



2024-2025 Handbook

Welcome to the Lake Norman High School Wildcat Band!

Please be sure to visit our web-page: www.lnhswildcatband.com for up-to-date forms, schedules, pictures, fundraisers, and other documents.

*When parents and student have finished reading the information in this handbook, please return the syllabus signature form on Canvas which will be available on Monday of the first week of school.

This handbook for the band program at Lake Norman High School has been developed to assist students and parents in being informed, responsible, and productive members of the LNHS Band. In these pages, the expectations of the band and band director are clearly defined and stated. It is expected that each student and parent associated with the band will read this handbook carefully and know policies and procedures of the band program. The success of any organization is dependent on each person in the group doing his or her part to the best of their ability. The concept of shared responsibility is something that each member should be willing to accept and work toward each day to ensure the success of the overall organization.



"When 'I' is replaced by 'we', even 'illness' becomes 'wellness'"

"It's All In Your Attitude" "Band Spirit"

The mission of the Lake Norman High School Band Program is to provide quality instruction for all students enrolled in the program. It is the goal of the instructional staff to inspire, motivate, and engage students to excel as musicians, to become productive, responsible citizens, and to have a lifelong respect and enjoyment of music.

Purpose

The Lake Norman High School Band is a comprehensive music program that reflects self-discipline, maturity, pride, positive attitude, and responsibility. This organization provides performance and growth opportunities for its members and strives for high standards and ideals for the school and community.

Lake Norman Band Leadership Team

Band Director selects student officers based on attitude, leadership skills and participation and performance in band, rookie camp, and leadership workshops. Students also participate in a tryout process that spans the entire year including peer leadership, marching and playing competencies, and an application. Students selected serve as members of the Leadership Team including Drum Majors, Band Captains, and Section Leaders.

Lake Norman Band Booster Association

Parents/guardians of students in the band program are automatically members of the Lake Norman Band Association. It is considered a parent support group for the activities of the band program including alumni and interested parents.

For more information, visit: www.lnhswildcatband.com.

Band Staff

The Lake Norman Band has many instructors involved in its activities and rehearsals. The Director oversees the entire program and the development of the wind and percussion students.

Curriculum Offerings

Concert Band (Beginning Band Fall and Spring)

This band course is designed to extend a student's knowledge and skill and will focus on developing fundamentals such as characteristic tone, technical facility, rhythm, and basic musicianship. *All Freshmen Band members participate in Concert Band.*

Symphonic Band (Intermediate Band Fall and Spring)

This band course is centered on frequent concerts, performances, and occasional after-school rehearsals that allow students to gain confidence and experience in their own playing through performance. *Placement in this class is by first advancing from Freshman Concert Band.* Advanced performance standards are necessary.

Wind Ensemble (Proficient Band Fall and Spring)

This band course is the most advanced ensemble centered on frequent concerts, performances, and after school rehearsals that allow students to gain confidence in their playing through performance. *Placement in this class is by appointment or audition only.* Advanced performance standards are necessary. Wind Ensemble members are required to audition for ISS Honor Band, NW District Honor Band, or an approved alternative by Mr. Brown. Placement in this ensemble relies heavily on these performances as a non-biased comparison between students. Students who complete these auditions successfully receive precedence for wind ensemble selection. **Each member of the Wind Ensemble is responsible for completing State of North Carolina Honor Point material. Some of this will be covered in class, but it is the duty of each student to complete these steps in order to receive his/her honor point credit.*

Scheduling/Auditions

Any scheduling questions about band classes should be addressed directly to the band director. *The director will determine the band class instrumentation at the end of each semester.* The instrumentation needs may change from semester to semester. Eligibility will be based upon interview, audition results, instrumentation, past performance in band, music experience, ability, conduct, and attitude at the director's discretion. Class placement is determined by past musical performance (including Honor Band Auditions), facility, concepts, attitude, and work ethic.

Grading

Students will be assigned grades for participation, playing tests, concert attendance, written assignment, etc. You may view the playing test rubric below.

All playing tests not performed in class will be due by midnight of due date posted for each class. **All recorded tests will be submitted by uploading a soundfile to Canvas**

For uploaded tests, students will automatically receive a grade of “100” if it is time-stamped before midnight of due date. After test is graded, student may re-take as many times as needed for desired grade. Tests NOT submitted on time are not eligible for re-take and will receive a grade of “0”.

Performance Grade rubric

Grade	Descriptors
100	ALL rhythms, notes, dynamics, and phrasing, are correct and demonstrated with superb tone quality.
93-99	Almost all rhythms, notes, dynamics, and phrasing, are correct and demonstrated with superb tone quality.
85-92	Most rhythms, notes, dynamics, and phrasing, are correct with a few mistakes and/or tone quality is less mature.
77-84	Some rhythms, notes, dynamics, and phrasing, are correct but with frequent mistakes and/or tone quality is weak and unsupported.
70-76	Many mistakes in rhythms, notes, dynamics along with poor tone quality.
1-69	Performance is unrecognizable due to lack of practice and application of proper standards of rhythm, correct notes, dynamics, and phrasing.
0	Test not performed.

Extra-Curricular Offerings

Lake Norman Wildcat Competition Ensemble

The Lake Norman Wildcat Marching Band is a single unit including winds, percussion, and color guard students. The purpose of the marching band is to provide an outlet for musical performance for half-time shows, parades, and to promote school spirit within the school and community. One of the main activities of the marching band is to support the football team during Friday night games. In addition, there are at least three marching band competitions scheduled during late September, October and early November. In late summer, the band begins a rigorous and demanding schedule of practices, including two weeks of camp to prepare for the marching season. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a performance concert band class, on track for graduation, attend band camp, and exhibit playing and marching competencies. Students may be selected to be an alternate to the marching band if they do not attend band camp or exhibit the necessary requirements. However, no student will be denied participation because of an inability to pay or attend camp. Many opportunities are provided for students/parents to fund trips and costs of the band through fundraisers. Students/parents are to contact Mr. Brown for financial arrangements if payments can't be made. Competition Band members receive 1/2 additional credit for each year of service.

LNHS Color Guard and Winterguard

The Lake Norman Wildcat Color Guard is one unit comprised of students for the purpose of visually enhancing the overall musical effect. The students perform various equipment routines during half-time shows of each varsity football game, competitions, and parades. Tryouts for the guard occur in April or May for students in grades eight through eleven.

The Lake Norman Wildcat Winter Guard is a guard-only performance ensemble in its 3rd year of existence. Tryouts and rehearsals begin shortly after marching season ends in October, and run throughout the early Spring. There is currently a JV and Varsity Winter Guards, each having a highly successful seasons last year. These ensembles are highly competitive, so practice and attendance are extremely important.

- For all Guard Ensembles, members must meet the dues structure as shared at auditions, and must not have quit the program after band funds have been spent on guard during any previous year.

Co-Curricular Offerings: Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, there will be a \$25 materials fee for Jazz Band and Percussion ensemble. This allows us to balance instruction and materials not otherwise available in the school budget.

Jazz Band

Jazz band consists of any interested students, and begins each year following the competition marching season. Instrumentation is limited to standard jazz ensemble of Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, electric bass, piano, guitar, and drum set. Jazz band schedule will be released later in the Fall.

Percussion Ensemble

The LNHS Percussion Ensemble is open to any interested student currently enrolled in the band program, and begins each year following the competition marching season. This is an opportunity for students to learn additional instruments, percussion techniques, and also serves as a gateway to the following year's marching percussion line. Percussion Ensemble normally rehearses on Mondays from 3:30-5:00.

Individual practice for all ensembles

Members of all ensembles are expected to individually work on class music and exercises as requested by Mr. Brown. In your other classes, it is called homework. In BAND- we call it PRACTICE! Students may choose to practice at home, but are more than welcome to use school facilities as available before and after school, as well as during smartlunch. Individual students may be asked to play their assigned part at any given time in order to gauge their level of preparation. Student practice will be monitored primarily by class performance, but will also be measured via individual tests and group assessments, and will be factored into the 9 weeks grade.

Please note: There may be a variation in fees charged by high school bands within Iredell-Statesville Schools. These differences reflect community expectations and historical tradition of each band.

Assistance for band fees is available. Please see your band director for an application. These applications will be reviewed by a panel which will include your school's Principal, the Director of Secondary Education, the Deputy Superintendent, and the Fine Arts Director.

-ISS Board of Education

Band Department Equipment Policy

All students are expected to provide their own instruments and equipment for participation in the instrumental music programs. For the convenience of students, the school owns and maintains a limited number of instruments and equipment. Some students have the option to use this equipment. For the privilege of this use, we collect a user maintenance fee of \$35.00 per semester/student/instrument (payable online at lnhswildcatband.com, or by check to: *LNHSBBA*). Students are to be responsible for the care and maintenance of school property that is issued to them. Students are also expected to provide all other operational materials for the daily usage of school owned equipment. When school property is damaged beyond normal usage or when an instrument does not work properly due to negligence or misuse, the cost to repair will be assessed that student.

-School owned instrument fee: \$35 per semester for each instrumented rented. School owned instrument fees may be paid on the school website.

Band Fees

Band Fees are necessary to fund instrument maintenance, repair, and replacement, staffing, music supplies, and necessary equipment needed for the operation of the band. The budget is established in May and funded by Iredell County Schools, Booster Fundraising, and Student fees. Other activities associated with the band may incur costs such as solo and ensemble fees, all- state and honor band fees, summer camps, clinic costs, entry fees, lodging, and other costs of a personal nature not covered by the band budget.

-Competition Band fee: \$180 total.

-Audition and clinic registration fees. Students who audition for honor ensembles should expect to pay between \$5 and \$15 for various auditions, and \$15 to \$50 for differing levels of clinics that they attend.

Parent Guidelines

- Expect the best for your student and support the directors, instructors, and other band staff in their efforts to make the band experience the best possible for all involved.
- Provide encouragement and support to your students in their musical development.
- Be involved in the booster organization to support the activities of the association and ultimately the band students (especially your student).
- Communicate problems to the staff. Call the band office or e-mail when you may have questions and concerns.
- Encourage faithful attendance, dedication, and responsibility.
- Provide notification in writing if there is to be any absence from rehearsal or performance (2 days notice is acceptable). In emergency situations please message on the "Band" app and submit a note or email upon return.
- Let the organization work for your student. Be careful that your supportive and helpful nature is not interfering with the operations of the band staff. Remember that it is the goal of all Lake Norman Band Staff to provide the best in quality instruction for your students.



Parents- please note:

Students without rides available within 20 minutes of returning from away trips will not be allowed to travel to the next "away" event after two reminders. We are always very careful to send "remind" messages and have students call to update parents on arrival status if it will be earlier or later than the posted itinerary.

Please understand that we cannot control the length of a football game or traffic conditions, and it is embarrassing for students to be the last one to be picked up.

Student Leadership Team

Student Leadership/Officers

In April, band officers are selected by the director and staff. Selection is based upon attendance and performance at rookie camp, dedication in the band, attitude, leadership qualities, music and marching competencies, peer relationships, musicianship, interview, and an essay. Officers may be sophomores, juniors, and seniors and are "trying out" for positions all during the year. Seniority does not necessarily determine leadership positions. Students and parents should realize that not everyone will be selected as a drum major or one of the band officers and are expected to accept the results. The following guidelines will be followed in the selection of officers.

Drum Majors

The drum major candidates are students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and are able to lead the band (commands and conducting) on the field during rehearsals and performances. These students should have the highest standards of performance, attitude, and ideals. They are to be respected by their peers for leadership and responsibility. These students are selected through an audition process that includes input from the students within the band.

Band Officers

Band officers are just like drum majors in terms of demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities as well as marching and musicianship skills. These leaders within the band are responsible for assisting with the learning process; often guiding and helping students learn music and marching techniques. The band officers have and hold the highest standards of performance, attitude, and ideals, and are to be respected by their peers for leadership and responsibility. The band officers work as a team to provide motivation, enthusiasm, and excitement for the band, and they are the epitome of band spirit. These leaders are selected through a year-long audition process that includes input from students within the band. The director determines the number of students selected to fill these various positions including Drum Majors Band Captains, Guard Captains, Section Leaders, and Leadership Captain. Students who neglect their duties and/or demonstrate behavior unbecoming of an officer, the officer position may be revoked or suspended.

Band Program Policies

The band program will be conducted in a way that encourages all students to achieve individual and group goals. Each member is important to the organization and should be willing to cooperate with others and improve through regular practice. He/she must have a sense of purpose toward a common goal and be willing to work hard to accomplish individual and band goals. The band will be as good as YOU want it to be.

Some basic expectations include:

- Be regular and prompt in attendance and account for all absences.
- Be responsible for your actions at school and in the community.
- Make a sincere effort to improve and contribute your best to the band program.
- Have proper respect for those in authority.
- Follow classroom and rehearsal procedures, school regulations, and instructions.
- Have a cooperative attitude towards others in the band program and material presented.
- Respect the Lake Norman Band facility and equipment.

Band Room Rules

- Food, drinks, candy, and gum are not allowed in the band room at any time.
- Instruments and equipment are to be stored in the proper storage area on the proper shelves. **Locks will be required before students are issued a locker.**
- Play your instruments only or those that are issued to you.
- School-owned instruments are to be inspected, kept clean, and in working order. It is the student's responsibility to keep the instrument properly oiled/greased.
- Any damage done to instruments is to be reported to the director or appropriate staff member immediately. Damage due to negligence will be assessed to that student.

- When the director steps on the podium, the room should go silent and ears should open. Rehearsals are essential and your effort and attitude must be serious and focused.
- “To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late”. Have your instrument and/or necessary equipment ready before rehearsal begins. Tardiness will not be tolerated.
- At the end of rehearsal there will be closing comments and/or announcements after which the students will be dismissed. Students are not to put instruments away until after they have been dismissed.
- Minor problems should not be addressed to the director on the podium so as to interrupt a rehearsal. Mechanical problems may be corrected before or after rehearsal when Mr. Brown is available. If you become sick, it is proper to get up and leave the room or rehearsal without obtaining permission.
- When the baton stops, silence begins.

For tardiness and minor behavior problems (gum, drinks, food in band room, disruptive behavior, disrespect, etc.)

Although band students rarely encounter these situations, all disciplinary action will consist of:

1st offense: Warning/request to cease behavior

2nd offense: Communication to parents, 30 minute after school detention.

3rd offense: Administrative referral.

Serious offenses: Student removed from band program.

Conduct

As members of the band program you are representatives of Lake Norman High School and appropriate behavior is expected. Certain training, disciplinary rules, and regulations are imperative for the success of our program. All school rules and policies as stated in the student and teacher handbooks apply to all band activities. Inappropriate behavior will be dealt with promptly. Once in uniform, you become a visible representative of the Lake Norman Band Program, Lake Norman High School, and Iredell-Statesville Schools, so your behavior needs to reflect high ideals and standards. The uniform is to be worn completely in public and with pride and must be presented in a dignified manner.

Band Bus Transportation

To insure safety, students are expected to ride on the bus whenever provided. If a student must leave after a performance, the student must be released **to the parents only**. Students are NOT allowed to drive themselves to a school sponsored event unless it has been cleared through Mr. Brown and approved by Mr. Shapcott.

Bus Trip Guidelines

- No sudden yells or screams to distract bus drivers.
- Listen to and follow directions given by chaperones and staff members.
- When attendance is called, you must remain silent and attentive.
- Students are not allowed to change buses during a trip unless assigned by directors or sponsors
- Use earphones when listening to music. *Music is not to be played out loud for the whole bus.*
- Follow bus rules given by the bus drivers. Keep arms and hands inside bus and refrain from throwing anything out of the windows. Students are to remain in seats when the bus is in motion. When arriving at destination, students are to remain quiet while drivers park the buses. Change into uniform when the bus has stopped. Remember that you are to have appropriate clothing under uniform in order to change out of uniform.

Attendance

The band schedule is provided in advance to avoid conflicts. Regularly scheduled doctor, dentist, eye doctor, and orthodontist appointments should be scheduled to **NOT** conflict with performances and rehearsals. Notes for a pre-arranged absence from a rehearsal and performance **MUST** be submitted in writing at least two days prior to a rehearsal or performance. Excused absences will be determined at the director's discretion. To be considered an excused absence, documentation is needed upon return for emergency doctor visits and absences for illness. Secondly, excused absences from rehearsals or performances will involve make up work as in any other academic class and will affect grades. According to Lake Norman High School policy, make-ups should be completed within **five school days** after absence occurs to receive credit. Excessive excused absences may result in loss of performance privileges in all performance groups.

Students who are absent from Thursday marching band practices are not to march the Friday performance unless prior arrangements have been made at the director's discretion, but are expected to perform in the stands. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated, and **students are not allowed to make up unexcused absences.**

Excused Absences

- An excused absence from school (see LNHS Student Handbook for specific situations)
- An emergency including death in the family or seriously illness and proper notification in writing
- Out of town weddings in which the student is a part of the ceremony

Concert Performance Attire

Concert Black

Men: Black dress shirt and tie (jacket optional but **HIGHLY** encouraged, black dress pants, shoes and socks.

Ladies: Black skirt, dress, pants, and/or blouse. Black dress shoes. (Dresses/skirts **MUST** be an appropriate length for stage performance- this has been a problem in the past. Please dress conservatively.)

Wildcat Competition Ensemble

The Lake Norman High School Competition Band is open to all band members as well as select upcoming freshmen from our feeder schools. Marching season begins in March with one after school rehearsal per month, and then a full-week training camp that begins two weeks before the beginning of school. Although marching band can be intimidating from a confidence perspective as well as a fear of "time to do schoolwork", we pride ourselves on the fact that students emerge from the experience with a wealth of self-confidence, a huge group of new friends, and newfound time-management skills.

It is highly recommended that all students participate in marching band unless they are a Fall-sports athlete. The social aspect of the activity is crucial to gaining the entire "band experience", and is urged for all students.

The Band Block and Third Quarter Break

- During football games, students are expected to be in the band block and in their sections.
- The band block section of the stadium is only for band members, directors, instructors, and band parents.
- You must sit in the designated area and in your sections.
- When drum majors give signal for horns up students must be alert and watch the drum major for starts and stops.
- Third quarter break is a privilege and not a right. It is a designated break time for band members.
- Students are not allowed to "noodle" on instruments during games, before the warm-up has begun, or after rehearsals (unless working as a section).
- A selected number of officers will be allowed to visit and greet the visiting band during the game at the drum major's discretion.

Wildcat Marching Band Uniform

All marching band students are issued the official uniform of the Lake Norman High School Band. It is to be worn with pride, respected, and treated accordingly. Each student is responsible for the proper care, storage, and maintenance of his/her uniform. Any damage done due to negligence will be the responsibility of the student and should be reported immediately. Each student is responsible for properly storing and hanging the uniform in the garment bag after each performance. After performances it may be necessary to air out the uniform and allow it to dry before storing in the garment bag. Uniforms are not to be stored at home.

Alternate Summer/Inclement Weather Uniform:

Band Shirt and Black Shorts (Jeans, jacket, and sweats during cold weather).

Guard may report in warm-ups or designated uniform at the directors' discretion.

Students will be allowed to take off jackets under directors' discretion at appropriate times. Students should be in groups of two or more during third quarter break and return to their seats by the end of the third quarter. Late students are subject to work assignment after the game and losing future break privileges.

- Students are to remain in the uniform at all times and are not to be seen in public in an incomplete uniform unless given instructions otherwise by the directors. When you get off the bus you are to be in complete uniform or completely changed.

Band Lettering

To receive a letter or service bar in **marching band**, students must be in good standing and have participated in the full marching season including all performances, playoff games, competitions, and other required performances **with no unexcused absences**. The band letter and service bar will be given for a student's first year of service to the marching band and will receive a service bar for each successive year. Absences from performances must be arranged prior to the season when possible in order to be excused and letter in band.



2024-25 Wildcat Competition Band

Fall calendar of events

Date	Time	Event	Location
6/26	9am-3pm	Marching percussion: 9am-3pm	LNHS
7/6	TBA	Crownbeat DCI show (plus leadership camp for those interested)	River Bluff High School, Lexington, SC
7/10	9am-3pm	Marching percussion	LNHS
7/24-7/26	9am-2pm	Colorguard pre-camp	LNHS
7/29-8/2	9am-6pm	Full Training Camp (7/29: 1pm-8pm) 8/2: 9-12 rehearsal, Preview at 7:00pm.	LNHS
8/13	4:00-7:00	T/Th rehearsals begin through 10/24	LNHS
8/23	5:00 call	N. Meck (away)	NMHS
8/30	5:30 call	Statesville	LNHS
9/6	5:30 call	Asheville	LNHS
9/20	All day	Open date	
9/27	5:30 call	AL Brown (Middle School Night)	LNHS
9/28	All day	Ledford/Maiden competitions	
10/4	5:00 call	West Cabarrus (Away)	WCHS
10/5	TBA	North Iredell Competition	
10/11	5:00 call	Hickory Ridge (Away)	HRHS
		East Lincoln/S Caldwell	
10/18	5:30 call	Cox Mill (Homecoming)	LNHS
10/25	5:30 call	South Iredell (Senior Night)	LNHS
10/26	All day	Foard/East Burke Competitions	EBHS
11/1	5:00 call	Mooresville (Away)	MHS
11/2	TBA	South Iredell Competition	SIHS
11/8, 15, 22	TBA	Playoffs? TBA	TBA
11/26	12:00 noon	Mooresville Christmas Parade	Downtown Mooresville
12/8	12:00 noon	Statesville Christmas Parade	Downtown Statesville

