcase their talent, dedication and hard work. There are three curricular concert bands at Lakota East: Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band and Concert Band; three jazz ensembles and the Thunderhawk Marching Band. There are small ensembles at certain times of the year as well.

The band students at Lakota East are some of the most talented, intelligent, polite, and funny and amazing young adults you will ever come to know. They represent their school and our community with pride and dignity. Nearly 15 percent of the total student population is involved in one or more bands at LEHS!

Our bands consistently earn superior ratings at the District, State and National levels. The staff, administration and community are very proud of the quality our bands!

### **Concert Band Directors**

- Mr. Thomas, Director of Bands, Voice Mail 759-8615 x 15185  
e mail: William.Thomas@lakotaonline.com
- Mr. Tanis, Assistant Director of Bands, VM 759-8615 x15456  
e-mail: Rob.Tanis@lakotaonline.com

### Yearly Schedule/Concert Dates

1. It is important that you mark all concerts on your calendar. Most, if not all, conflicts can be avoided if you look at the schedule.
2. Any unscheduled changes will be dealt with at that time.
3. Please let us know if you are on any field trips. The earlier the better.

## 2009-2010 Lakota East Band Performance Schedule

**\*\*All events in bold are required performances\*\***

<b>Tag Day: Saturday, September 12 – 8:00 – 2:00 (Main Street)</b>
<b>Fall Concert: Monday, October 12 - 7:00 (theater)</b>
Marching Band Concert: Wednesday, November 4 - 7:30 (gym)
Winds to Capital University's New Music Reading Clinic: Friday, November 13 – 5:00
District XIII Honor Band Auditions: Saturday, December 5 (TBA)
<b>Holiday Concert: Monday, December 14 - 7:00 (theater)</b>
District XIII Honor Band Weekend: January 15-17(TBA)
Swing Dance Fundraiser: Saturday, January 23 (p.m.)
<b>Band Ensemble Recital: Monday, February 1 - 6:00 start (music area)</b>
<b>Solo/Ensemble Contest: Saturday, February 6 (Lakota West)</b>
<b>Winds to Music For All-National Concert Band Festival; Indianapolis, IN March 4-6</b>
<b>Winter Concert: Monday, March 8 – 6:00 (theater)</b>
<b>District Band Contest: Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13 (TBA)</b>
Lakotafest: Saturday, March 27 TBA (9-5 timeframe)
<b>Pre-State Concert/Clinic: Monday, April 26 6:00 start (theater)</b>
<b>State Band Contest: Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 (TBA)</b>
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: Saturday, May 15 (a.m.)
<b>Spring Concert and Awards: Monday, May 24 - 7:00 p.m. (theater)</b>

*Call 759-8615 x15185 to report an emergency absence from a performance*

**It is expected that all students stay for the entire performance.  
Please do not expect to be excused from this requirement.**

### Concert Uniforms

1. The Symphonic Wind concert uniform will be:
  - a. LADIES - Black dresses, pearls, and black shoes (orders will be taken in the early fall).
  - b. GENTLEMEN - Black tuxes with bow ties, cummerbunds, black shoes, and black socks.  
You need to supply the tux shirt, shoes and socks.
2. The Symphonic/Concert Band uniform will be:
  - a. Black pants, white tux shirt, white tux coat, black bow tie, and **black** shoes and black socks for all. You will need to supply the tux shirt, black shoes and black socks (marching band shoes and socks are acceptable).

### Public Performances

1. The primary purpose of a band class is to teach students the art of public performance. While most do not eventually become performers, some do. All that we do in rehearsals and in sectionals, on paper with pencil or in the privacy of an individual practice room, is to prepare the skills necessary to meet that objective. Assignments, quizzes and taped exams, while valuable and necessary experiences to develop those skills, lay a foundation for the cumulative educational experience -- public performance.

2. If you have signed up for band, you have signed up to perform in public. A calendar of activities and performances is located on the website and has been provided to each band student. Please note these dates on your personal and family calendars at this time and include them in your plans.
3. Every person is IMPORTANT - the solo chair or last chair.
4. Parents and other family members are encouraged to attend each public performance, giving their student and the entire group an enthusiastic, appreciative audience.

### **Concert Attendance Policy**

1. Instrumental music is unique in that one measurement of its goals is the demonstration of skills through public performance. Concerts provide an opportunity for the students to apply the objectives they have learned throughout the grading period. Each band member plays a vital role in the final product therefore the following guidelines will be used concerning absences:
  - a. **Excused:**
    - i. An excused absence must be made up within ONE WEEK of a performance or it will be considered an unexcused absence.
    - ii. Given that a performance cannot realistically be “made-up”, the only method of evaluating the performance of an excused absence is through a performance for the director.
    - iii. It is the students’ responsibility to make arrangements with the director to make-up the performance.
    - iv. Examples of EXCUSED absences
      1. Personal illness (doctor’s note)
      2. Family emergency
      3. Religious observance
  - b. **Unexcused:**
    - i. AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE CANNOT BE MADE UP.
    - ii. A zero will be given for unexcused absences.
    - iii. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to:
      1. Athletic events
      2. Work (including baby-sitting either family or friends-with or without pay)
      3. Lack of transportation
      4. Social activities (such as relative visits, weddings, baby showers, parties, trips, etc...)
      5. Out of town trip/vacation with family or friends.
  - c. **Tardy to a Performance**
    - i. Excused tardy: no penalty
    - ii. Unexcused tardy: a 5-point deduction from the concert attendance portion of the grade.
2. **Reporting Performance Absences:** A simple note or e-mail from a parent is all that is necessary for a preplanned absence. If a student must miss a performance at the last minute, the parent/guardian must e-mail Mr. Thomas ([william.thomas@lakotaonline.com](mailto:william.thomas@lakotaonline.com)) or call 759-8615 x15185 and leave a voice message.

### **Communications**

1. **The bands’ website: lakotaeastbands.org**
  - a. The lakotaeastbands.org website is our most up to date and accurate communications tool. Here, you can find just about everything you need to know about the bands at East. When in doubt, go to the website. All new information will be placed on the news bulletin board.
2. **Edline**
3. **Charmsmusic.com**
  - a. **The password is “lakotaeastbands”**

## Class Expectations

1. Students will at all times conduct themselves according to the Lakota East High School Student Conduct Code.
2. Treat people the way you want to be treated.
3. The directors are the bosses. Your ideas are welcome if you come to us on a one-to-one basis after rehearsal.
4. Proper language and conduct will be observed. No foul language or gestures will be tolerated.
5. Tardiness is not accepted. Tardiness to band will be handled as outlined in the LEHS Student Handbook. Be in your seat when the director takes to the podium.
6. Absolutely no food, gum, or drink is permitted in the music area.
7. Attendance to all after school sectionals, rehearsals, and performances is a class requirement.
8. Have a pencil at all rehearsals.
9. When marking on the music, use a PENCIL.
10. You are financially responsible for your music.
11. Have a passbook when leaving class.
12. If you ever have a problem, please see a director before it turns into a crisis.

## Grading

Quarter Grades are based on the following:

### 1. In-Class Performance (75%)

- a. Wind players will be evaluated on scales, tone quality, articulation, note and rhythm accuracy, musicianship and posture. Percussion players will be evaluated on grip, rudiments, scales, rhythmic accuracy and musicianship.
- b. Frequency and content of the playing evaluations throughout each grading period is at the discretion of the band directors.
- c. All students start each quarter with a 100% In Class Performance grade. This means being ready to begin class on time, having instruments and necessary equipment (i.e. reeds, pencils, etc.), and contributing their best effort to the band rehearsal.
- d. A student will lose points for not being prepared for class (unable to perform parts, forgetting your instrument and/or music, not having acceptable reeds etc...) and partaking in activities which do not benefit the band rehearsal (i.e. chewing gum, talking, disruptive behavior).
- e. Any student who is unable to bring their instrument to class because it is in a repair shop should bring a note from a parent stating such.

### 2. Concert Attendance (20%) See the concert attendance policy above.

- a. Points will be received in each of these three categories, with the final grade being calculated from the percentage of possible points received for the grading period.
- b. Each of the above categories added together equal 95%. The remaining 5% is Personal Musicianship Development credit.

### 3. Personal Musicianship Development (5%)

- a. Doing everything the directors expect will earn you an A (a 95) in band. This means playoffs, scale tests, terms, daily class participation, and performances are important. Students who want to earn an A+ (97-100) have this possibility through personal musicianship development. Activities for such include but are not limited to:
  - i. Private Lessons; Attending a college or professional performance; Switching to a needed instrument; Attending other school concerts (elementary, jr. high, high school concerts); Being part of a community band or orchestra that is of equal quality than our bands(proof required); Participating in Pep Band beyond the required times; Audition for Honor Bands; Being accepted and participating in an Honor Band by audition; Performing a solo at the Solo/Ensemble Contest; Sending in an audition tape for the All State Band or Orchestra; Participating in All State Band or Orchestra; Participating in an honor group without audition; Participating in an additional ensemble at the Solo/Ensemble Contest; Smart Music exercises.
- b. **To get PMD credit** you must turn in a completed PMD Report Sheet checking all the things you did to deserve credit. Be sure to attach proof and/or critique if that is part of

the requirement. All enrichment credit sheets must be turned in at the end of the eighth week of that 9-week period.

### **Private Lessons**

1. When it comes to playing your instrument to the best of your ability, there is no substitute for private lessons with a competent teacher. The directors will be able to supply you with a list of qualified teachers. It is a proven fact that in most cases, students studying privately achieve a higher degree of proficiency on their instrument. This enables them to derive more musical benefits from their instrument and to make a better contribution to the music program.

### **Chair Placement/Challenges**

1. Chair placement auditions will count as one of the playing grades for the first quarter.
2. If you are not happy with your chair placement, perhaps a challenge is in order.
3. You can only challenge a person once every nine weeks.
4. You can only challenge up 1 place at a time. If the person you are challenging refuses, then you get their chair.
5. Music and scales will be assigned for every challenge.

### **Honor Groups and Other Performance Opportunities**

1. Throughout the year you may audition for numerous honor groups. Some of these might require you to miss a day or two of school. If this is the case, you are responsible for any homework or tests you miss. Let teachers know in advance if you are going to miss their class.
2. Possible honor groups include: All State Band or Orchestra; OU Honor Band, OSU Honor Band, Tri-State Honor Band; BGSU Reading Clinic Band; and District XIII Honor Band.
3. Other performance opportunities are posted on the bulletin board.

### **Overture Award Competition**

1. One representative from Lakota East will be chosen to perform for the Overture Awards. The winner of the Overture Award will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. More information will be available in October.

### **Solo/Ensemble Adjudicated Event (Contest)**

1. Solo/ensemble events are an integral part to the success of our band program. Solos make for great players that make for great bands! Think about soloing (Winds members are expected to perform solos)! We will use class time for ensembles so everyone is required to participate.
2. Large ensembles include: flute choirs, clarinet choirs woodwind choirs, saxophone ensembles, brass choirs, and percussion ensembles.
3. The Upbeat Club will pay the entry fee for large groups.
4. Small ensembles are also part of the event. There will be limited class time used for smaller ensembles.

### **Pep Band**

1. Every member of the Lakota East Bands will be assigned to 3 pep band basketball games. The Pep Band will play at 10 games throughout the season (a mix of boys and girls games). PMD credit will be available for those who choose to perform at more games. Rehearsals for pep band begin at 6:00 before that night's game. Game time is approximately 7:30, or after the JV game.
2. Pep Band Dates: TBA
1. If you are unable to attend one of your assigned games it is your responsibility to get a sub or switch with someone else (of the same instrument and part), because pep band is a performance, failure to replace yourself will result in a loss of performance points.

### **Graduation Band**

1. Graduation is set for Saturday, June 6 (2 p.m.) and will take place at Miami University. There will be two after school rehearsals for the "Grad Band" on June 3 and June 4.

2. Playing in the Grad Band replaces the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter assessment! However, to get a 100 on the final you must be at both rehearsals and graduation. Missing one rehearsal gets you a 96. If you cannot make graduation or the rehearsals you must take the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter assessment.
3. Grad band potentially is by invitation only.

### **Facilities**

1. Pick up after yourself.
2. Put things in their proper places.
3. Brass players - please have a wash rag from home to empty your spit valve. Do not empty on to the carpet!
4. Music stands are not to be used as desks.
5. Chairs are meant to be sat upon and not stood on.
6. Defacing of any school property and/or equipment in the music area is forbidden.
7. Please ask to use the phone or to borrow something. If you borrow something, please return it.

### **Instrument Lockers**

1. You will be assigned an instrument locker. It is requested you put a **combination** lock on the locker. The directors need to know the combination for your lock.
2. **School supplies, clothing, and marching band uniform parts are not to be kept in the instrument lockers or shelves.**

### **School-Owned Instruments**

1. Lakota now charges for the use of school owned instruments. This is a district wide policy. If you play two different school owned instruments (ex. horn and mellophone), you are not charged for the second instrument. The fee covers the maintenance agreement with Buddy Rogers Music. All instruments will be in their best working order. See the directors if your school owned instrument needs attention.

### **Course Materials**

1. In addition to having your instrument and music for each class, the following items are required:
  - a. **Metronome**
    - i. Metronome: For all assigned testing students will be instructed to prepare and perform the scales or musical excerpts at a specified speed. This requires the use of a metronome. This item should be a standard practice tool used all of the time. A credit card size metronome, such as a Seiko is fine. This type of metronome sells for under \$25.
  - b. **Tuner:**
    - i. No wind instrument is perfectly in tune. The performer needs to know the tendencies of their instrument in order to match the band or section. Korg makes a variety of tuners/metronomes that are great!

### **Instruments and Supplies**

2. **Woodwinds/Brass**
  - a. All instruments must be in good playing condition. Brass players must have mouthpiece, mute(s) when needed, valve oil and pencils. Woodwind players must have playable reeds, mouthpiece, ligature, and pencils. Not having a reed is not an acceptable excuse for not participating. Buying reeds by the box is a better choice economically and a fresh box should be purchased before getting to the last one in the box.
  - b. All instruments, personal and school owned, must have your name on them.
  - c. Do not play other people's instruments.
3. **Percussion**
  - a. Percussionists will be required to provide their own stick bag stocked with necessary sticks, mallets, beaters, etc. A minimally stocked Stick/Mallet Bags should include: Vic Firth SD 1 snare sticks: soft, medium and hard Timpani mallets: hard plastic Xylophone mallets: Soft and Medium Marimba/Vibe mallets. Many percussionists add to their stick/mallet collection throughout their high school careers.

- b. Just like all other instruments in the band, percussionists should use their own sticks and mallets so as to become familiar with the consistent feel of their equipment. Sharing is not appropriate.
- c. Every attempt will be made to rotate part assignments in concert preparation. We don't have "drummers" and "mallet players." All percussionists are "total percussionists" learning the skills to play all instruments in the section.
- d. All percussion equipment is to be covered and placed, in an organized fashion, back in the percussion room.

#### **Awards**

1. John Philip Sousa Award - To an outstanding senior based on playing and leadership qualities. This award is reserved for the truly outstanding musician.
2. Patrick Gilmore Awards - A runner up award to the John Philip Sousa award.
3. Sempre Fi Award
4. Jeff Durham Scholarship

#### **Fund Raising**

1. It takes several thousand dollars to keep the Lakota East Bands running. A large part of this is funded from the Lakota Upbeat Club. This money is used in the areas of: supplemental instruction, equipment for student use, entry fees, new music, and awards.
2. For certain fund raising projects, a portion of the profits will go into each student's account. This money can be used for any activity sponsored by the Instrumental Music Department.
3. Each student is expected to participate in our fund raising efforts. A lack of effort by any member means someone else has to work harder to make up for that member. Although it is not as fun, fund raising has to be a team effort, just like performing.

#### **Recordings of our bands.**

1. Each concert will be recorded and available for sale from Tri-State Recording. There will also be an "End of the Year" box set available in the spring.

**Working together will make this the greatest year for you and the Lakota East Bands!**

Remember the Lakota East Bands Website.

# Lakotaeastbands.org

(The website is maintained by volunteer band parents. Many thanks for their hard work!)

POLICY AGREEMENT

Please return this page to either Mr. Thomas or Mr. Tanis by Friday, August 28, 2009 for a .5 PMD point!

I have read and will abide by the policies of the Lakota East High School Instrumental Music Department.

Students Name (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

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

I have read the Lakota East High School Instrumental Music Department Handbook and am aware of the policies by which my son/daughter is to abide by.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support.