

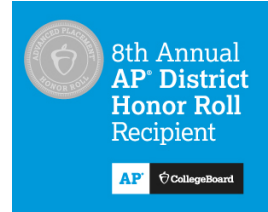


Lyndhurst Public Schools

LYNDHURST HIGH SCHOOL

400 Weart Avenue ♦ Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Ph: 201.896.2100 Fax: 201.896.2088 ♦ www.lyndhurstschools.net



JOSEPH A. DECORSO
Superintendent of Schools

LAURA VUONO
Principal

FRANK VENEZIA
Assistant Principal

2023-2024 LHS BAND HANDBOOK

July 2023

Dear LHS Band Family,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I am incredibly excited to work with our 8th-12th grade members again following the fantastic experiences we were able to provide them during 2022-2023. Last year, our members performed numerous halftime shows at both home and away football games, as well as two very successful winter and spring concerts, played for the New Jersey Devils at the Prudential Center, marched in multiple parades, and represented their school and community by displaying their talents as far as Nashville, Tennessee in addition to their regular service to Lyndhurst High School and the greater Lyndhurst community through the Band's participation in various ceremonies and events!

I sincerely thank the students who continue to dedicate themselves to our program considering our level of community involvement and the high expectations placed upon them as members of our program. I would also especially like to thank the parents who continue to support their child(ren) by allowing them to participate, and by coming to our performances, joining us on trips, and volunteering with our Music Association. Please know that your assistance is needed, valued, and appreciated by our Band staff and students alike!

In order for us to officially begin, I ask that you and your child(ren) please review and adhere to the policies outlined on the following pages. Note this document was not written for brevity; rather, it should serve as a year-round reference for what membership in the Lyndhurst High School Band program can and will entail, the expectations of its members, and what can be expected from me as its Director. **Please detach and return the final page with the required signatures when complete.**

Like many of you, I deeply appreciate live music and our students' participation in its creation, the advantages of which cannot be understated. I am confident that our goals can be accomplished—no matter the circumstances—with teamwork, perseverance, and a positive attitude and I hope you genuinely feel the same. I look forward to working with you during our time together, and if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly using the contact information below.

Yours in Music,

James F. Chwalyk, Jr. ("Mr. C.")
Lyndhurst High School Band Director
Email: jameschwalyk@lyndhurst.k12.nj.us
Music office phone: (201) 896-2100, ext. 4031

GRADING

All LHS Band members will receive a grade. Grades are calculated as follows each marking period, using the categories explained below: (8th grade participants will be graded in accordance with the policies of the Middle School Band Director.)

25 % Performance attendance/participation
20 % Rehearsal attendance/participation
20 % Lesson attendance/participation
20 % Quarterly assessment
<u>+ 15 % Class participation/Other assignments</u>
100 % Total grade for Band course

Performance Attendance

Band is a performing arts course and students are expected to give several public or semi-public performances throughout the year. By committing to participate in this school ensemble, students are also committing themselves to perform at:

- all LHS football games (exceptions: see “Marching Band”)
- up to three township parades (exceptions: see “Marching Band”)
- one winter concert/performance
- at least one spring concert/performance
- the LHS commencement (graduation) and exercises (exception: seniors)
- all trip performance(s) (if attending)

Students requesting to be excused from any of the above must submit a note to the Band Director from a parent or doctor which provides a reasonable excuse for the request. (All reasons will be kept confidential. *Work and personal celebrations are not an acceptable or legitimate excuse.*) The Band Director may work directly with a student’s parent/guardian or doctor in considering alternative participation methods. Failure to appear for a performance without a previously-approved excuse will result in the student losing credit for that event (except in case of emergency).

Rehearsal Attendance

Students will be asked to commit to performances that require rehearsal outside of class time. (Examples include marching band camp rehearsals for football games and parades, special group rehearsals for playing at local sporting/township events, etc.) Once committed, students understand that these rehearsals become part of their grade and are subject to the same excusal/attendance criteria as above.

Lesson Attendance

Students will be assigned to a weekly lesson group and expected to report to the band room at the given time. (Lesson schedules are sent to all teachers in advance.) Students are responsible for all classwork missed due to a Band lesson. If a student has an important academic assignment to stay and complete in their class, they must make up the missed Band lesson before the end of the marking period and full credit will be awarded. Students should communicate directly with the band director to find a mutually-agreeable make up time when needed.

Quarterly Assessments and Other Assignments

Quarterly assessments will be announced and given once per marking period. Other assignments may be given at any time. These can include written work, playing assessments, and online assignments.

Participation

Full participation credit for all performances/rehearsals/lessons/classes requires proper preparedness, attire, and having the appropriate musical equipment at all times in addition to displaying appropriate behavior such as following directions, playing when asked, not eating or drinking, and not playing or speaking out of turn.

EXTRA- AND CO-CURRICULAR BAND COMPONENTS

Our Band program offers and consists of several extra- and co-curricular components:

Marching Band

Marching Band is a co-requisite component of the LHS Band program and all students are required to participate as part of their Band grade. Exceptions will be made as follows:

- Varsity football players/cheerleaders are excused from performing in the stands during football games.
- Varsity football players may also be excused from halftime performances at the mutual discretion of the Marching Band Director and Head Football Coach.
- Other athletes may also arrive late to or leave early from football game performances with proper notice due to a conflicting game schedule. (Note: Additional paperwork may be required.)
- Excuses for family obligations will be accepted for missing parade performances—except for the Memorial Day Parade in May, which will be a double grade.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is a co-curricular component of the LHS Band program only that can be taken as a separate course by Director recommendation only (audition-based when necessary). It meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during lunchtime. Grading policies mirror those outlined on the previous page.

Concert Band

The term “Concert Band” refers to the non-marching, non-jazz band component of the LHS Band program. All Band students are considered part of the LHS Concert Band by default.

Pit Orchestra

Band students may be invited to participate in a pit orchestra for school musical performances. This is an extra-curricular offering made by the Pit Orchestra Director in conjunction with the Musical Director. Students may receive “volunteer hours” or other non-monetary, non-grade rewards for successful participation.

OTHER RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR BAND MEMBERS

Basic Music Theory

Basic Music Theory is a separate high school course open to all returning music students by teacher recommendation. This course focuses on the theory and principles behind Western music and includes music reading skills, analysis, composition, improvisation, aural skills, and ear training work. Band and Choir students with considerable musical experience and curiosity are encouraged to ask their director if they may be recommended, pending scheduling availability. Please contact Mr. Chwalyk for more information.

Concert Choir and Chorale

All Band students are encouraged to consider taking the Concert Choir course during their time as music students at LHS. Those who advance beyond basic singing skills are also encouraged to audition for the LHS Chorale. Please contact Ms. Wise at elenawise@lyndhurst.k12.nj.us for more information.

Music Production

Music Production focuses on teaching students how to utilize modern music technology, including recording software/hardware and digital audio workstations, and guides them in creating electronic arrangements and original electronic compositions in addition to discussing practical and potential career applications in the field. Please contact Mr. Cardone at nicholascardone@lyndhurst.k12.nj.us for more information.

OPTION II: HONORS BAND

Lyndhurst High School Band students are eligible to receive honors credit for their Band grade under certain conditions. First, they must enroll in the Band I, II, III, IV course. Then, they must complete an Honors Band application and submit it for approval by the Band Director on or before June 15th of the previous school year. Finally, they must meet the selected criteria while remaining enrolled in Band:

Honors Band Criteria

In order to receive honors credit for their regular Band grade for the year, applicants *must do at least three of the following*:

- A.) Receive a grade of no less than 90% in all Marching Band-related activities, with no more than one unexcused Marching Band absence for the year. *
- B.) Receive a grade of no less than 90% in all Jazz Band-related activities, with no more than two unexcused Jazz Band absences for the year. *
- C.) Take private instrumental lessons outside of the school day on at least a bi-weekly basis with a professional instructor that must be pre-approved by the Band Director. (A log will be provided to track lesson dates and must be turned in at the end of each marking period.)
- D.) Regularly participate in a community band, worship band, etc. on their primary band instrument. This band must be pre-approved by the Band Director and hold at least two performances annually to which the Band Director will be invited.
- E.) Complete an audition for Bergen County or Region I Band or Jazz Band.
- F.) Demonstrate proficiency by playing all 12 major scales on their instrument in a number of octaves consistent with the NJSMA Region 1 Band instrument audition ranges for high school students. (Percussionists must fulfill this requirement on a mallet instrument.) This requirement must be completed before the end of the second marking period.

** Unexcused absences are those without prior approval from the Band Director in accordance with this Band Handbook. Exceptions will be made for cases of emergency or extreme illness provided the student submits documentation explaining the nature of the circumstances that precluded their participation.*

Verification

Once three of the above criteria have been met, approved students should submit the proper documentation to the Band Director for verification and who will submit these and any other necessary documents to school administration for approval and inclusion on the student's academic transcript.

USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Lyndhurst High School provides many items for use by its student musicians through the funds budgeted for our Music department. Students are fully responsible for the proper care, maintenance, and return of these items in the same way as school textbooks, technology devices, etc. Failure to return any of these in a condition deemed acceptable by the Band Director may result in fines or the delay of grades or graduation accessories/transcripts. Such items include but are not limited to:

<i>Amplifiers</i>	<i>Instrument lyres</i>	<i>Music stand lights</i>
<i>Audio cables</i>	<i>Instrument parts</i>	<i>Music stands</i>
<i>Books</i>	<i>Instrument stands</i>	<i>Power cables</i>
<i>Bow ties</i>	<i>Instruments</i>	<i>Recordings</i>
<i>CDs</i>	<i>Laptop computers</i>	<i>Repair tools</i>
<i>Costumes</i>	<i>Marching uniforms</i>	<i>Sheet music</i>
<i>Dresses</i>	<i>Mixers</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
<i>DVDs</i>	<i>Mouthpieces</i>	<i>Tuxedos</i>
<i>Garment Bags</i>	<i>Music books</i>	<i>Wiring</i>

TRIPS

The Lyndhurst High School Band program supports student opportunities for performance outside of the local area. By traveling to perform, students learn additional skills in time management, performance planning, concert programming and preparation, acoustics and audio engineering, and increase their cultural knowledge and appreciation while proudly representing their school in locations less familiar alongside their peers. As stated in the grading policy, all students who attend Band trips while a member are expected to participate in any performances scheduled for their group(s) and will be graded accordingly. Expectations of student behavior while on trips will remain the same as if the student were in school, regardless of the student's age, whether or not school is in session, or parent presence. All schoolwork missed while on trips must be made up in a timely fashion.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be made primarily via email, the BAND app, and in-person methods. Students are responsible for the information disseminated in these three ways. Parents are encouraged to check their emails and help students to monitor new information being received. The Band Director will be available during school hours for any additional questions or concerns. (Email is preferred, though Mr. Chwalyk may also be reached by calling Lyndhurst High School at 201-896-2100 and dialing extension 4031.)

LYNDHURST MUSIC ASSOCIATION

The Lyndhurst Music Association is the primary parent-teacher organization for the Lyndhurst High School Band, Chorale, and Color Guard programs. All parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to join, attend meetings, and check their emails for the latest information on the means and needs to support our Band students.

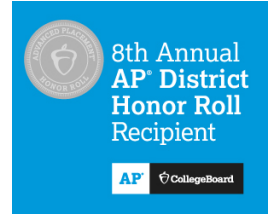


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2023-2024 LHS Band Handbook Student/Parent Verification and Signature Page

Dear Mr. Chwalyk,

We have read and understand the information provided in the 2023-2024 LHS Band Handbook and intend to conform to its policies and protocols. The student listed below has parent/guardian permission to attend all band-related events and to take school transportation to them as necessary. We understand students are responsible for any classwork missed as a result of Band-related activities. We will reach out to you if we need any clarification or additional information.

Student Name: (Print) _____
(required)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
(required) *(required)*

Parent/Guardian Name(s): (Print) _____
(required)

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____ Date: _____
(required) *(required)*

_____ Date: _____
(optional) *(optional)*

Parent Email #1: _____ Phone: _____
(required) *(required)*

Email #2: _____ Phone: _____
(optional) *(optional)*

Please include any additional information you think may be helpful:

This form is due no later than Friday, September 8, 2023.