



West Lincoln Middle School

2026-27 7th/8th Grade Band Handbook

Mrs. Emily Lowery, Director
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westlincolnband.org

Welcome to our Parents and Students!

This handbook is intended to inform band parents and students of the West Lincoln Middle School Band Program policies and procedures. If situations or conditions arise during the year that are not addressed in this handbook, the director will make a decision that is in the best interest of the student and the program.

West Lincoln Middle School Band Program Mission

The West Lincoln Middle School Band Program will deliver a comprehensive, balanced, and sequential instructional program designed to provide all beginning to intermediate level band students with fundamental music skills and knowledge in agreement with local, state, and national standards that will inspire students to be creative, life-long learners and patrons of the arts.

Mrs. Lowery's Philosophy of Music

As a musician and educator, I believe all students deserve the right to a well-rounded education in music. Students should be provided with a classroom atmosphere that will give them the greatest opportunity for success. This includes ensuring students feel safe and comfortable exploring and learning. Every teacher should come to school organized, prepared, and with an open-heart ready to help and prepare students for their futures. The goal is not for every student to become a professional musician, but rather to develop a lifelong appreciation for music and the arts. Music teaches responsibility, patience, self-discipline, and dedication, giving students the opportunity to develop these skills and provide them with an education that will fully prepare them for future careers.

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BAND FEES

Students will need a band polo and t-shirt for performances throughout the school year. The total cost of both is \$35 (\$20 for polo and \$15 for t-shirt). If your student already has a band polo, they do not need to purchase a new one unless their old one is too small or may become too small throughout the school year. If their old polo is still in good condition, you can donate their old polo to the band and only pay \$10 for their new polo.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The following is a list of supplies that students will need for band for the school year. If you already have any of these supplies, it will not be necessary to buy them again. Most of these items can be used through high school and in most instances, on into college. Finally, all students need to label their instrument case/stick bag, music books, and binder with their full name.

- Instrument in good playing condition
- Care Kit for your instrument (valve oil, reeds, cleaning swabs)
- Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician (included in rental from Music & Arts)
- Band Binder
- A PENCIL (keep it in your case)

ATTENDANCE

The rehearsal and performance schedule is set well in advance, allowing students to plan other activities and obligations around the established schedule. The Director should be notified in advance (if possible) if a student is going to be absent from a performance. Absences from band performances/rehearsals are unexcused unless due to (a) viable personal illness (parent request), (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, or (d) special permission of the Director obtained in advance by the parent/guardian. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas.

Students missing a performance (excused or unexcused), will complete an alternate assignment. The assignment will be due one (1) week after the missed performance. The student may choose one of the following two assignments:

- Perform all missed performance music individually for the director.
- Write a 3 page (typed, double spaced, 12 font) biography of a composer. The student may choose a composer from the performance material of the missed performance.

A rehearsal/performance absence form is located on the band website (www.westlincolnband.org) and must be completed for each missed performance. The form should be submitted a minimum of 3 days prior to the missed event for known issues. For all other missed events, forms must be submitted on the day following the student's return to school. Forms not submitted during the allotted time will be considered an unexcused absence. **This form must be completed online.**

GRADING POLICY

Band is a performance-based class meaning all grades will come from student performance on their instruments. This includes daily participation, pass offs, and concerts. Students will be graded upon the following:

Assignment	Points Per Assignment	Total Possible Points (per Semester)
Concerts*	250 points	250
Class Participation	25 points/week x 16 weeks	450
Pass Off Tests	20 points x 15 tests	300
Total Possible Points		1000

**If there is more than one concert in a single semester, the average of both concerts will be what determines the final grade for the concert category.*

- ★ Not attending the performance (or doing the alternate assignment) will result in a grade of 0. Unexcused absences from performances will be eligible to receive a concert great no higher than 85%.

- ★ Not having an instrument/materials in class more than once will result in the participation grade being lowered by 2-5 points for each day materials aren't present (First time is a freebie. It will not lower the grade). Parent contact will occur after the 3rd time.
- ★ A student that does not actively participate in class will receive a 0 for the day regardless of whether materials are present. (Students can still participate even if they forgot their instrument!)

PRACTICE POLICY

It is expected students practice at least one hour total every week outside of class to adequately progress as a young musician.

CLASSROOM RULES

The following is a list of classroom rules that ALL students are expected to follow.

- No talking or playing out of turn when the director is working/talking.
- Respect yourself and others (including property!)
- No food, gum, or drinks (other than water) in the band room.
- Follow the West Lincoln Middle School Core Values:
 - Character
 - Honor
 - Integrity
 - Excellence
 - Fearlessness

CONCERT ATTIRE

For all stage performances (Christmas concert, spring concert) students will wear the following attire. All items must be in the school dress code!

Gentlemen: Band Polo (included in beginning of year band fee), black pants, black socks, and black shoes.

Ladies: Band Polo (included in beginning of year band fee), black pants/skirt (Skirts must be below the knee when seated), black shoes.

CARE OF INSTRUMENTS

Handle with care! Your instrument is made of breakable parts, so be careful handling it. Do not let younger siblings handle your instrument.

- ★ Always store your instrument safely in the case when you are not playing it.
- ★ Before you pick up your case, make sure the latches are closed.
- ★ Do not let the instrument get too hot or too cold. For example, avoid leaving it in the car for an extended period of time on an extremely hot or cold day.
- ★ Do not drink (except water) or eat right before playing your instrument. If you do eat or drink something other than water, brush your teeth before playing. This will keep sugar and other crud from building up in your instrument.

Flutes and reed instruments:

- ★ Swab your instrument out after each time you play it.
- ★ Clarinets and Saxophones should remove their reed after each playing and place it back in the reed case.

Brass:

- ★ Check valves and slides each day for proper oiling and greasing (Oil valves once a week).
- ★ Using a mouthpiece brush, clean the mouthpiece out weekly.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Help select a regular practice time and place for your child.
- Check Apptegy and Google Classroom regularly for updates, monthly newsletters, etc.
- Encourage your child through positive support. Listen to practice sessions on occasion.
- Set aside our concert/performance dates to be sure you and your child can attend.
- Help students care for their instruments (maintenance, keep others from handling/playing, etc.)

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MRS. LOWERY

Phone: (704)276-1760 ext.73335 (12:05 - 1:20 on school days)

E-mail: emily.lowery@lincoln.k12.nc.us

Please keep me informed of any issues that may be impeding your child's progress. I am happy to help, we are in this together!

BAND AGREEMENT FORM

Students and parents are required to fill out and return the Band Agreement form at the beginning of each year for the West Lincoln Middle School Band. This form tells me, as the Director, that both the parent and student have read, understood, and agree to the rules, guidelines, etc. outlined in the Band Handbook.

FUNDRAISING

The West Lincoln Middle School Band Program holds no more than 4 fundraising events during the school year. These fundraisers are the primary source of funding for the band. The funds raised during these two events help us to purchase music, purchase new equipment, repair school owned equipment, etc.

We ask that each student try to sell 10 items during each fundraiser. There are multiple rewards put into place to encourage students to do their best!

West Lincoln Middle School Band Handbook Agreement

I have read the 2026-27 West Lincoln Middle School Band Handbook and understand all of the policies and procedures listed therein. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the West Lincoln Middle School Band Program.

I understand the responsibilities as well as privileges of membership in the West Lincoln Middle School Band and by signing below agree to uphold the high standards set by the West Lincoln Band Program. I understand if I fail to uphold the rules and expectations of the West Lincoln Middle School Band, I risk the possibility of being asked to leave the Band program.

Student Printed Name

Student T-shirt size

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

This sheet is due by Friday, August 21st

Please return only the signed sheet. The handbook will stay in your student's band binder.
Thank you!