

2025-2026

LMS

6th Grade Band

HANDBOOK

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Director

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LMS Band Grading Policy

A successful Middle School Band requires diligence and commitment on the part of every member. Being disruptive in class is detrimental to the success of the band and will be reflected in the student's participation grade. Students will be graded on both accountability as well as individual tasks/skills.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| - Weekly Progress | 50% |
| - Concerts/Festivals | 25% |
| - Tests/Quizzes/Assignments | 25% |

Weekly Progress Points

Students may earn full credit each day by being in their seat, prepared, with all materials on time. Points will be deducted for tardiness and lack of participation. Each student will be allowed two absences (including illness, field trips, sports, or **anything** else that takes them out of class) before points are deducted. On the third absence, students will lose one day's worth of points. These points/days can be made up.

Make-up Points for Classroom Absences

In order to make up for a school related or non-school related absences, the student can attend a musical event (concert, musical, etc.) and give Mr. Mazurek a program or proof of attendance (1 absence = 1 musical event). The student may also make-up an absence by practicing for 30 minutes in the LHS band/choir room before school (7:00 - 7:30am) or after school (2:00 - 3:05). 1 absence = 30 minute practice session.

Concerts/Festivals

Failure to participate in a concert will result in the overall class grade dropping a **minimum of one full letter grade**. Students will also lose points if they are late or not dressed in proper attire. In extreme cases (death in the family, illness, etc.) the points for an excused concert absence may be made-up by completing a detailed music related project. In order to receive credit, it must be accompanied by a note from the student's parent/guardian.

Make-up Points for Concerts

To make up the points from the missed concert: Students must pre-arrange with Mr. Mazurek a total of 1.5 hours of practice time at the LHS Band/Choir Room (room 17) and perform their concert music live for Mr. Mazurek. Pre-arranged times can only be from 7:00 - 7:30am and from 2:00 - 3:05pm - Talk to Mr. Mazurek to schedule a day/time.

Tests/Quizzes/Homework – points vary depending on test/quiz/homework

Students may have a playing/written test at least once a month to monitor for progress.

6th Grade Beginning Band Instruments

In the 6th Grade Beginning Band you have the option of playing the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Other band instrument options/exceptions can be assessed on a one-on-one basis.

Check out these instrument demonstrations and choose the one that you like the best!!! **We will spend the first few days of class listening to and discussing these instruments so you don't need to decide yet if you aren't sure.**

Individual Videos of Instrument Demonstrations

Flute: <https://youtu.be/JLUjWLHZDfY>

Clarinet: <https://youtu.be/wMYMkQzVWfU>

Saxophone: <https://youtu.be/CCTeSjpDsIs?t=330>

Trumpet: <https://youtu.be/oJV0QYB5jY>

Trombone: <https://youtu.be/j1P6fo7jdnw>

Percussion: <https://youtu.be/ikCrwYnxgas>

Full Video of Instrument Demonstrations

This is the video from which the individual videos were taken. It includes even more instrument options for later down the road - watch this to see what instruments will be available to you after your 6th grade year...

<https://youtu.be/CCTeSjpDsIs>

Instrument Rentals

One thing that we have to make sure of is that everyone has access to an instrument. **Hoffman Music will be at LMS for our Instrument Rental Night on Wednesday, September 17th from 6:00-7:00pm** (more information and forms below). If it is more in your budget to rent from the school, you may do so for a cleaning fee of \$50. I highly encourage you to rent from Hoffman Music <https://hoffmanmusic.com/>, or Amends Music Center <https://amendmusiccenter.com/>, because their instruments are very well maintained and may be easier to play than the 20 to 50 year old instruments that we have at the school.

See the next page is Hoffman Music's rental information.



RENTALS
EASY & AFFORDABLE
INSTRUMENT RENTAL
AND LEASE PLANS FOR
STUDENTS



Rates Starting at: (Lease period: Date of agreement through June 20th of next year)

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Bells & Trombone: \$30 monthly/\$189 lease

Drum Combo Kit, Snare & Piccolo: \$35 monthly/\$250 lease

Alto Sax & Oboe: \$55 monthly/\$359 lease

Tenor Sax: \$65 monthly/\$400 lease

All rent/lease paid applies towards purchase of instrument rented

Free routine maintenance included

Optional Replacement Insurance available

[Rental Agreement Download](#)

**Please call Hoffman Music at 509-444-4140 or 1-800-769-3949 for
personalized assistance or come on in to Hoffman Music at**

1430 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99201.

Equipment and Class Material Requirements

EVERYONE is required to have a pencil, music, and instrument with them at all rehearsals unless stated otherwise.

Required Book (have this by Thursday, September 18th)

- “Accent on Achievement - Book 1”
 - Make sure you buy the correct book for the instrument that you play (ie. trumpet, flute, clarinet, trombone, alto saxophone, percussion). There will be some to purchase at the Hoffman Instrument Rental Night but I can’t guarantee they’ll have enough. LMS has some for students to borrow until they can buy one.

Instrument (have one by Thursday, September 18th)

- **Single Reed Instruments (Saxophones and Clarinets)**
 - You are expected to have a minimum of 3 working reeds in your case at any given time.
 - The cheapest way to buy enough reeds for the entire year is to purchase a box of ten.
 - All students should purchase a nice reed guard storage device. The above manufacturers make many nice models.
 - Storing your reeds in a nice reed guard will keep them fresh longer and overtime will lower your reed purchasing expenses. It is not recommended to store a reed on the mouthpiece of your instrument or in the plastic sleeve the reed came in - BUT it is better than no protective case at all.
 - Instrument cleaning kit

Percussion

- All percussion students MUST get a pair of Vic Firth American Classic 5A Drum Sticks and either a snare drum pad or a snare drum. All percussion students are highly ENCOURAGED to purchase the Vic Firth EP2 Education Pack. Check online or have the local music stores order them.

Brass

- Valved Instruments (Trumpet, Baritone): You are expected to have valve oil and tuning slide oil.
- Trombone: You are expected to have tuning slide oil/grease, slide cream (brand name Slide-O-Mix is best, and a small spray bottle for water.
- Instrument cleaning kit

Uniform

- All members of the LMS Beginning Band Program should wear the nicest clothes they have for concerts. School dress code still applies.

LMS Rehearsal Expectations and Structure

Rehearsal Etiquette Expectations:

1. Be ready to warm up and rehearse before the bell rings
2. ALWAYS have a pencil
3. Have your own music so that you can take it home and practice, no sharing
4. Be respectful to others
 - students must be constructive not destructive with their comments
 - use common sense and treat others as you would want to be treated

Band Room Expectations:

1. Students are only allowed in the band room when an instructor is present, or when specific permission is granted
2. Students can only use the Director's telephone in an emergency or with permission.
3. Students must ask to use the band room stereo
4. No food, gum, or drinks (except water) will be allowed during rehearsal.
5. Students must ask the instructor before using practice rooms.

Cell Phone Policy:

1. No cell phones (see school policy in student handbook)

Bathroom Policy

1. Choose the proper time to use the restroom
 - a. Not during the first 10 and last 10 of the class period
2. One student is allowed to go to the restroom at any given time.
3. Student must leave their cell phone in the classroom.

Other Expectations:

1. Band Uniforms are required at every performance/event. Failure to follow the uniform code may result in removal from the event and an unexcused absence according to the grading policy.
2. All school codes of conduct, band expectations, and government laws apply to any band concerts/events/trips. Failure to meet expectations may result in removal from the activity and the student being transported home at the parent/guardian's expense.
3. Each member of the band is expected to maintain a music folder with every piece of music we play in it. All music will be collected at the end of the year. Missing parts will cost \$4 per song.

2025/2026 6th Grade Band Concert/Event Schedule

- Times listed below are the start time of the events/concerts. Call times (when students should be there) will be sent out prior to the event.
- Key: **Bold** = Required/graded
Italics = Extra-curricular (not required/graded)
TBA = To Be Announced at a later time

Thursday, September 11	Contract and Instrument Choice Form Due	In Class
<i>Wednesday, September 17</i>	<i>6th Grade Instrument Rental Night @ LMS</i>	<i>6:00pm</i>
Thursday, September 18	Bring your instrument and Accent on Achievement Book 1 (for your specific instrument)	In Class
Wednesday, November 19	6th Grade Band Concert @ LMS	7:00pm
<i>Tuesday, December 9</i>	<i>Solo/Ensemble Fee & Registration Due</i>	<i>3:00pm</i>
Wednesday, February 25	6th Grade Band Concert @ LMS	7:00pm
<i>Saturday, February 28</i>	<i>Middle School Solo/Ensemble Fest @ TBA</i>	
Wednesday, June 3	LMS Beginning Band and 7th & 8th Grade Band Finale Concert @ LMS Gym	7:00pm

6th GRADE BAND INSTRUMENT CHOICE FORM - DUE by Thursday, Sept. 11th

Student Name (print clearly): _____ Parent Signature: _____

1. Where I will get my instrument (please circle one):

- A. Will get one on my own B. At Hoffman Music Rental Night C. Rent from LMS

- 2. In order to achieve a well balanced band experience, it is good to have all of the instruments represented in the band. Please indicate first choice and second choice by writing a "1" and "2" on the line before the instrument name. See below for additional information about instruments.**

WOODWINDS	BRASS	STRINGS	PERCUSSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Flute	<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpet	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric Bass, String Bass (contact Mr. Mazurek)	<input type="checkbox"/> Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Timpani, Bells, Aux., and other all other percussion instruments.
<input type="checkbox"/> Clarinet	<input type="checkbox"/> Trombone		
<input type="checkbox"/> Alto Saxophone	<input type="checkbox"/> Baritone Horn <input type="checkbox"/> Tuba (contact Mr. Mazurek)		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT INSTRUMENTS

* Students are often more motivated to learn the instrument they are most interested in. *

•ALL INSTRUMENTS: MUST BE HANDLED WITH CARE AND TREATED LIKE A BELOVED PET. REPAIRS CAN BE VERY COSTLY.

FLUTE: small and easy to transport. Not too loud and makes a very pretty sound. Very enjoyable to play. Tricky at first to generate a tone, some challenges at first with fingerings. Some private lessons at first, help.

CLARINET: relatively small to transport. Very warm and pretty sound. Very easy to start on. Must purchase reeds to replace broken ones, about \$4.00 each (buy a box of reeds from a music store or online).

SAXOPHONE: bigger and heavier than the clarinet. Feels heavy at first. Has a big, bold sound. Perhaps not the best where quiet practice is essential. Reeds cost \$4.00 per reed (buy a box of reeds from a music store or online)

BRASS INSTRUMENTS: Trumpets are medium size. Trombone and Baritone Horn are bigger. All are on the louder side, though they can be played softly with experience. Can be problematic for students with braces. Require valve or slide oil (\$8)

STRINGS & TUBA: These instruments are large, especially Tuba and String Bass. Both String Bass (violin) and Electric Bass (guitar) come in small sizes for smaller students. Electric Bass is probably the easiest to start on and is not too big. A practice amp at home is a plus.

PERCUSSION: Requires drum sticks (\$10). A practice pad is a good investment (\$15,) but a phone book works. You aren't required to purchase a percussion pack (Snare Drum and Bell Kit) but it would help your at home practice. You will be using the LMS percussion equipment during class so no need to transport your drums/bells to and from school.

2025-2026 LMS Band Contract

By signing below, I agree to the following:

- I have read and understand the schedule of band events for this school year. I commit to be in attendance at all required performances, concerts, festivals, and events.
- I have read and understand the proper uniform for performances. I commit to be in proper attire (the nicest clothes I have) for each and every performance.
- I have read and understood the grading policy for band. I realize that tardies and absences will have a negative effect on my classroom grade. I also understand that I have the opportunity to make those points up.
- I have read and understand the LMS Band Expectations. I realize that my actions are my own responsibility and that poor decisions may carry consequences.
- I am an important member of this program and I have a responsibility to contribute positively to the learning environment. I will work diligently to help myself, and the group, achieve excellence. I will represent this program, my school, and my community in a respectful manner.

This contract must be signed and turned in to Mr. Mazurek before the first performance. Failure to do this will result in the student not participating in and receiving an "F" on the event/concert.

This contract is due on Thursday, September 11th

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____