

# 2024-25 LT Band Handbook

## Welcome

We are happy to have you as a part of the Lake Travis High School Band. The tradition at Lake Travis High School is one of very high standards both as musicians and as citizens. Each student will be expected to uphold these standards both in and out of uniform. Being a part of the band is a commitment to our school, our team, and each other.

The Lake Travis Band Program has become recognized as one of the outstanding music programs in the state. The tradition associated with this success has grown and flourished with the school and community because of the dedicated work of many individuals.

While the musical understanding and achievement of each student is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all of our band members to each other that has allowed our program to achieve its unique position.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with your 24-25 Band Handbook. In it, you will find all the policies and procedures pertaining to the Lake Travis HS Band. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of this handbook, please feel free to ask a director. Once you have reviewed your handbook with your parents/guardians, please sign and return the contract located at the end of this booklet. We are looking forward to a great year with you as a part of the Cavalier Band Family!

## What is band really about?

As we begin this year together, it is important to discuss and understand the effect that band can have on your life and the scope in which band can have an impact. Of course, as a body of musicians, we desire to produce beautiful music together, but as you already know, band is so much more than just a music class. As you identify and evaluate members of our community, you would be pleased to find that leaders in every field received their start, and often times credit their success, to the time they spent in their high school band programs. Band is a unique experience that allows us to learn not only music, but also teaches discipline, work ethic, responsibility, punctuality, communication skills, and leadership. If you were to poll recruiters at any major university, you would find that most, if not all, would tell you that being in band sets you apart from the rest. Recruiters seek out high achieving students who have given their time and energy to band because they know that these students will succeed amongst the rigors of university life.

So, “WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME,” you ask? It means that if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere! Your hard work and dedication to our program makes you extremely desirable to potential employers and major universities. Above all else, band is designed to teach you the life leadership skills that will allow you to be successful in your future endeavors while having fun and building lifelong relationships!

# Lake Travis Band Philosophy of Instrumental Music Education

## Lake Travis Band Philosophy of Music Education

Music influences many aspects of human development, shaping individuals intellectually, physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, and socially.

Instrumental music fosters a lifelong appreciation for the arts while promoting cultural awareness and aesthetic sensitivity. The Lake Travis Band program provides students with a collaborative experience that enriches both their personal and social lives. Through a structured daily practice routine, students develop strong work habits, confidence, self-expression, and critical listening skills that enhance communication and creativity.

Our goal is to instill in every band member a deep appreciation for music while fostering self-discipline, commitment, and teamwork. With the support of students, parents, faculty, administration, and the community, the Lake Travis Cavalier Band remains dedicated to maintaining a program of excellence, recognized as one of the finest of its kind.

## Objectives

The Lake Travis Band Program, which includes wind, percussion, and dance members, is a vital part of school life and a recognized co-curricular activity. As the largest and most visible student organization on campus, band members proudly represent their school and community in a positive light.

The primary goal of the band program is to provide students with meaningful opportunities throughout their membership:

- **Cultural Growth** – Develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of music through the study and performance of exceptional literature.
- **Educational Development** – Cultivate skilled, discerning listeners, offer a well-rounded music education, and prepare students for musical opportunities beyond high school.
- **Leadership Building** – Instill strong personal values by emphasizing teamwork, responsibility, and integrity.
- **Service & School Spirit** – Enrich school and community events with music while upholding and enhancing the reputation of Lake Travis High School.
- **Social & Emotional Enrichment** – Provide students with rewarding social experiences, a creative outlet, and a meaningful way to spend their time.

## Cavalier Band Staff

Richard Hicks	Director of Bands	<a href="mailto:hicksr@ltidschools.org">hicksr@ltidschools.org</a>	512-533-6134
Ben Zein	Assistant Director	<a href="mailto:zeinb@ltidschools.org">zeinb@ltidschools.org</a>	512-533-5903
Douglas Bell	Assistant Director	<a href="mailto:belld@ltidschools.org">belld@ltidschools.org</a>	512-533-5903
Brittany Baptista	Assistant Director, LTISD Percussion Coordinator	<a href="mailto:baptistab@ltidschools.org">baptistab@ltidschools.org</a>	512-533-3984
Jordan Reddicks	Assistant Percussion Director	<a href="mailto:reddicksj@ltidschools.org">reddicksj@ltidschools.org</a>	512-533-5886
Michael Fairbrother	Color Guard Director	<a href="mailto:ltcolorguard@gmail.com">ltcolorguard@gmail.com</a>	512-533-6134

## Order of Communication

We know from time to time parents and students may have questions or concerns in regard to the Band Program. To assist you in resolving these issues, please follow the organizational chart below.

Start here and work down	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Your student's Director
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Hicks, LTHS Director of Bands
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Your student's assistant principal
4 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Garinger Principal LTHS
5 <sup>th</sup>	Shannon Gill LTISD Director of Fine Arts
6 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Lyndsaе Benton Executive Director, Curriculum & Instruction

# Marching Band

Marching Band begins with minicamp and Summer Band and continues until the end of football season, or until the band completes the final marching contest of the year. Rehearsals during the curricular year include after school, three or four days a week and extra practices scheduled by directors. All students audition for placement using prescribed music, memorization work and marching fundamentals. Some students in each section are selected as alternates. In all cases the director determines placement. Members with an unexcused absence from any rehearsal or performance may lose placement status and become alternates for the remainder of marching season. A student who does not fully participate in daily marching activities may not receive P.E. credit for the course. Failure to meet playoff deadlines or failure to meet daily requirements may result in probation or suspension.

Activities include performances in the stands and on the field at football games, pep rallies, parades, and contests. ALL members attend ALL functions, which include the following:

- Summer Band Rehearsals
- Fall Season Rehearsals
- Sectionals and other rehearsals as scheduled
- All football games
- Community parades
- UIL and invitational marching contests
- Any other performance required by the director

## Eligibility

Activities associated with the Marching Band are extracurricular including football games and all contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL, and LTISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each nine weeks. Students who fail any single class at the end of a nine-week will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the nine week period in which they failed. At the beginning of the school year, by state law, the first grade check for eligibility is at the 1st six weeks of school. Remember, this is not the report card. If at the end of the 1st six weeks your student is failing any class, then he or she must sit out from extra-curricular activities for 3 weeks, beginning the Friday after the grade check. The student can regain eligibility after the 3-week suspension by passing everything on the next grade check. If your student becomes ineligible at the six-week grade check, YOUR STUDENT WILL LOSE THEIR POSITION IN THE SHOW.

Keep in mind that if your student is passing all classes at the end of the first six weeks, your student can still lose eligibility if they fail one class on the 1st nine weeks report card. If that happens, YOUR STUDENT WOULD MISS THE REMAINDER OF FOOTBALL SEASON.

## Lake Travis High School Marching Band Alternate Policy

The following guidelines have been created to give the members of the Lake Travis High School Band information on set marching positions and alternate positions. Due to the difficulty of learning to perform our marching band show, we try to set each marching position as soon as possible. Students who meet all of the requirements of the band, school and state for this activity can have the opportunity to earn a primary marching spot.

Marching band is an activity that requires you to learn your part at school. You cannot learn your part of the drill for the show at home. Along with learning the drill we must also set balance and visual staging designs. Due to these factors we have created the following guidelines for students that cannot be at all rehearsals. We hope that all students will be included, but sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances, problems arise. The following information will help you understand your position in the marching band and your responsibilities.

It would be great to be able to march everyone all the time, but this is not always possible. At the present time it takes over 200 hours to chart the contest drill. To teach even a minor change of adding in or taking out one person would take up to 35-45 hours of teaching time for the entire group to re-learn the show. This would be about 4-5 weeks of steady instruction on just re-teaching the new material. Once we start instruction there is very little room for change. If you have any questions, please see one of the Directors. All alternate status decisions are made by the directors.

### POSSIBLE-REASONS FOR NOT HAVING A PERMANENT MARCHING BAND POSITION:

- Students not attending minicamp or auditioning for band placement in the spring.
- Any band student not attending Summer Band Camp or missing part of Summer Band Camp.
- A student missing a regular rehearsal or sectional during the school year (see Attendance guidelines). There is a difference made between an excused absence and an unexcused absence but **both are still counted as an absence.**
- Difficulties managing the visual and musical demands of the competitive show.

One of the directors will have final say about whether a student can march or not due to missing without putting someone in your position.

Sometimes it is also necessary to remove students who do not have the maturity to discipline themselves to maintain the schedule and guidelines of the Cavalier Band. When this is a problem, the directors will make the decision whether to include or exclude the student.

## **Cavalier Band Heat Policy**

We will instruct the students to increase their water intake and decrease and/or eliminate their intake of carbonated or caffeinated drinks. The students are instructed to wear light, comfortable clothes, preferably a white T-shirt and shorts. No jeans or black colored clothing will be allowed. We will instruct the students to wear caps, sunglasses, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. No sandals or similar footwear will be allowed. Students should wear an athletic-type shoe with socks.

All students will have their water jug that is provided. The Lake Travis Cavalier Band has an ice machine available to the students. The band staff will give the band members numerous water breaks. We inform the students to immediately take a break on their own if they feel dizzy or faint. They are to get their water and move to a shaded area and cool down. The student will be monitored to see if any further assistance is needed in rehearsal. If the student does not improve quickly, we will make every effort possible to contact the parent to pick them up from the practice area (if needed).

## **Marching Band Attendance Policies**

In order to have a high quality marching band, attendance from all members is essential. Work schedules, family trips, and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and long-range performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year. Students who enroll in other school activities such as (athletics, choir, drama, etc.) need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Students should request a complete semester calendar from all of their activities so that they can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. Remember that other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with the long-range rehearsal and performance schedule of the marching band. Non-school sponsored activities teams, organizations, or jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice and performance schedule of the band. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band.

### **Roll Check**

Roll check will occur promptly at the start of rehearsal in the attendance block or other location as assigned by the directors.

### **Tardiness**

Students not in the attendance block or other assigned location at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.

### **Excused Tardiness**

Tardiness is excused at the discretion of the directors. Tardiness is not excused for tutorials, work, transportation issues, appointments, Driver's Ed., homework, etc. without **approved arrangements**— as soon as possible and at least a month or so in advance.

## **Unexcused Tardiness or Early Departure**

If a student is not ready in their assigned location when roll check occurs and no prior arrangements have been made, a student will be marked tardy. **Each tardy will result in a loss of 10 points from the weekly performance grade. Similarly, if a student leaves rehearsal early without proper permission.** Regular or excessive tardies and/or early departures may result in restricted performance and/or loss of performance status.

## **Absence**

Students who are not in attendance **15 minutes after the rehearsal begins** without previous approval will be marked absent (unexcused), and this will affect the student's weekly participation grade as stated below. Change in the student's performance status will be at the discretion of the director.

## **Excused Absence**

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors, **only when notice is given in writing** (email is acceptable) **as early as possible—and at least a month or so in advance. Without appropriate advance notice and approval, an absence will be unexcused.** Students and parents are given the band schedule in advance, so appointments, etc., will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, and other serious events will be considered excused. Students who are repeatedly ill will need to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to insure the well-being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. Any absence should be checked with the director.

**Special note: marching band students have 3 afternoon rehearsals with all mornings free during the marching band season depending on your section.** These days should be used for appointments and routine professional visits as well as getting help from teachers and going to tutorials that are offered before and/or after school.

## **Unexcused Absence**

1. Each unexcused absence from a marching rehearsal—including a marked absence due to tardiness of more than 15 minutes without proper check-in—will result in a loss of 25 points from the weekly participation grade. Each rehearsal is equally important, so this represents missing one out of four typical weekly rehearsals—or 25% of rehearsal days in a typical week. An unexcused absence may also result in restricted performance and/or loss of performance status.
2. An unexcused absence from any performance may result in indefinite removal from the performance(s) and could result in removal from the program.

## **General Expectations and Consequences**

1. Late to practice - help drum majors clean up.
2. Phone out in rehearsal - warning then taken up by director until the end of class
3. No practice shirt - bus/band hall clean up.
4. Missing game supplies - student will still attend performance event, but will have limited participation.



## **Dismissal of Student from the Band Program**

Band Directors will make every effort to resolve disciplinary situations before a student is dismissed, but occasionally, dismissal is necessary for extreme or repetitious cases of poor behavior, excessive tardiness or absences, abuse of privileges, severe disrespect, foul language, stealing, intentional damage to an instrument, insubordination, or any other severe case.

## **Football Game Procedures**

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such a performance includes all aspects of the game from arrival to departure, including:

1. Students will arrive at the set report time.
2. Students will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
3. There will be an inspection of all students prior to boarding the buses
4. Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.
5. Upon arrival at the performance area, students will prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Students must be in full uniform excluding hat.
6. Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection.
7. Students will report to the seating area. Students will sit when instructed by a drum major or director. Students must sit in assigned seats and remain in that seat at all times.
8. Students will remain in the band seating section at all times during the game. Water will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
9. Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by a buddy and must get permission to do so from their section leader.
10. Students will use their water jugs during the game to stay hydrated.
11. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
12. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group.
13. At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quietly and efficiently to the appropriate area and put on shakos and plumes. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum majors instructions.
14. At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue performing throughout the remainder of the game.
15. During the game, we will have a group of people go across to meet the opposing band. These people must be passed off on everything and cannot have been late to or missed any practices the week of. (Hey Band).
16. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms, and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

## Checking students out early from a football game

Early check-out for students following a football game may occur after the school song is played following the conclusion of the game or after half-time. **Leaving early for homework, a birthday, to see people that came into town, etc., is not acceptable.** Documentation from a parent must be received at least one day prior to the game and be approved by a director before check-out can occur. Students must check out with a director, and with a parent present. Because of increased group responsibilities, percussionists are not typically allowed to check out before all tasks are complete.

## Student Chain of Command

In any large organization, it is important to have a leadership structure that is easy to understand. This structure allows the director to quickly and accurately convey information to a large number of people. On game day, the chain of command should be used for all questions and information concerning all aspects of the performance. The directors have far too many responsibilities on game days to be answering questions that could be answered by a student leader. Order of chain - 1. Drill Leaders 2. Section Leaders 3. Drum Major 4. Assistant Band Director 5. Head Director

## Social Media Guidelines for Members, Staff, & Volunteers

Social Media serves as a great mechanism to share your experiences and interact with friends, family, and other members of the band community. However, you should always take responsibility for the content you post and consider your potential audience. Understand that the information you create and share via social media will serve as a representation of the Lake Travis High School Band. We expect all students, staff, and volunteers to refrain from posting their personal opinions on any topic that in any way that may be interpreted as being those of the organization.

- Like/follow Lake Travis High School Band on social media and engage with us online! Share, comment, and like our content, and don't forget to tag us in your posts as well! We try to post exciting content online, so invite your friends/family to like and follow us to help expand our reach.
- Be sure to obey all laws and regulations governing the creation, posting, sharing, or distribution of explicit content as well cyber bullying/harassment.
- Think before you post - if you have to ask whether or not your content is okay to post, it probably isn't! Remember, you are representing the organization with everything you share.
- Do not create a public social media channel that represents the Lake Travis High School Band in any way. Ex. "ltbandtrumpets" Instagram or Twitter account is prohibited.

We're always looking for ways to improve our social media presence! If you have a great photo, video, or content idea that you'd like to share, send it our way

## **OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Instagram: @ltcavband

Twitter: @ltcavband

Facebook: Lake Travis Cavalier Band

## **Uniform Guidelines**

### **General**

1. Band uniforms will be issued during uniform sizing. Band uniforms will be stored in the uniform room only, on the rack.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and its components.
3. Students may not enter the uniform room to retrieve their uniform. Only the uniform officers, uniform parents, section leaders, or a director may hand out a uniform.

### **Issue and Return**

1. Students should follow the posted pick-up / return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be fined.
2. The uniform must be hung up correctly on its return. Any student not returning their uniform after a performance will be fined. Frequent violations of this guideline may result in loss of uniform privilege.

### **Donning the Uniform**

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public except the hat. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or jacket. Only the official compression shirt and shorts are to be worn under the marching uniform. The T-shirt and shorts will be part of pre-performance inspections.
2. You must wear approved marching shoes and black socks that have no markings of any kind on them. The socks must cover up the leg when the student is seated and the pants leg comes up. Students purchase both. Make sure your shoes are clean.
3. Jewelry, hair ribbons and nail polish (other than clear) is unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band. This also includes corsages, flowers, and wristbands, anything that makes a student appear different from another. Students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. GIRLS: NO HAIR RIBBON!

### **Band Uniform Cost & Replacement (student responsible for uniform)**

1. Complete uniform \$333.00
2. Marching Coat \$150.00
3. Bibbers (Pants) \$75.00
4. Shako \$30.00
5. Hat Box \$15.00
6. Plume \$18.00

7. Garment Bag \$10.00
8. Special Hanger \$1.20
9. Gauntlets \$34.00

## **Concert Band Tuxes and Girls Dresses**

1. LTHS will provide a tuxedo for the boys and concert dress for the girls.
2. Boys must provide a tux shirt, bow tie and cummerbund.
3. Girls must provide a closed toe with a closed heel dress shoe to be worn with the black concert dress. These should almost be flats.
4. The concert uniform will be checked out and sent home. It must be dry cleaned upon return after the spring concert.
5. Boys are to get their own tux pants hemmed. No material is to be removed.
6. Girls are to get their own dresses hemmed. No material is to be removed.
7. Cost of alterations is the responsibility of the student.

## **Concert Uniform Cost and Replacement**

1. Tuxedo \$150.00
2. Dress \$80.00

## **Concert Ensembles**

### **Wind Ensemble**

The Wind Ensemble is recognized as one of the outstanding concert ensembles in Texas at any level and the music performed is the highest degree of difficulty. Each member will audition for participation in TMEA honor groups. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, one or more spring concerts, and special events. Each student is required to attend a section rehearsal once a week. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are scheduled during the spring competition time. You will be given a complete calendar in December for all spring events. Due to the advanced nature of instruction and high expectations of students in this group, Wind Ensemble members must make every possible effort to be in attendance at all rehearsals during the year; absences are highly discouraged.

### **Wind Symphony**

The Wind Symphony is the second ranked band. The band attends all UIL music competitions. Each member is encouraged to audition for participation in TMEA honor groups. The band rehearses during the regular school day and each member is required to attend a section rehearsal each week outside of the school day. Other rehearsals and clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

### **Symphonic Band**

The Symphonic Band is the third ranked band. The band attends all UIL music competitions. Each member is encouraged to audition for participation in TMEA honor groups. The band rehearses during the regular school day and each member is required to attend a section rehearsal each week outside of the school day. Other rehearsals and

clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

## **Concert Band**

The Concert Band is the fourth ranked band. The band will participate in school concerts depending on enrollment and instrumentation. The group rehearses during the regular band period. Other rehearsals and clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

## **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is open to any member of the Lake Travis HS Band & Orchestra program, but is a fixed instrumentation class. If more than the allotted number of instruments enrolls in the class, students in the sections in question will audition for positions in the Jazz Ensemble. The class meets 8th period, and all students must remain enrolled in a concert band to maintain membership in this class.

To be selected into a Concert or Jazz Band, students must:

- Participate in the audition process each spring.
- Placement will be by the number of chairs available in the band.
- Attitude, maturity, attendance, and ability are all considered when selecting students to participate in Jazz Band.

## **Recommended Instrument List**

Beginner instruments, appropriate for middle school students, typically do not meet the needs of the student musicians at the high school level, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments allow students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. Here is the LTISD recommended instrument list. Consult with your band director and lesson teacher before making a purchase.

**Flute** - Altus, Miramatsu, Miyazawa 95SR or other approved models

**Clarinet** - Buffet R 13

**Alto Saxophone** - Selmer SA-80; Yamaha Custom EX

**Trumpet** - Bach Stradivarius 180-S37, Yamaha Xeno Silver, Shires

**Tenor Trombone** - Bach Stradivarius 42-BO; Getzen 3047AR, Yamaha Xeno, Shires, Edwards

If a family is interested in purchasing an instrument that is usually provided by the school (i.e. Oboe, Bassoon, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Euphonium, Tuba) please consult a director to insure an appropriate model.

Percussionists should make sure to have supplies that are required/listed for appropriate grade levels. All high school percussionists should—at all times—have supplies required/listed for junior high students, along with other supplies as listed for high school grade level(s). Please see the Percussion Coordinator for clarification.

## **Performances / Rehearsal Requirements for the Concert Ensembles**

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the year. Students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances. Unexcused

absences will result in a grade of zero and possible student removal from the organization. (See general attendance policies.)

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- \* Holiday Season Concert
- \* Percussion Concert
- \* Pre UIL Concert
- \* UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest
- \* Band Festival (Spring Trip)
- \* Spring Concert
- \* Chamber Concert

### **Concerts / Performances**

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their band calendar for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be emailed. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up time. A concert concludes when the last group concludes and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students to don the uniform.

### **Other considerations:**

1. All concerts are a group effort thus attendance is required.
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance.
4. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up for all missed work in a timely manner.
5. The appropriate dress for all concerts will be the dress uniform.

### **Concert Season Attendance**

In order to have and maintain high quality concert ensembles, attendance from members is essential. **The Band is dependent on ALL of its members.** Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band students' success is largely dependent on the full participation of all the members. The following attendance policies will affect the student's grades and chance to participate:

1. All absences from rehearsals must be made up regardless of the reason for absence. Makeups must be completed by the end of the grading period.

2. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the removal of a student to a lower band or disciplinary action.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** During the concert season, students have ample days available for tutorials and appointments so schedule around rehearsals. This includes sectionals.

### **Extra Full Band Rehearsal - Section Rehearsals - Listenings**

Students will have weekly section rehearsals for fundamentals of instrumental technique, region music preparation, solo and ensemble preparation, and UIL Contest. Section rehearsals will begin after marching season and will be held for the rest of the school year.

Students in each of the concert bands may have periodical out of school band rehearsals in the spring. This is due to the length of the music of the contest programs and additional rehearsals with percussion. These rehearsals are mandatory and essential.

Listenings are 10-minute slots for students to come in and pass off music including All-State music, solos and UIL contest music.

### **Region Band/Orchestra Guidelines**

1. All Wind Ensemble/Wind Symphony students will audition for All-Region Band unless excused by the band director. If selected, you will perform a concert (check your calendar for dates).
2. Symphonic and Concert Band students may audition with director approval.
3. Students in Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony will be graded periodically in the fall on preparation for this event.
4. Students selected for the region band/orchestra will attend all rehearsals and the performance.

### **Solo and Ensemble**

1. All band members are required to participate in this program.
2. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process.
3. Students must use an approved accompanist and will be charged a fee for their services.

### **Concert Season Eligibility**

UIL distinguishes between curricular and extracurricular activities when considering eligibility. ***Eligibility only applies to extracurricular activities.***

Events that are considered extracurricular include:

1. Any event with paid admission.
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.

Should a band student become ineligible for extracurricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

## **General Grading Policy**

Students participating in the Lake Travis HS Band program will receive grades based on individual participation, evaluation of performance/skill on their primary instrument, development of skills on said instrument, sectional/rehearsal attendance, and an audition at the close of each semester. Grade categories include “Major” Tests & Quizzes (60%) and “Minor” or “Daily” (40%). Performances and other major events are major grades, pass-offs and other cumulative assignments are quizzes, and participation is considered daily. This is subject to change depending upon the assignment at the discretion of the director. Students and parents may always check the gradebook for specific assignments and categories.

Areas to be considered are as follows:

### **Participation:**

1. How the student enters and leaves the band hall, instrument storage facilities, or performance areas.
2. The attitude with which a student conducts themselves in all aspects of rehearsal and/or performance.
3. Maintenance of student’s instrument, equipment, storage area, uniform, folder, and other learning materials.
4. Student’s demeanor towards both instructors and peers.
5. Student’s preparedness for rehearsal (instrument, music, writing utensil, other materials as assigned).

### **Performance/Skill:**

1. How the student progresses on instrument and musicianship through playing or written evaluations.
2. How the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as evidenced in performance and behavior.
3. Student’s performance in an audition situation, both music mastery and performance demeanor.

Students who exhibit good work ethic, a willingness to learn, and the ability to do so without interfering with the learning of others will be successful in band. Students not demonstrating the above will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and/or aptitude.

## **Supplies**

Brass: Cleaning cloth, snake, mouthpiece brush, valve (rotor) oil, slide grease, Slide-o-Mix, tuner, and BERP, trumpets only—Tom Crown copper bottom.



Woodwinds: Cleaning cloth, swabs, 6 or more good reeds (Vandoren), and tuner.

Percussion: All supplies required/listed for junior high students, as well as those required/listed according to high school grade level. See the Percussion Coordinator for clarification.

## Private Lessons

We are fortunate to have a group of highly-skilled lessons teachers available for convenient, on-campus private lessons at extremely reasonable rates. This is a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instrument. Most of our teachers are college and professional musicians in the Austin area and have a music degree. Private study is extremely valuable to the individual student and highly encouraged. Private study is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. With 200+ students in the band three band directors cannot accomplish what individual lessons on a weekly basis with a teacher can accomplish.

1. ALL students are ENCOURAGED to study privately.
2. The LTHS Band Program provides scholarships on an as needed basis.
3. Lessons will be weekly.
4. Detailed information is available on the private lesson program

## Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on both school and commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on every trip.

1. Students must go both to and from school on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his or her parent, must notify the director in writing via email two days prior to the event.
2. Students must have all necessary permission to travel, insurance, and medical forms completed and returned prior to any travel with the band.
3. While on the bus, students will:
  - A. Remain seated at all times
  - B. Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and trash
  - C. Keep all body parts inside the bus
  - D. Remain silent when an adult is addressing the bus

- E. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
- F. Refrain from public displays of affection
- G. Electronic devices must not disrupt the people around you.

## **Financial Considerations for All Students**

*Assessed Fees* - A separate fee sheet will be published each July and available at band registration.

Check the web site at [www.laketravisband.com](http://www.laketravisband.com) for all forms and information.

LTHS Band Fair Share Fee paid in August - Approx. \$850

Shoes: All marching band students must have a pair of approved marching shoes. No other shoe will be acceptable. Approx. \$39.00

LTISD School Instrument Usage Fee: \$60

Compression Shirt and Shorts: Will be worn under marching band uniform: Approx. \$45 for both.

Practice Shirts - Approx. \$10

Tux Shirt: Approximately \$15-\$25 - these must have 1/8th pleats and are purchased on your own.

Black Bow tie and cummerbund: \$20 - This must be purchased on your own beginning this year.

TMEA Region Fee - \$15 per event

Solo and Ensemble Fee - \$12 per solo & \$7 for each member of an ensemble

Solo Accompaniment Fee - \$50+ depending on difficulty of solo

Misc. Supplies: These will be such supplies as music lyres, flip folders, poncho, water jugs, etc.

The costs will vary from year to year. Check the fee sheet.

Spring Trip - \$350 to \$1500 for an out of state trip (Student responsibility)

## **Statement of Financial Policy**

It is the policy of the Lake Travis High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. Arrangements can be made with

the head band director for students who are in need of such considerations. This will be kept confidential.

## School Owned Instruments

The Lake Travis Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments to balance the bands. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and large percussion equipment. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value.

*All school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care.*

Students failing to take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments.

1. Lake Travis Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. It is highly recommended that students utilizing school owned instruments provide insurance coverage for the said instrument.
2. Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, and accidental damage and abuse. Minor repairs and general maintenance are the responsibility of the student. The rental fee is to prepare the instrument for the next year.

## Instrument Lockers

All students are provided their own instrument locker and a combination lock at the beginning of the school year. Personal locks are prohibited. **If the student loses or damages the lock they must pay the school \$5.00 for a replacement.** No student is to share a locker or combination with any other student. Students are expected to keep their lockers in good condition (NO TRASH).

## Spring Trip Participation

All students must be eligible to participate in the annual Spring Trip. The Cavalier Band Spring trip is a No Pass/No Participate activity. Ineligible students during the grading period that the Spring Trip falls under lose all monies that have been contributed to the trip.

## Active Membership in Cavalier Band

Each student currently enrolled in a primary band class (marching band, concert band) and in good standing is afforded all the rights and privileges that come with being a member of the Cavalier Band.

### Fall Semester Activities:

- Summer Band
- Senior Picture
- Membership Ceremony
- Senior Recognition Night
- Playoff Games
- December Concert
- Any additional social activity in the fall semester.
- Region Band

### Spring Semester Activities:

- Solo and Ensemble
- Winter Concert
- Spring Trip
- Band Banquet
- Banquet Gifts & Awards
- Any additional social activity in the fall semester.

An active student will receive full participation in all of the appropriate events as a member of the Cavalier Band. If a student leaves the program—whether by dismissal or choice, active membership is discontinued.

## Mandatory Student Drug-testing Program

The district requires drug testing of any student in grades 7-12 who chooses to participate in school sponsored, competitive extracurricular activities. School-sponsored, competitive extracurricular activities in grades 9-12 shall include the following activities:

All UIL-sponsored athletic, fine arts, and academic programs;

- Cavalettes;
- Red Rubies;
- Student athletic trainers;
- Color guard;
- Winter guard;
- Powerlifting;
- Speech and debate / Texas Forensics Association;
- FFA;
- 4-H;
- Theater arts;
- Technical theater;
- VASE and Scholastic;

- HOSA;
- Model UN;
- DECA;
- Cavs Crew;
- Mock Trial;
- Film crew; and
- LT Fiddlers.

Additionally, any student in grades 9-12 who chooses to obtain a parking permit will be required to participate in the drug-testing program.

The purposes of the drug-testing program are to help enforce a drug-free educational environment, deter student use of illegal drugs, and educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal drugs. Random tests shall be conducted throughout the school year.

The Superintendent or his designee shall determine the number of times the random tests will occur, but shall administer no less than four tests in a school year. No less than five percent of the students participating in the program shall be randomly selected for each random test date.

The district will test for the following substances: 6-Acetylmorphine, Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, MDMA, Marijuana, Methadone, Methamphetamines, Opiates, PCP, Tricyclic Antidepressants.

For more information see policy FNF (LOCAL) and FNF (REGULATION); detailed information can also be found on the LTISD [Counseling and Health Services website](#) and in the LTISD [2024-25 Student Parent handbooks](#) website.

Enrollment dates will be communicated annually by the program director.

# Lake Travis Band/Guard Letter Jacket Policy

**Band:** To qualify for a jacket before your senior year (4th year of membership) you must earn 16 points.

**Colorguard:** To qualify for a jacket before your senior year (4th year of membership) you must earn 12 points

Band Members who are seniors and have been involved in performing in the LTHS Bands for all 3 previous years may be awarded a jacket at the beginning of their first semester as a senior.

**Service Points:** Service opportunities are provided throughout the year for students to earn additional points towards their jacket. There is a maximum of 4 points per year awarded as service points.

- I. Band Contests
  - UIL Region Marching Contest 1 point
  - UIL Area Marching Contest 2 points
  - UIL State Marching Contest 4 points
  - UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest 1 point
- II. TMEA
  - All-Region Level (Jazz, Orchestra, Band) 5 points
  - All-Area Level (Jazz, Orchestra, Band) 8 points
  - All-State Level 16 points
- III. UIL Solo and Ensemble
  - 1st Division for Class 1 Ensemble 2 points
  - 1st Division for Class 2 Solo 1 point
  - 1st Division for Class 1 Solo 2 points
  - TSSEC (State) 2nd Division for Ensemble 2 points
  - TSSEC (State) 1st Division for Ensemble 3 points
  - TSSEC (State) 2nd Division for Solo 2 points
  - TSSEC (State) 1st Division for Solo 4 points
  - Outstanding Soloist, TSSEC 8 points
- IV. Guard
  - Outstanding Auxiliary at Marching Contest 2 points
  - Medalist at TCGC Regional 2 points
  - Participant State TCGC 4 points
  - Finalist at WGI Regional 3 points
  - Medalist at WGI Regional 5 points
- V. Other
  - Eligible member of ensemble through spring semester 1 point
  - Member of Winter Guard 2 points
  - Outstanding Ensemble @ Chamber Concert 2 points
  - Outstanding Room Soloist @ LTHS Solo Competition 3 points
  - Service Duty (Director discretion, max 4 per year), per duty 1 point
  - Student Leadership Team 1 point

# Tally Area

## 9th Grade

Fall

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Spring

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 10th Grade

Fall

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Spring

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 11th Grade

Fall

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Spring

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## 12th Grade

Fall

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Spring

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

