

Lakeridge High School

# Band Handbook



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Dear band students and parents,

It is with great excitement and eagerness that I welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year at Lakeridge High School. As you all probably know, I am new to Lakeridge and Lake Oswego, bringing with me numerous ideas and incredibly high aspirations for the band program here. This is a unique journey we have in front of us, and I hope you are willing to join me in what will prove to be a fun and rewarding experience.

As the year goes on, several fellow band members who right now are strangers will become acquaintances, and later friends. As we grow to know each other and work together, my hope is that the band community will become a family, each person watching out for the other, serving as a resource and safety net for every member. Throughout my life, band has served as such an important supportive community and I want to foster that atmosphere right here. Know that the band room door is always open.

This in mind, we have many responsibilities to our bandmates. We each have a responsibility to be respectful, helpful, courteous and professional. We also have the responsibility to practice our music, so we can collectively give incredible moving performances to our audiences. Band is only as strong as the weakest member, and with each other to encourage, motivate and energize, we will not have a weakest member. You'll soon realize that hard work truly does pay off; there is no greater feeling than delivering a performance like never before, knowing that a person was deeply moved by your music.

Enclosed in this handbook you will find much information regarding the organization of the band program, expectations and policies. Also, dates of events are included so that you may plan ahead. Please complete and sign the final page, indicating that you have read and understood the handbook, and that you have taken note of the performance dates. Let me know if any questions arise.

Looking forward to this year, picture the experience you want to have. Imagine the music you'll make, the laughs you'll have, the friendships you'll form, and how you'll grow as a result. I could not be happier to start this year with you, and I look forward to creating music that we're truly proud of.

Sincerely,

Corey Alston

## Class Expectations

Each ensemble member is expected to come to class on time and be ready to participate in a positive manner. Items to be brought daily include:

- Instrument in good playing condition
- Supplies
  - Woodwinds: at least 4 good reeds, a swab
  - Brass: Valve oil, straight mute
- All music, in designated folder (Folder storage will be provided. Folders should not be stuffed into instrument lockers)
- PENCIL!

## Classroom Rules

Have a positive attitude! We all make mistakes; we're working together to fix them.

Contribute to a fun and productive bandroom environment.

No one shall prevent the teacher from teaching

No one shall prevent a fellow student from learning.

Be on time to all classes, rehearsals, events, games and performances.

Have instrument and related materials at rehearsals and performances.

Leave the band room as you found it. Or cleaner!

Office areas, music library and storage rooms are off-limits without a teacher present.

NO food or drink in the band room (including GUM) except for water bottles.

Cell phone use is not permitted in any manner during rehearsal.

Respect, respect, respect. We are working together! Be a team player.

## Lockers

Each student will be assigned a storage space for his or her instrument, and a lock if applicable. At no time should a lock ever leave its designated locker. If any locker storage problems persist, students may forfeit their right to use school storage space and any school-owned instrument.

## Performances

**Enclosed in this handbook is a list of dates for performances (these include athletic pep band events). Unexcused absences from any performance will result in a considerable grade deduction. This is a performance-based class, and without all of our members, we can't perform to our fullest capacity. You have a responsibility to your fellow bandmates. If a student must be absent from any performance, please let Mr. Alston know as soon as possible. Communication is essential. In addition, appropriate documentation will be needed to substantiate an excused absence. Excused absences are based on the Lakeridge High School absence policy.**

# GRADING POLICY

Grades will be weighted by the following categories:

Daily Preparation and Attitude:	60%
Performances:	25%
Playing assessments:	15%

*Daily Preparation and Attitude:* Students will bring to class all necessary materials (see Class Expectations). Students will also continue to be of good wit and humor, treating each other with respect and integrity. Each day will be worth a total of 20 possible points.

*Performances:* see Performances.

*Playing assessments:* Throughout the year, it's essential that Mr. Alston know how each member of the band is progressing and learning. We will have a variety of assessments, including SmartMusic, group playing quizzes and chamber music performances.

# SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Students who are assigned school-owned instruments or those who use school-owned percussion equipment will sign an LOSD Instrument Use Contract and be held accountable for damages beyond normal wear and tear. Any student misusing or not storing the instrument in its proper location risks losing the privilege to use Lakeridge equipment. Instruments will be checked out at the beginning of each school year and collected toward the end. Speak with Mr. Alston if you would need an instrument over the summer.

# CONCERT ATTIRE

What an ensemble looks like on stage is an important part of a concert experience. We are trying to change the look of Lakeridge bands, and if any changes arise, Mr. Alston will let you know. For all ensembles, the concert attire (unless further notice) is as follows:

-Men

- Black shoes and socks
- Black pants
- Black belt
- White oxford-style long sleeve shirt
- Black bowtie

-Women

- Black shoes
- Black pants or ankle-length skirt
- White oxford-style, long sleeve shirt

Pep band will be dressed in jeans, sneakers and your new Lakeridge band t-shirt!  
(Information will follow)

## POPS

Parents Of Performing Students is an organization of band and orchestra parents that supports the programs of Lakeridge. Parent support and involvement is essential to the success of the students and the band program. You are strongly encouraged to get more information about this organization. Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, the first being held Tuesday, September 15th, 2009 in the Lakeridge band room. With any questions, please contact our Co-Presidents Kristi Gassner ([Gradyg@dslnorthwest.net](mailto:Gradyg@dslnorthwest.net)) and Kim Brown ([kimbr47@msn.com](mailto:kimbr47@msn.com))

## SMARTMUSIC

This year, we will be utilizing SmartMusic software more than ever. SmartMusic is an amazing computer program in which students can play along with band music, get instant feedback on assignments, and submit playing assessments to Mr. Alston (along with much more). There will be availability (though limited) to SmartMusic at school. Any information is available at [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com), and please read the attached SmartMusic letter for more information.

## PERFORMANCE DATES

Here is a list of known dates of Performances:

Homecoming Parade:	10/23/2009	All bands
TRL Jazz Competition:	11/24/09	Stage Band
Winter Concert:	12/8/09	All Bands
TRL Solo Competition:	2/6/10	
Southside Band Festival:	3/4/10	All Bands
Band Festival at GFU:	3/9/10	Wind Ensemble
TRL Band Contest:	4/13/10	Wind Ensemble
State Solo Contest:	5/1/10	
State Band Contest:	5/15/10	Wind Ensemble
Spring Concert:	5/18/10	All Bands

### Pep band performances (all band members)

Football:      9/18/09  
                  10/2/09  
                  10/8/09  
                  10/23/09

Basketball dates will be distributed the first week of school.

If either team makes it to postseason play, we will also play at those events. All dates are subject to change, and dates may be added. If this happens, Mr. Alston will notify you as soon as he is aware.

## STUDENT EXPENSES

Because the school district and band program do not have limitless funds (we're working on this...) Students are responsible for having and/or paying for the following items:

- Flip folder and lyre, appropriate for your instrument (by the first football game)
  - [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com), click on Band > marching band accessories
- SmartMusic student subscription and microphone
  - [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)

This handbook is designed to be read by band members and families together. This will ensure that all students and parents understand the responsibilities of being a member of the Lakeridge band program. After reading this handbook, please **sign, detach and return this page and the LOSD Field trip permission page to Mr. Alston by Friday, September 18, 2009**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the Lakeridge High School band handbook, and have taken note of all dates of band events. I believe that I can make a positive contribution to the band program. I also understand that my membership in band is contingent upon my ability to follow the procedures outlined in the handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email