



**Land O' Lakes High School**

***Member Handbook***

**Johnathon Mulder, Director of Bands  
Ric Mellin, Principal**

Welcome to the Land O' Lakes High School Band Program! You are now part of a program rich in excellence, dedication, and pride. Our program has established itself as an outstanding organization and it now your responsibility to conduct yourself in a way that represents the values of our organization. The experience of performance is dependent on each person performing at a high level as an individual so that the group can succeed.

This handbook is designed to serve as a resource for parents and students. All members and parents are required to read the handbook carefully to understand the structure and procedures of our ensemble. All school and Pasco County rules apply to all students within our program. Please note that the band director has the authority to amend any policy at any time in the best interest of the band program or individual student.

### **1. Music Department Objectives**

1. Provide a high level musical experience for all members
2. Represent ourselves as an important part of our school and local community
3. Create a positive atmosphere where each member is expected to reach their highest potential as a musician and a person
4. Foster a culture of respect for our peers, school, community and families
5. Create well rounded musicians with skills to succeed in any pursuit after high school

### **2. Expectations for All Members**

1. Be on time and prepared
2. Treat **everyone** with respect
3. Be responsible for your own actions and preparedness
4. Meet all challenges with a positive attitude
5. Represent yourself as a mature and productive individual in band, in school and online
6. Keep your instrument and work space in a professional and clean working order

### **3. Academic Expectations**

All students are expected to be responsible student musicians. Music requires students to be well-organized and proactive in academic classes. All members **must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average** for full participation in band activities. Members must also represent themselves in a positive manner when dealing with teachers and administrators. Students may be withheld from any event for academic reasons or conduct at the director's discretion. Those not meeting academic expectations at the beginning of the marching band season will not be offered a spot in the marching band show.

### **4. Performance Eligibility Guidelines**

To maintain performance eligibility, students must meet the personal expectations and academic expectations required for all members.

1. Students may be withheld from any performance in any case where basic member expectations and academic expectations are not met.
2. Co-curricular event eligibility (concerts, football games, and evaluations) will be addressed by the band director with the interest of the student's future success in mind.
3. Ineligible students will be assigned alternative assignments for full or partial class credit depending on the situation.

4. Students who are academically ineligible at the beginning of the marching season will not be offered a drill spot in the marching band show. They will be offered a stands-only spot on a case by case basis.
5. Students who miss an excessive amount of rehearsals may be removed from performances or the marching band show for the overall benefit of their peers.

## 5. Ensemble Membership

The music programs are open to all students who desire to be involved in music. Our instrumental programs require previous experience. Students are placed into appropriate courses, as determined by the director and the school. All participating students must enroll in a co-curricular full year course. Everyone has the opportunity to participate in music ensembles in they meet the membership expectations stated above. ***All ensembles meet as co-curricular courses and require after school rehearsals and performances as a grade element of the course.***

### IB Students

Students who are enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at Land O' Lakes High School are welcome and encouraged to participate in band. Students in IB must balance their academics, their commitment to the band, and additional extracurricular activities. Due to the elective course requirements of the IB program, IB students are the only students who are granted an exception to the course enrollment requirement. These students may participate solely as an extra-curricular activity. IB students are expected to prioritize their participation in the band program and dedicate significant individual practice time in order to compensate for lost in-class rehearsal time. IB students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances in order to participate in band.

### Marching Gators

All members of the band programs participate as members of the Marching Gators. The Marching Gators perform on Friday nights at football games and at competitions each fall. Band members with ***school sports*** conflicts deemed unavoidable by the band director may perform as stands only members of the marching band. These situations are rare and are evaluated on a case by case basis. This policy also applies to those who have medical limitations that would prevent them from marching in the halftime show.

Stands only members will be given other assignments for the points earned at marching rehearsals. These students are expected to perform in pregame and in the stands at home football games and in parades unless the medical or school sports conflict prevents this from occurring. Stands only members are responsible for the fair share fee and are considered full members of the band. Please reference the Stands Only document included with the syllabus for specific assignments.

All members who are marching a spot in halftime show are expected to attend band camp in July and August. Late registrations or move ins may be added to the marching show depending on their level of experience and ability to learn. This will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

### Color guard

Color guard is an opportunity for those desiring to perform that do not play an instrument. This is a visual ensemble that performs in the fall as a part of the marching band and in the spring as a member of the winterguard. The ensembles focuses on dance, flag, rifle, and sabre performance.

Members of the color guard are considered members of the band follow all guidelines that apply to band members.

### Concert Ensembles

Land O' Lakes has 2 concert bands of varying ability levels. Each band is designed to serve musicians in different stages of their musical development. All placement is done via an evaluation process at the end of each school year, taking into account the band director's discretion for the most beneficial placement for each student.

1. Wind Ensemble – The Wind Ensemble is the top auditioned concert ensemble in our program. Auditions are held at the end of each school year for the following school year. The number of musicians in the ensemble is restricted. This ensemble performs advanced literature and requires several after school rehearsals in the Spring. It is extremely rare for first year members to audition into this ensemble. Students in this ensemble are required to participate in district Solo and Ensemble, and prepare the audition music for All State and All County Band. Members of Wind Ensemble are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.
2. Symphonic Band – The Symphonic Band is the intermediate concert ensemble. The number of musicians in this ensemble is not restricted. This ensemble is designed for developing musicians. The focus of this ensemble is fundamental musicianship. This ensemble performs intermediate literature and requires some after school rehearsals in the Spring. Students in Symphonic Band are encouraged to take private lessons, participate in district Solo and Ensemble, and prepare the music for All County Band.
3. Percussion Ensemble – Each member of the percussion program participates in the Spring as a member of the percussion ensemble. Percussion ensemble part assignments are made at the discretion of the director relative to the student's ability level. Percussion Ensemble members will participate in solo performance at district Solo and Ensemble.
4. Jazz Ensembles – Each member of the jazz ensemble in a traditional band class or in the co-curricular jazz course. Those in jazz ensemble will perform additional community performances including weekend and some travel performances.

### **6. Rehearsals and Rehearsal Expectations**

***All rehearsals are graded co-curricular elements of the band classes.*** These rehearsals are an integral part of the learning experience of the class and allow for specific and whole group instruction on a level and setting that is not feasible during the school day.

### Marching Gators

Marching Gators rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-6pm starting the week school begins and running through the end of marching season (normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November). To receive full credit for the rehearsal, each member must be on time, engaged, give full effort and have these items for each rehearsal.

1. Short sleeve uniform band dry-fit shirt or plain grey t-shirt
2. Plain all-black athletic shorts
3. Athletic shoes (flip flops, sandals, or slip-ons are not allowed)
4. Insulated 1 gallon water cooler with water
5. Flip folder and lyre with appropriate music
6. Dot book and coordinate sheet for your drill spot
7. Guard gloves (Guard only)

Fall colorguard rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-6pm starting the week school begins and running through the end of marching season (normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November). The same items listed above are required to receive full credit for rehearsals with the exception of the flip folder and lyre.

### Concert Bands

Concert band rehearsals are held weekly in the weeks leading up to concerts. Wind Ensemble rehearses on Tuesdays and Symphonic Band rehearses on Thursdays. These schedules are posted on Charms at least one month in advance. Concert band rehearsal times are generally from 3-4:30pm with the exception of rehearsals where clinicians will be attending. Advanced notice will be given in the event of a rehearsal with a different time.

## **7. Equipment and Instruments**

We are lucky to have a large stock of school owned instruments. Any student who is loaned a school instrument must fill out a form and accept 100% responsibility for the care and maintenance of the instrument. These instruments are loaned free of charge but lost, damaged, stolen, or poorly maintained instruments are replaced or repaired at the borrowing student's expense. At any time the director may ask for the loaned equipment to be returned within 3 days.

## **8. Uniforms and Inspection Guidelines**

Wearing the uniform and apparel of the Land O' Lakes Band is a privilege. It is a representation of our school and our organization. We will always present ourselves in a neat and professional manner. The of our uniforms is covered in the band fair share fee.

### Marching Uniforms

1. The uniform is only to be worn with pride.
2. Each student is responsible for all uniform pieces in their possession.
3. Any lost or damaged items will be replaced at student expense.
4. At the conclusion of each performance the uniform is to be hung properly and neatly before leaving.
5. Pants and jackets are only to be sewn or altered by uniform coordinators. Please report any problems with fit to the coordinators.
6. Wind players must wear solid black gloves.
7. The most updated grey dry-fit shirt, knee length black socks and all black shorts are required under the uniform for all performances.
8. Blue show shirts are worn to school on game days and to all pep rallies.

### Marching Inspections

To maintain our professional appearance as an ensemble, each student undergoes an inspection before performances. Part of the grade given for the performance includes passing inspection and having all necessary equipment for performance. Any student who does not pass inspection will be docked points for the performance, and in some cases will be withheld from performance. Being prepared is the most simple way to pass inspection. The guidelines are below.

1. Hair may not touch the collar of the marching uniform. Members with long hair must wear a ponytail or bun that can be put up into the marching band hat.
2. A small amount of natural colored makeup is permitted.

3. Clear or light flesh colored nail polish is permitted during performances.
4. All performers should remove bracelets, rings, and watches.
5. Socks must be the long black dress style without patterns or text.
6. Each member must wear a clean dry-fit band shirt and black athletic shorts under their uniform.
7. Shoes should be clean and polished. Only the band issued Dinkle shoes are permitted in marching performance.
8. Facial piercings must be covered or removed.

### Concert Uniforms

Our concert uniforms are worn at all concerts throughout the year. We always want to present a professional image. Please iron your clothes and use a garment bag if we are traveling for a concert performance. Please arrive dressed and stay dressed (unless otherwise instructed) until we have exited the performance venue.

Gentlemen wear black dress pants and a long sleeve black dress shirt. Black dress shoes and socks must also be worn. Please do not wear suspenders, socks with patterns on them, or shoes other than dress shoes. If a belt is being worn with the pants it must be a black dress belt. Depending on the ensemble, students may be issued tuxedo pants and a jacket. In this case, all policies regarding marching uniforms apply. It is the responsibility of the student to have the uniform pants hemmed appropriately and cleaned.

Ladies should wear a black dress blouse that covers the shoulders and black dress pants. Flat-soled black dress shoes must also be worn. Please do not wear high heels, colored hair bows or ties, patterned pants, or sweaters. Ladies in some ensembles may be issued a concert dress. In this case, all policies regarding marching uniforms apply. It is the responsibility of the student to have the dress hemmed and cleaned.

Percussion students will wear a long sleeve black dress shirt or blouse and black dress pants with flat, black dress shoes and socks. This applies for percussion ensemble performances and concert band performances.

### **9. Attendance Policies**

*“Communication is the key to success.”*

The band as a whole counts on each member to be present for rehearsals and performances so we can perform at our best. Rehearsals are our study sessions and performances are our tests. **All band events including, but not limited to, concerts, performances, evaluations, parades, rehearsals, and competitions are graded co-curricular extensions of the classroom.** These events are essential to the school music experience and the development of students as musicians. Please carefully read these guidelines relating to attendance.

1. Concerts, performances, evaluations, parades, rehearsals, and competitions are required, graded elements of the class in which you are enrolled.
2. Absences from concerts, performances, evaluations, parades, rehearsals, and competitions will result in a loss of points for the grading category and date.
3. Absences from concerts, performances, evaluations, parades, rehearsals, and competitions can result in temporary or permanent performance ineligibility.

4. Absences should be communicated with at least two weeks advance notice.

Absences are not always avoidable. These events will grant an opportunity for the student to complete a make-up assignment if communication is made with the band director WELL BEFORE the event to be missed. If communication is not made from a parent/guardian to the band director, then no make-up assignment will be permitted.

1. Death in the family (obviously this is not a foreseeable situation, but please communicate whenever possible if this affects you)
2. Extreme personal illness – An email from the parent/guardian before the event missed is expected in this case (The student is expected to show a doctor's note and/or the parent should contact the band director in advance)
3. A wedding in which the student is participating as a member of the wedding party
4. Participating in a game for a school competitive sport (This does not apply to major concerts, festivals, or competitions)

One of our basic expectations from our members is responsibility. Absences due to these items will not grant the student a make-up assignment because they are all avoidable with proper communication and planning. Solutions are listed beneath each point.

1. Forgetting a rehearsal or performance. (Keep a paper or electronic planner or calendar. The Charms calendar can sync directly to your phone or computer)
2. Not having transportation. (there are over 100 families in our organization and most are available to help. Communicate with a section leader and we will help you get a ride)
3. Going out of town, birthday parties, doctor/dentist appointments. (We have a very limited number of performances each year and rehearse at the most 2 times per week. The schedule is given out in June so please plan to be here)
4. Assuming rehearsal was cancelled due to weather. (We have large indoor spaces to rehearse when it rains)
5. Missing for work or jobs. (Even during our busiest times you will have 3-4 days per week available for work. Communicate with your employer in advance)
6. Parents/guardians withholding a student from participation. (Please realize this punishes the group and not your student. This will negatively affect your student's grade)
7. Sports, clubs, and activities that are not school affiliated. (Consider our rehearsal schedule before committing to other activities with busy practice schedules)

Students are expected to be on time for all events. On time means in the rehearsal location, ready to begin at the stated time. Any student arriving more than 20 minutes late will forfeit half of the rehearsal points. 3 rehearsal tardies is equal to one absence.

### School Athletics and Clubs

Our students are encouraged to participate in school sports and clubs. We have great relationships with these programs. **Please realize that communication on your part is the key to success.** Practices or meetings may not take precedence over any band performance. In the event there is a performance and game at the same time communicate with the director in advance and we will talk directly with the coaches to reach a solution. Please do not sign up for any optional events that will conflict with our major events. Students who commit to jazz ensemble or the top concert ensemble will be expected to make that their top priority regarding after school rehearsals and events.

## **10. Grading**

Specific grading categories are published in each class syllabus. All students are expected to make progress in their area of study throughout the duration of the course. Performance exams and quizzes are given to evaluate progress over time. The following guidelines apply to all classes in the Land O' Lakes music programs.

1. Grades are earned on individual progress and daily demonstration in the ensemble; students are never graded based on innate ability.
2. Rehearsals and performances are required, graded elements of the class in which you are enrolled.
3. Absences from rehearsals and performances will result in a loss of points for the grading category and date.
4. Make-up assignments are only given for absences that are deemed unavoidable and communication is made well in advance.

## **11. Finances and Fees**

The band program collects a Fair Share fee for all members of the band and guard. The fee covers costs for music, entry fees, instrument maintenance for school instruments, additional staff, flags, uniform use and cleanings, and local travel. The Fair Share fee can be paid in payments outlined on the Fair Share contract or fundraised. Fundraising opportunities are available throughout the year. Students are not excluded for financial reasons, but the LOLHS administration requires that students who are not able to pay out of pocket, fundraiser or apply for scholarships to cover the fees. Band trips are a separate fee and are optional based on academic eligibility.

1. All students pay the same Fair Share fee. This fee is only a portion of the overall band budget. The rest is fundraised.
2. Fair Share may be paid or fundraised, but is expected to be paid by the end of each year.
3. Students must pay any outstanding fees before being able to check out as a senior and walk at graduation per LOLHS administration.
4. Students with outstanding fees may be excluded from additional activities (trips, festivals, banquets, etc.)
5. Students must be in good financial standing to apply for leadership and additional opportunities
6. Regarding band trip payments, all fees must be paid before the start of the trip
7. Any fees collected by the band for Fair Share are non-refundable should the student leave the program for any reason
8. Upon graduation, any additional funds in Fair Share accounts can be donated to an underclassman if the band director/treasurer is notified by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Any non-specified funds will be donated to the general fund.

## **12. Travel Expectations and Guidelines**

When travelling with the Land O' Lakes High School Band, all school and district policies apply at all times. Students are expected to represent the school and band in a positive manner. Any issues with behavior will be handled according to school and district code of conduct.

When travelling on buses, members will depart and return with the band. The exception to this rule is only when written notice is provided by a parent or guardian at least 24 hours in advance. For safety



and accountability reasons, when travelling with the band to games, parades, and competitions we are not able to check students out regardless of the situation.

### **13. Social Media Policies**

All members of the Land O' Lakes Band are expected to represent themselves with class in person, on social media, and online. When interacting with students within our school community, from other school communities, and with anyone else, the tone and intent of communication should be positive and professional. It is very important to understand that any sentiment expressed online can be interpreted as a representation of the program. Our students are expected to learn responsible communication and to use their platform to encourage their team mates and other students.

### **14. Awards and Honors**

John Philip Sousa Award (Guard and Band) – This award is presented by the director to the student who has exemplified themselves as the most outstanding member of the band program. Students receiving this award must be outstanding players and role models for future generations of band students. This is the most prestigious award given by the Land O' Lakes Band.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award (Jazz Ensemble Students Only) – This award is presented to an upperclassman who has shown outstanding ability and dedication in the areas of jazz musicianship and performance.

Most Improved Member (Guard and Band) – This award is presented to a student who has made outstanding personal progress, worked to better their ensemble, and displayed hard work and determination.

Outstanding Member (Band Only) – This award is presented to a student who goes above and beyond the call of duty, does more than is expected, and makes a positive impact on their peers. All students in the program are eligible to receive this award.

Section of the Year (Marching Band) – This award is presented to the section of the band that shows outstanding dedication and musicianship. This section demonstrates continuous progress and development while serving as an example for other sections in the ensemble. This is a section that provides a positive social environment for all members.

Band Varsity Letters and Bars – This award of recognition is presented to all members of the program who have successfully met the following criteria during the year: 1. Membership in the program for the full year, 2. No absences from performances, 3. Earned a grade of "B" or above for each grading period and, 4. No severe discipline problems.

### **15. Heat Stress and Inclement Weather Information**

Summer temperatures can cause heat stress in students. Deaths as related to athletes, has raised the awareness of heat concerns. Outside activities, particularly marching band rehearsals and performances are of great concern. Florida summers can bring sudden shifts in weather and thunderstorms can appear quickly. Familiarize yourself with the below information to be knowledgeable and aware of heat stress and weather plans.

## Heat Stress

Be on the lookout for the following symptoms as we are outside during marching band rehearsals.

- **Heat Cramps** – Painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.
- **Heat Syncope** – Weakness, fatigue and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. This is serious and predisposes to heatstroke.
- **Heat Exhaustion**
  - **Water Depletion** – Excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and body core temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headache and even unconsciousness.
  - **Salt Depletion** – Exhaustion, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and dizziness due to profuse sweating and inadequate replacement of body salts.
- **Heatstroke** – An acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure. Symptoms are nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma. It may occur suddenly without being preceded by any other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and hot dry skin. However, some heatstroke victims may sweat profusely.

Students should do the following to help prevent heat stress:

- Drink water prior to, during, and after outside activities.
- Inform the director in writing of known medical conditions and history of illness.
- Establish a regiment of outside activities to acclimate yourself to the summer heat.
- Replace salt after sweating with modest amounts. Do not take table salt unless directed by a physician.
- Notify the director if you feel signs of heat stress and need to remove yourself from the activity.

## Inclement Weather

Due to marching band rehearsals and performances happening outside, we have the following plans in place in case of inclement weather:

- *In the case of rain, the band will rehearse as normal. If rain worsens, the band will move indoors to continue rehearsal.*
- *In the case of lightning in the area, the band will remain indoors to have rehearsal.*
- *In the case of severe weather, the director will consult with administration to determine the best course of action.*

At all times, the safety of the student is the number one priority. Do not assume practice is cancelled due to weather. Changes to the schedule, rehearsal, or performance due to weather will be communicated through all mediums possible.

2020-2021 Handbook Signature Page

Parents and Students,

Please sign this form to acknowledge that you have read, understand, and agree to all policies and responsibilities including attendance, fees, grading, participation, and student expectations. These policies provide clear guidelines for the band and help us to operate smoothly. Furthermore, I have reviewed the calendar for the year and understand that rehearsals and performances are graded activities.

Initial each item

Parent    Student

_____	_____	Academic Expectations (page 2)
_____	_____	Rehearsal Expectations (page 4)
_____	_____	Uniforms – Marching and Concert (pages 5-6)
_____	_____	Attendance Policies (pages 6-7)
_____	_____	Grading (page 8)
_____	_____	Band Fair Share (page 8)
_____	_____	Travel Expectations (pages 8-9)

I (parent/guardian), \_\_\_\_\_, have read, understand, and agree to all of the policies set forth by the Land O' Lakes High School Band Handbook. I understand that my student's membership in band is a privilege.

I (student), \_\_\_\_\_, have read, understand, and agree to all of the policies set forth by the Land O' Lakes High School Band Handbook. I understand that my membership in band is a privilege.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Land O' Lakes High School Band Calendar

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
August 28	7:30pm	Home Football Game vs. Countryside HS
September 4	7:30pm	Home Football Game vs. JW Mitchell HS
September 12	8am-3pm	All State Band Auditions at JW Mitchell HS
September 18	7:30pm	Home Football Game vs. Sunlake HS
October 9	7:30pm	Home Football Game vs. Gaither HS
October 23	7:30pm	Home Football Game vs. Fivay HS
October 30	7:30pm	Home Football Game vs. Calvary Christian HS
November 12	TBD	All County Band Auditions at Cypress Creek MS/HS
December 8	7:00pm	Band Concert at Grace Family Church Land O' Lakes
December 15	7:00pm	Percussion and Jazz Concert
February 5-6	TBD	Solo and Ensemble Festival at JW Mitchell HS
February 11	TBD	Jazz MPA at Wesley Chapel HS
March 5-6	TBD	Concert Band MPA at River Ridge HS
March 22-23	TBD	State S&E and Jazz MPA at Buchholz HS
April 10	TBD	Chasco Parade
April 30-May 1	TBD	Hosting Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival
May 9	7:00pm	Percussion and Jazz Concert
May 11	7:00pm	Band Concert at Grace Family Church Land O' Lakes
May 25	7:00pm	Band Banquet at Grace Family Church Land O' Lakes
June 4	4:00pm	Graduation Performance at the USF Yuengling Center

### Marching Band Rehearsals

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-6pm  
 August 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27  
 September 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29  
 October 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

### Jazz Band Rehearsals

Mondays from 3-4:30pm  
 November 9, 16, 30  
 December 7, 14  
 January 25  
 February 1, 8  
 April 12, 19, 26  
 May 3

### Concert Band Rehearsals

Tuesdays (Wind Ensemble) and Thursdays (Symphonic Band) from 3-4:30pm  
 February 2, 9, 16, 18, 23, 25  
 March 2, 4

**\*All rehearsals and performances are required and are part of each student's grade for the nine weeks. Please check the attendance policy in the band handbook regarding absences. Due to the nature of the band program, some rehearsals and performances may be added to the calendar as the school year progresses. Calendar is subject to change. Changes made to the calendar will be made at least two weeks prior to any event\***