

Purpose of the Handbook

This handbook has been prepared for the Lee's Summit West High School Band program as a reference for you and your parents. It outlines the requirements, rules, and regulations that you will need to know as a member of the band. Please read this information carefully and keep it for future reference.

You will receive a separate calendar of events listing all performance dates and rehearsals where your attendance is required. Occasionally, additional dates will be given to you with a two-week notice. Please notify your parents and your employer **NOW** so that they might plan accordingly.

A group such as ours is a unique experience. Everyone contributes equally. We are all important parts of the group, each having his/her own individual job to do. Without 100% effort from everyone, we are much like a 100 piece puzzle with some of the pieces missing. The total picture does not appear. It is each member's responsibility to contribute their best effort to the group in order for the group to succeed.

Our goals for the group are to (1) continue the tradition of excellence in music that has come to be expected in the Lee's Summit R-7 School District, (2) develop our musicianship and establish a characteristic individual and ensemble sound, and (3) make sure that each member of this organization feels they are a valuable part of the group. Your hard work through daily rehearsals, individual practice, and performance will help us get there.

We wish you much success as a member of the Lee's Summit West High School Band and we sincerely thank you for your involvement.

Clifton D. Thurmond
Director of Bands
Lee's Summit West High School

Shawn A. Harrel
Associate Director of Bands
Lee's Summit West High School

Rehearsals

Daily Rehearsals - Our class rehearsals will start promptly at 10:24 am (or 10:35am on Tuesdays). Students are expected to be in their 4th hour classroom by this time. During marching season, our classroom is **outside** in the assigned parking area. For the benefit of the group, please make sure you are on time for rehearsal. Band members will be responsible for knowing the music prior to rehearsals as rehearsals are our opportunity to put the pieces together, not to learn each individual part.

Evening – Our Tuesday rehearsals (sometimes Thursdays, please reference the schedule) will start promptly at 5:55pm. As in morning rehearsals, the expectations are the same. Our rehearsals end by 9:00pm, please make sure you are picked up at this time so the staff can get home as well.

Attendance

It is essential that all rehearsals and performances be absence-free. All absences are UNEXCUSED unless otherwise arranged. **To make arrangements for an absence your parent must contact Mr. Thurmond personally via email, voice mail, or on paper.** This must be done at least two weeks in advance, except in the case of emergency. The directors reserve the right to decide whether or not an absence is excused.

Music

You have been issued a copy of the music for this year's show in a 3-ring binder. Please write your name on the back of it so that if it is left somewhere we know whose it is. It is each band members' responsibility to keep track of his/her music. During concert and jazz band season we will be keeping our music in folders in the music room. Please take it home and practice it as needed. Lost music will be replaced at the cost established by the publisher. In most cases this is \$3-\$4 per part plus shipping. (<http://www.jwpepper.com>)

Marching Uniforms

Whenever members are in the "public eye" they are expected to be in **FULL UNIFORM**. Any exception to this rule, on specific occasions, will be announced by the director. To let anyone else wear a part of your band uniform, or to wear any part of it improperly yourself, is a disgrace to this band and what it stands for.

Care

1. Uniform check-out will occur during band camp. It is then your responsibility to take care of it. **Fines will be assessed for misuse of the uniform.**
2. Uniforms are to be hung neatly when not being worn. You must use the original hanger so that the coat and trousers maintain their shape. Uniforms are **NOT** to be carried around in the trunk or back seat of your car, or thrown into a locker.
3. Shoes and Helmets are to be cleaned prior to **EACH** performance. You must wear black socks with the uniform.

Proper Uniform Wearing

1. Your pride in being a member of the Lee's Summit West Titan Marching Band is reflected in the way you wear your uniform.
2. Your uniform must be free of mud, dirt, or dust for each performance. If you need to take your uniform to the cleaners, Lee's Summit Cleaners does good work.
3. Shoes, Helmets, and gloves must be clean.
4. **HAIR LENGTH:** Any member whose hair touches the top of the uniform collar must either wear their hair up or get a haircut! **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
5. When in public, members are to wear the uniform **COMPLETELY** or not at all. Hats and gloves may be carried. **Hats will never be worn backwards.**
6. Jewelry is not to be worn with the uniform. Members with pierced ears are to wear posts (studs) only. No neck jewelry or rings that show are allowed. Watches may not be worn.
7. Nothing is to be pinned or attached to the uniform (buttons, ribbons, flowers, medals, etc.)
8. The directors and student leaders will conduct a uniform inspection prior to each performance. Any member will be removed from the performance block if improper uniform care and wearing is not corrected and will forfeit the appropriate points.

Concert Band Uniform

The Lee's Summit West High School Symphonic and Concert Band will use a standard concert dress for all concerts. Men will wear a tuxedo. This will be checked out to you at the beginning of concert season for a \$20 fee (men are required to purchase a tuxedo shirt and a bowtie). Black dress shoes and dress socks are also required. The women will purchase a uniform black dress. This dress will be ordered through the directors. Black hose and shoes must be worn as well. **Please do not make any variations on these requirements.** Failure to wear the correct uniform will be cause for removal from the performance and a forfeit of the appropriate points.

Rehearsal and Performance Dates

You will receive another sheet with the dates for required rehearsals and performances for the marching band season. Every entry on the marching band schedule is worth points towards your grade.

When we reach concert season, there are very few, if any, extra dates in addition to the ones on the calendar.

Marching Band / Symphonic Band / Concert Band Dates: (check the calendar at -- www.titanmusic.org)

<h2>Please check the separate sheet for dates!</h2>

Please make sure that you add the dates to your calendar **NOW!** Please complete the contract at the end of this handbook using the following dates. If you have no conflicts, please write "NO CONFLICTS" in the appropriate area on the contract.

Symphonic Band / Concert Band

The purpose of these bands is to:

1. serve as a core foundation for all instrumental musical activities at Lee's Summit West High School
2. provide an environment in which to explore the true art of expression through musical instruments

We will be working on all facets of music, from the basic ideas through the very complex, technical skills and how to incorporate them into our performance, performance etiquette, self-discipline, and development of aesthetic values for the art of music performance.

The Lee's Summit West Titan Marching Band

The purposes of the LSWHS Marching Band are to:

- (1) provide halftime entertainment at its best
- (2) participate in ceremonial functions and serve the community
- (3) serves as a musical/physical outlet for those seeking such activity
- (4) contribute greatly to the high morale and spirit found at LSWHS
- (5) compete at a high level of excellence in area competitions.

As a member of the LSWHS Marching Band, everything that you do on the field is vitally important. **Everyone is a "first chair" player in marching band.** On the football field, the visual arena is so large and complex that no one can see all elements of the performance at one time. However, every member of the band will at some point in the show, be individually seen by someone in the audience. The attention of the audience is immediately drawn to anyone who is not absolutely uniform in every move. Absolute uniformity without error requires each individual's attention 100% of the time.

Football Game Procedures

One of the responsibilities of the marching band is to provide entertainment, support and excitement to football games. This occurs not only during halftime, but while we are in the stands as well. The band is an active participant in the atmosphere of the football game from the very beginning of the game to the final seconds. With this large responsibility comes its own set of rules and acceptable behaviors. The following will provide a guideline for your responsibilities as a band member during football games.

- (1) Students must sit in assigned places by section.
- (2) Friends and family from outside the band are not allowed to sit in the band bleachers
- (3) Every member of the band must participate in music and organized cheers/cadences

Be sure to have dinner before reporting to the school for football games to ensure you'll have enough energy to make it through the night! While we are in the stands, permission for restroom breaks will be allowed, but the band will be actively involved the **entire game**. Your decision to disregard any of these rules will result in a warning followed by a loss of participation points (see "Grading" below). Any further discipline will be at the discretion of the director.

Jazz Band

The jazz band will study various styles of jazz from classic big band swing to modern day styles. Players will get many chances to perform and work on expression through solo improvisation. We will also learn different types of scales that work with jazz improvisation. This group's membership is decided by audition and rehearses before and/or after school. Auditions times will be announced at the beginning of the fall semester and a schedule of rehearsals and performances will be devised at that time.

Grading and Evaluation

Grading and assessment for this class will be based on points accumulated throughout each semester. Your grade will reflect performance in class, performance in related musical activities, attendance at required rehearsals and performances, and turning in paperwork. The following is a breakdown for your grade:

Evening Rehearsals and Performances	50%
Playing Tests/Sectionals	30%
Daily Points/Assignments	20%

The following is a list of some of, but not limited to, the ways you can lose points:

Tardy	½ pts possible
No Equipment	½ pts possible
No Music	¼ pts possible
Behavior	Director's Discretion
Unexcused Absence	All points possible

Playing Tests

Playing tests will be assigned by the director along with a due date. Playing tests are occasionally performed "live" in front of Mr. Thurmond or Mr. Harrel, but often will need to be turned in on tape/CD/mp3, etc... A loss of 25% of the points possible will be assessed each day for late tests. These tests are to be done at home or at school on your own time. Please make arrangements to record your test prior to the due date. You may not use school equipment for recording on the due date.

Personal Conduct

The actions of individuals always reflect on the image of the entire band as well as our school and community. Consider that a person's negative actions hurt not only themselves, but the other members in the band as well.

If inappropriate personal conduct adversely affects the band, its rehearsals or its performances, immediate actions will be taken. Minor infractions will be dealt with within the band organization. Major infractions may involve school administration and possibly removal from the program.

Classroom Rules

1. Be on time to rehearsal.
2. Be ready to play when it is time to play. Know your part!!
3. Always pay attention to what is going on in rehearsal.
4. Please, when we are working a section, stay quiet.
5. No gum, candy, food, or drinks in the rehearsal room. Exceptions will be made on special events.
6. Please control your language.
7. Respect each other and each other's equipment.
8. Be ready to play your part at any given time.
9. Always have a pencil to mark parts.
10. Take great pride in what you do.

Rules ensure that our time is not wasted. In order for us to get to our top playing level we must make sure that we follow the rules.

LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND
VOCABULARY

1. BLOCK BAND - Band members in assigned position rank and file.
2. RANK - In Block Band Formation, bandsmen side by side
3. FILE - In Block Band Formation, bandsmen directly behind each other.
4. GUIDE RIGHT - When band aligns to person on far right.
5. GUIDE LEFT - When band aligns to person on far left.
6. DRESS RIGHT / DRESS LEFT / DRESS CENTER - to correct alignment in ranks literally.
7. COVER DOWN - to correct alignment in files, from to back. Stand or march directly behind bandsmen ahead of you.
8. FLOAT - moving a line or form to another position in a given number of counts using adjusting size steps to remain in original line or form (stay between two people).
9. HALFWAY TECHNIQUE - the technique of arriving at a point half the total distance in half the total steps.
10. INTERVAL - Distance between band members.
11. CARRIAGE - Correct posture. (Instrument carriage - see section leader)
12. CURVILINEAR - A curved line or line, often a portion of a circle.
13. FALL IN - Take up position in basic formation
14. ATTENTION – Clearly defined position of readiness for action on receiving orders.
15. PARADE REST – Clearly defined position of “rest,” used most often while delivering instructions.
16. AT EASE - Relax but do not talk. Be ready for immediate instruction.
17. HORNS UP - Bring instruments to playing position in specified number of counts.
18. BRASS PLAYING ANGLE - 10 degrees above level -- Not parallel to the ground. Refers to normal playing angle of the brass instrument at 10 degrees above level.
19. MARK TIME - keep steady rhythm with feet. (Lift heels 1” only) No forward motion.
20. TO THE BOX - Instrument is elevated approximately 30 degrees.
21. SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE - Exactly halfway between person on right and left
22. DRAG STEP - Moving backward with the toes never leaving the ground and heels never touching the ground -- using the toe as a guide for direction and keep legs straight.
23. FORWARD MARCH - Begin on left foot.

24. SLIDE - Horns front regardless of the direction of movement (right, left or backwards).
25. SPACING - Always stand an equal distance between two people.
26. 8 TO 5 - 22 ½" step (8 equal steps between yard lines).
27. EQUAL STEPS - Size of step depends on the number of steps and the distance traveled.

Position of Attention:

Poised but not rigid. Check the following:

Heels	Together
Feet	Apart 90 degrees
Hips	Adjusted under your center of gravity, not too far back or front
Stomach	In
Chest	Out
Shoulders	Back and down, not tense
Elbows	Frozen
Chin	Up
Eyes	With Pride

This portion of the handbook needs to be signed by you and your parents and handed back to me. This is your first assignment and it is worth 50 points!

I have read through this handbook and understand the rules of our band. I also understand that my actions affect everyone in the group. I will, therefore, follow the rules in this handbook.

Your signature _____

Parent's signature _____

Date _____

Below, please list all events on the marching schedule with which you have a conflict. Please also list what the conflicting activity is. If you have no conflicts, please write "NO CONFLICTS".