



# Concert Band Handbook

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Lakota East Freshman Campus

2009-2010

[lakotaeastbands.org](http://lakotaeastbands.org)

Visit the Lakota East Bands  
on the Web at

[www.lakotaeastbands.org](http://www.lakotaeastbands.org)

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# LAKOTA EAST FRESHMAN BANDS

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[www.lakotaeastbands.org](http://www.lakotaeastbands.org)

August 2009

Dear Band Members and Parents/Guardians:

This is an exciting year for all of you, new school, new teachers, and new opportunities. We are thrilled that you are a part of the band program and know that you will have a very rewarding year! The East Bands have established a tradition of excellence and now you are a part of that tradition. We are very proud of our accomplishments and know that you will enjoy being a member of such an outstanding organization.

Lakota's quality band program offers students many ways to grow academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. The primary purpose of a band class is to teach students the art of public performance. If you have signed up for band, you have signed up to perform in public! Performance occurs in the classroom as well as in a staged setting. 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. Vince Lombardi once said, "A person's happiness is in direct relation to their desire for excellence."

The Band Handbook is designed to answer some of the questions you might have about the Lakota East Freshman Bands. The following information is covered:

- Calendar of Events, Concert Attendance Policy & Concert Dress
- Discipline Plan
- Grading Procedure
- Private Lessons, Practicing & Seating
- Instrument Lockers & Necessary Materials
- Agreement Form

Please feel free to contact us at any time during the school year with any questions or concerns or visit [www.lakotaeastbands.org](http://www.lakotaeastbands.org). Thank you in advance for all of your support during the upcoming school year and best wishes for a very successful and rewarding year!

Sincerely,

Robert Tanis ([rob.tanis@lakotaonline.com](mailto:rob.tanis@lakotaonline.com))

William Thomas ([william.thomas@lakotaonline.com](mailto:william.thomas@lakotaonline.com))

# EAST FRESHMAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CALENDAR 2009-2010

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Time</b>
Thursday, September 3, 2009	Band Parent Meeting	LEFC Theatre	7:00pm
Saturday, September 12, 2009	Tag Day	LEMC "Main Street"	8:00-12:00
Wednesday, September 23, 2009	Freshman Night Rehearsal	LEMC Band Room	3:00-4:00
Thursday, September 24, 2009	Freshman Night Rehearsal	LEMC Band Room	3:00-4:00
<b>Friday, September 25, 2009</b>	<b>Freshman Night</b>	<b>LEMC Band Room</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday, November 19, 2009</b>	<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>LEFC Theatre</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
Saturday, December 5, 2009	District Honor Band Auditions	Fairfield Middle School	TBD
January 15-17, 2010	Honor Band Weekend	TBD	
<b>Monday, February 1, 2010</b>	<b>Solo &amp; Ensemble Recital</b>	<b>LEMC Music Area</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday, February 6, 2010</b>	<b>Solo &amp; Ensemble Contest</b>	<b>Lakota West High School</b>	<b>All Day</b>
<b>Monday, March 8, 2010</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>LEFC Theatre</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday, March 13, 2010</b>	<b>OMEA District Contest</b>	<b>Fairfield High School</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Thursday, May 27, 2010</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>LEFC Theatre</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>

*CALL 759-8615 x15456 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 DRESS

**Men:**

- Black pants, no jeans
- Black shoes and socks
- White dress shirt (must be tucked in) and a neck tie

**Women:**

- Black pants or long skirt (no short skirts)
- Black shoes and hose or socks
- White blouse (shirt)

## **CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY (EXCUSED vs. UNEXCUSED)**

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:

### **Excused:**

- An excused absence must be made-up within ONE WEEK of a performance or it will be considered an unexcused absence. (See consequence below)
- How do I make-up a performance?
  - By performing your part on all programmed music for the director before school.
  - It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the director to make-up the performance.
- Examples of Excused Absences:
  - Personal illness (doctor's note)
  - Family emergency
  - Religious observance

### **Unexcused:**

- UNEXCUSED ABSENCES CANNOT BE MADE UP
- A zero "0" will be given for unexcused absences.
- Unexcused Absences include but are not limited to:
  - Athletic Events
  - Work (including baby-sitting either family or friends – with or without pay)
  - Homework
  - Lack of Transportation
  - Social Activities (relative visits, weddings, baby showers, parties, trips, etc..)
  - Out of town trip/vacations with family or friends.

### **Tardy to Performance:**

- Excused Tardy: no penalty
- Unexcused Tardy: -5 points from Concert Attendance portion of grading

# DISCIPLINE PLAN

## General Statement

In general, behavior that does not benefit the band rehearsal does not belong. Students will be expected to exercise self-discipline at all times in order to maintain an environment conducive to learning. If the director at any time deems your behavior inappropriate, you will be subject to the consequences for that behavior.

## Classroom Expectations:

1. Be in your seat, ready to play 1 minute after the tardy bell rings.
2. Food, gum and drinks are not permitted in the music area under any circumstance.
3. You may leave class at the discretion of the teacher (with your passbook)
4. You need to have your instrument every day and it must be in working condition.
5. You need to have your music every day for class.
6. A pencil needs to be on your stand at all times.
7. Talking is not permitted during a rehearsal period.
8. Follow the verbal and non-verbal directions given from the podium.

## Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior:

All points are deducted from your participation grade.

- 1<sup>st</sup> time you forget your instrument: -8 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> time you forget your instrument: -8 points & a call home
- Unprepared for class: -2 points for each infraction
  - no pencil, misplaced music, etc...)

Disruptive and other inappropriate behavior will be handled in the following manner:

1. First Time: Verbal Warning
2. Second Time: Call Parents
3. Third Time: Office Referral

## Overall Common Sense:

1. Losing your music is a bad thing, and you may be charged a replacement fee.
2. If you borrow something, put it back.
3. Music stands are not to be used as desks.
4. All four legs of the chair must remain on the ground at all times.
5. Treat each other as you would like to be treated.

# GRADING PROCEDURE

## Quarter Grades

### 1. Class Participation 40%

- All students start each quarter with a 100% participation grade
- Please refer to “**Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior**” on page 3 of this handbook to see how participation points are subtracted each quarter.
- General Participation Expectations:
  - Be on time
  - Have your instrument and make sure that it works (bring a note if it is in the shop)
  - Have a pencil & music
  - No food, drink, gum in the band room
  - Obey rehearsal etiquette

### 2. Performance Grade/SmartMusic Grade 35%

- Wind players will be evaluated on tone quality, articulation, note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, musicianship (dynamics, phrasing, etc.) and posture while performing various exercises and passages from their band folder or in SmartMusic.
- Percussion players will be evaluated on grip, rudiments, rhythmic accuracy, musicianship, and mastery of auxiliary instruments.
- The frequency and content of the playing evaluations throughout each grading period is at the discretion of the band director and may occur in class or through SmartMusic.

### 3. Concert Attendance 20%

- Please refer to “**Concert Attendance Policy**” on page 2 in this handbook.

### 4. Enrichment Points 5%

- Music enrichment activities are necessary to earn an A+ in Band. An “Enrichment Sheet” lists typical enrichment activities and their point value. The “Enrichment Sheet” will be available at the beginning of each quarter. Students who wish to receive enrichment points need to fill out the enrichment sheet and turn it in with all of the necessary proof and essays attached by the due date printed at the top of the sheet. Private lessons, attending concerts, extra assignments in SmartMusic, and membership in other performance groups are all examples of enrichment activities.

## Quarterly Assessments

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Assessment – Graded Performance Using Smart Music (submitted electronically)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Assessment – Ensemble Performance in front of class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Assessment – Graded Performance Using Smart Music (submitted electronically)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Assessment – Performance of all 12 Major Scales from Memory in front of class

## Semester Grades

Semester Grades are calculated by averaging grades the following way:

- Marking Periods = 40% (Each Quarter)
- Quarter Assessments = 10% (Each Test)
- 40%+40%+20% = 100%

## PRIVATE LESSONS & PRACTICING

### Lessons

Private lessons are not required but are strongly encouraged due to their obvious value to the student and his/her musical growth. Attention to details particular to your instrument, such as alternate fingerings, trills, tuning, tone production, vibrato, etc., are addressed in private lessons. The quality of the school band program therefore is reliant on the musical growth of its members. In any fine musical organization, the majority of students study privately. A list of recommended instructors is available from the director.

### Practicing

Members of the Lakota East Freshman Band are expected to practice everyday. As a result it is necessary for your instrument to go home with you every day so that practicing is possible. **Please keep in mind that the class period is for putting all of the parts together, not for practicing individual parts. It is expected that all students come to each class with their part prepared.** Some tips for a profitable individual practice session:

1. Find a quiet place with a chair and a music stand.
2. Warm-up using material from class.
3. Decide which passages or etudes that need the most work and begin there.
  - a. Practice those passages or etudes slowly with the right notes, articulation, and dynamics.
  - b. Follow the general rule – “three times in a row perfectly”
4. Play something at the end of the session that is fun.

Keep in mind that each daily session should last a minimum of 30 minutes.

## SEATING

During the first month of school each band member will be auditioned to determine their placement within their section. Details about what is expected in the auditions will be announced at least two weeks prior to the start of the auditions. The audition will be counted as a playing grade for the first quarter. If you are not satisfied with your chair placement, you can challenge the person seated in front. Challenges occur the week following a concert on a sign-up basis. There are 2 opportunities to challenge per year, after the Fall Concert and after District Contest.

## **INSTRUMENT LOCKERS**

An instrument locker room is provided for the storage of band instruments during the school day and overnight, if necessary. Please keep in mind the following things concerning the instrument locker room:

1. All instruments must be stored in the locker or assigned location.
2. Combination locks **must** be placed on each student's band locker.
3. Nametags or some other form of permanent identification must be on all cases.
4. Record the serial number of your instrument for your records.
5. Students are not to touch any instrument other than their own.
6. The school does not carry insurance on privately owned instruments.

## **NECESSARY MATERIALS**

- Instrument in working condition
- Pencil
- Music folder (we will provide)
- Woodwind players
  - At least three good reeds (oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone)
  - Cork grease (oboe, clarinet, saxophone)
  - Cleaning swab (oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone)
  - Cleaning rod and soft, lint-free cloth (flute)
- Brass Players
  - Valve oil (trumpet, euphonium, tuba)
  - Slide oil/grease (trombone)
  - Rotor oil (French horn, tuba)
  - Tuning slide grease (for all tuning slides on all brass instruments)
- Percussion Players
  - Snare drum sticks

## **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

Lakota charges a rental fee to all students who use a school owned instrument. The fee covers routine maintenance and repairs during the school year with Buddy Rogers Music. If your school owned instrument needs attention, please see a director!

## **CONCERT RECORDINGS**

All concerts this year will be recorded by TRI-STATE PRODUCTIONS. CDs can be purchased following each concert or at the end of the year in a box set. [www.tristateproductions.net](http://www.tristateproductions.net)