

## WELCOME

Dear parents and students,

First, we thank you for reading this handbook, for your support of its contents and policies, and for your involvement with our band program. We are so excited to welcome you to the LMS Band family. This handbook is designed to answer many questions you may have, get you better acquainted with our program, and outline the coming year. We ask that you familiarize yourself with the handbook. If you continue to have questions after reading this handbook, please feel free to contact any member of the band staff. Please sign and return the attached acknowledgement and agreement form at the back of this handbook.

Thank you,

LMS Band Directors

Tommy Smith  
Head MS Director  
936-633-6136  
tsmith@lufkinisd.org

Emily Cavanaugh  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Director  
936-633-6072  
eccavanaugh@lufkinisd.org

Laney Hamner  
6th Grade Director  
936-630-4481  
cdturner@lufkinisd.org

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Philosophy.....	2
Expectations/Rules.....	2
Supplies.....	3
Financial Obligation.....	3
Grading Procedures.....	4
<i>7th Grade Band.....</i>	<i>5-8</i>
❖ Events.....	6
❖ Concert Dress/Uniform.....	7
❖ Eligibility.....	7
❖ After School Rehearsals.....	8
<i>8th Grade Band.....</i>	<i>9-12</i>
❖ Events.....	10
❖ Concert Dress/Uniform.....	11
❖ Eligibility .....	11
❖ After School Rehearsals.....	12
❖ Football Games.....	12
Communication.....	13
Concert Etiquette.....	14
Social Events.....	14
Handbook Agreement Form .....	15

## PHILOSOPHY

The Lufkin Middle School Band has a tradition of excellence in music, level of responsibility, and behavior inside and outside of the band class. We expect all members of the band to exhibit these qualities. Each individual must be committed to working toward the goals and betterment of the Lufkin Band program. When these expectations are met, being a member of the Lufkin Middle School Band will teach you many things including music, responsibility, dedication, and pride.

## BAND HALL EXPECTATIONS

1. No food, gum, candy, or drinks will be allowed in the band hall.
2. No horseplay or rough-housing; anything broken as a result of horseplay will be repaired at the expense of the student.
3. Instruments should be stored in their cases with the latches closed in their designated cubby when not in use.
4. Have a pencil and all other necessary rehearsal items at your seat BEFORE class begins.
5. No talking while a director is talking.
6. Treat other people and their property with respect.
7. If you must miss a performance or rehearsal, notify a director as far in advance as possible. Missed performances may require you to complete an alternate assignment.
8. Practice regularly! Make an effort to improve daily. Your growth directly impacts the success of the program.
9. Most importantly, **give the directors your full attention and respect at all times.**

*Any band student who fails to adhere to the set rules, whose behavior does not meet our expectations, or who represents Lufkin ISD Band in a negative way, will not be allowed to continue in our band program. This will be decided at the discretion of Lufkin band directors and administration.*

## **SUPPLIES**

In order for your students to be successful in band, we ask that you purchase a few necessary supplies for their instruments. All of these items can be purchased through our band office.

- Mouthpiece for brass instruments
- Reeds for woodwind instruments (plus, neckstraps for saxes)
  - Clarinets - \$3
  - Alto Saxophones – \$4
  - Tenor Saxophones, Bass Clarinets -\$5/reed for LaVoz, \$6/reed for Vandoren
  - Oboe/Bassoon - according to who makes them and current market value
  - Bari Saxophones - \$6/reed for LaVoz, \$9 for Vandoren
- Cleaning supplies for all instruments (Swabs, cork grease, slide grease, valve oil, etc)
- Lost music can be replaced for 25 ¢ per page.

*Prices are subject to change at any time.*

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATION**

Students are responsible for returning all school issued equipment. Any student who uses a school owned instrument must sign a contract provided by the band directors. Our facilities and equipment are to be treated with respect at all times. Fees will be charged to any student who damages any band property. Band directors will determine if repairs on school owned instruments will be charged to the student. Students with personally-owned instruments are responsible for upkeep and safety of their own instrument.

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Your grade will consist of two components– daily grades and major grades. Daily grades make up 40% of your report card grade and major grades make up 60%.

Daily grades will consist of:

- weekly participation grades made up of:
  - respectful, considerate behavior
  - having all materials including a pencil
  - active participation
- added assignments
- Written Quizzes
- required performances (behavior, materials, uniform, and attendance will affect)

Major grades will consist of:

- chair tests
- music pass-offs
- required materials check
- Written Tests

## **PASS-OFFS**

Students will be given specific music selections that they have learned in class and will play for a director as a test grade. These pass-offs serve as a benchmark of our students' learning and help us keep track of their progress.

---

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Dear LMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Students and Parents,

**Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band!** I am so excited you have decided to join us! This will be a big year for our band! This year we will begin competing both as a band and as individual players at different contests throughout the year, as well as performing at many different events. We will take what we learned as beginners and add so much more to that knowledge to become the very best 7<sup>th</sup> grade musicians!

**The Lufkin Band**, from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school band, is known for being one of the best band programs in the state of Texas. Check out all the trophies in both the middle school and high school band halls and you will realize how successful the program has been in the past. We all have to work hard to keep that tradition alive! I do expect everyone in the band to **practice regularly** throughout the week. You may come to the band hall in the morning to practice or practice at home. **We will have regular playing tests as well as about 5 or 6 chair tests this year.** Our biggest contests of the year are the **UIL Concert and Sightreading Competition** in April and the **TMEA All-Region Competition** in December. We try to learn as much music as we can during class, however, sometimes we need to have extra practices outside of regular classtime. We will let everyone know of these practices in advance so you can make plans to attend. If you have a conflict, please call or email me as soon as possible!

Some events to look forward to this year include:

**LMS Superbowl**

**Honor America Night**

**LMS Band Winter Carnival**

**LMS Solo & Ensemble Contest**

**Christmas and Spring Concerts**

**The Main Event** in Humble, TX (more details later this year)

The music we will be learning will be at a more advanced level than the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band music. If any student is having difficulty with any part of the music, ***please do not hesitate to ask myself or any of the other directors for extra help.*** We are always happy to help any student!

I hope you are as excited as I am about this year! Get ready to work hard and have some fun!

**Emily Cavanaugh**  
**LMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Director**  
**[eccavanaugh@lufkinisd.org](mailto:eccavanaugh@lufkinisd.org)**  
**(936)633-6072**

# EVENTS

As 7<sup>th</sup> graders, you will be performing in more events than you did in beginning band. You will receive a calendar with exact dates, so please refer to the calendar before making plans.

## REQUIRED EVENTS

LMS “Superbowl” (last middle school football game of season)

Honor America Night (around Veteran’s Day)

Christmas Concert (weeknight in mid December)

LMS Solo & Ensemble Contest

Pre-UIL Concert\* (late March)

UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest\* (early April)

Spring Concert (mid to late May)

Sectionals and/or full band rehearsals

**Not having a ride is not a valid excuse for missing rehearsals and performances and will affect your grade. Also, if you don’t pass off your music and don’t attend sectionals, you will not go to these events.**

## OTHER EVENTS

All-Region Band Tryouts\* (early December)

All-Region Band Clinic\* (mid January)

*Please note that ALL majorettes are required to participate in these events*

\*dependent on eligibility (see below for information on eligibility)

## **CONCERT DRESS/UNIFORM**

Concert uniforms for 7<sup>th</sup> grade band will be black pants, black shoes, black socks, black belt, and LMS Band polo. The polo is available to purchase through the band office for \$22. This uniform is to be worn to LMS football games, Honor America Night, Pre-UIL Concert, and to UIL Concert and Sight-reading competition.

There will be no uniform for the spring concert. Students may wear nice, conservative clothes. Boys should wear nice slacks with a dress shirt or polo and dress shoes. Girls may wear pants, dresses or skirts. Dresses and skirts should be conservative in length. Dresses and tops should not be low cut, strapless, or spaghetti strap.

**Any student wearing inappropriate attire will not be allowed to perform at these events which will affect their participation grade.**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

7<sup>th</sup> graders are able to participate in several competitions throughout the year. These competitions are run and regulated by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). UIL requires all participants to be passing all classes in order to participate. The eligibility of students will be decided by report cards and progress reports. We are required to follow the “No Pass, No Play” guidelines and will notify students affected by the policy prior to the event. If it is a required event, students who are ineligible will be given an alternate assignment to substitute for the participation grade of the event.



## **AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS**

7<sup>th</sup> grade members will be expected to attend a few after school rehearsals. An exact schedule will be given later, but you can plan on these:

- A couple of rehearsals the week before Honor America Night
- Weekly after school sectionals during contest season in the spring
- All-Region and Solo and Ensemble contest rehearsals/lessons

Students will be made aware of these rehearsals ahead of time and are expected to have a ride that will get them to and from rehearsal in a timely manner. Please avoid scheduling doctor's appointments during these after school rehearsals. If you must miss a rehearsal, please notify a director ahead of time if possible. **Not having a ride is not a valid excuse for missing rehearsals and performances and will affect your grade.**

# 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

---

## FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> grade band,

I'm so excited to welcome you into the 8th grade band. Just as your musical knowledge has grown over the last couple of years, your experience and level of involvement will continue to expand this year.

Even before school starts in August, our work begins with Summer Band Camp at the LMS Band Hall. We will use this time to work on learning and memorizing our stand tunes for our fall semester performances at football games, pep rallies, and the Downtown Lufkin Christmas Parade.

Outside of marching band, there will be opportunities for each student to excel. Individual competitions such as All-Region tryouts and Solo and Ensemble Contest, along with the full ensemble UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest will allow the students to challenge their individual skills and increase their level of maturity and musicality.

Thank you for allowing your student to be in the 8th grade band. My wish for every student is that they will enjoy learning about music and reach the levels of musicality and maturity that will be expected of them as a member of the Lufkin High School band. I know, with the help of both students and parents, we will create an exemplary musical experience that students may reflect on with pride in later years.

Thank you,

Thomas L. Smith

8th grade director  
[tsmith@lufkinisd.org](mailto:tsmith@lufkinisd.org)  
936-633-6136

## **EVENTS**

8<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in even more events than they did in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade. You will receive a calendar with exact dates, so please refer to the calendar before making plans.

### **REQUIRED EVENTS**

Pep Rallies\* (during the school day)  
LMS Football Games\* (schedule will be given)  
LMS “Superbowl” game at LHS (early November)  
Last LHS Home Football Game\*  
Honor America Night\* (around Veteran’s Day)  
Lufkin Christmas Parade (early December)  
Christmas Concert (weeknight in mid-December)  
UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest\* (early February)  
Pre-UIL Concert\* (late March)  
UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest\* (early April)  
Spring Concert (mid to late May)  
Sectionals and/or full band rehearsals

\*dependent on eligibility (see next page for more information on eligibility)

**Not having a ride is not a valid excuse for missing rehearsals and performances and will affect your grade.**

### **OTHER EVENTS**

All-Region Band Tryouts\* (early December)  
All-Region Band Clinic\* (mid January)

*Please note that ALL majorettes are required to participate in these events*

\*dependent on eligibility (see next page for more information on eligibility)

## **CONCERT DRESS/UNIFORMS**

Football Games, Pep Rallies, Honor America Night, and Christmas Parade uniforms will be as follows: LMS Band polo, blue jeans, black or brown solid color belt, white socks, and solid white tennis shoes.

Concert uniforms for 8<sup>th</sup> grade band will be black pants, black shoes, black socks, black belt, and LMS Band polo. This will be worn to the Pre-UIL Concert, and UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

There will be no uniform for the spring concert. Students may wear nice, conservative clothes. Boys should wear nice slacks with a dress shirt or polo and dress shoes. Girls may wear pants, dresses or skirts. Dresses and skirts should be conservative in length. Dresses and tops should not be low cut, strapless, or spaghetti strap.

Band members that are out of uniform will not be allowed to perform. This will affect their participation grade. Please make sure you have purchased all necessary items well before they are needed.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

8<sup>th</sup> graders are able to participate in several activities throughout the year.

These activities are run and regulated by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). UIL requires all participants to be passing their classes in order to participate. The eligibility of students will be decided by report cards and progress reports. We are required to follow the “No Pass, No Play” guidelines and will notify students affected by the policy prior to the event. If it is a required event, students who are ineligible will be given an alternate assignment to substitute for the participation grade of the event.

## **AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS**

8<sup>th</sup> grade members will be expected to attend several after school rehearsals.

An exact schedule will be given later, but you can plan on these:

- After school playing sectionals starting the 2nd week of school
- Marching practice after school starting the end of September
- A couple of rehearsals the week before Honor America Night
- Weekly after school sectionals during contest season in the spring
- All-region and solo and ensemble contest rehearsals
- Students will be made aware of these rehearsals ahead of time and are expected to have a ride that will get them to and from rehearsal in a timely manner.

**Not having a ride is not a valid excuse for missing rehearsals and performances and will affect your grade.**

## **FOOTBALL GAMES**

Attendance at football games is mandatory. As soon as we leave the band hall we are performing. Please act accordingly.

You are there to do a job – to cheer on the football team and add to the overall football game experience. Any students who misbehave will be asked to leave at the director's discretion. No food, drink, or gum will be allowed at any time during the game except for a bottle of water provided after half time. You will have assigned seats during the game, and must remain in your seat ready to play at all times. You will get the third quarter of the game off.

This is a privilege that can be taken away at any point by the directors.

We will leave when our job is done. The director will decide when that time is. No one is to leave before the band is dismissed except in special circumstances.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication is key to any organization, especially one as large as the LMS Band. In addition to our phone numbers and email addresses, we have set up several different ways to make communication easier. If you have any questions or concerns, please never hesitate to contact us. Many of your questions may be answered by checking the LMS Band website.

To find the website:

1. Type in [www.lufkinisd.org](http://www.lufkinisd.org) to your browser
2. Click on the “Schools” tab
3. Select “Lufkin Middle School” under the “Secondary” section
4. Select “Resources” on the top right hand side of the LMS website
5. Click on “Lufkin Middle School Band” link

On the website you can find a calendar of events, announcements, and important documents.

The LMS band directors now use the Remind101 texting system to quickly get announcements out to students and parents. We encourage students and parents to join Remind101.

To sign up for these text messages, send a message from your phone to the specific number listed for your grade level. In the body of the message, type the code including the @ symbol.

7th grade text “@lpband7” to 81010  
or visit <https://www.remind.com/join/lpband7>  
8th grade text “@lms8b” to 81010  
or visit <https://www.remind.com/join/lms8b>

Parents interested in receiving reminders of upcoming events and ways to support the LMS Band program may sign up for reminders by texting “@lmsbboost” to 81010 or visit <https://www.remind.com/join/lmsbboost>.

## **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

Concerts are a time for our band students to perform and demonstrate all that they have worked so hard on. They deserve the attention and respect of everyone in the audience. Here are some helpful tips on how to be respectful during concerts:

1. Do not talk during the performance.
2. Do not get up and move around while the band is playing.
3. Make sure you turn off all electronic devices.
4. Consider taking crying children out in the hall.
5. Wait until the conductor puts their hands down to begin clapping.
6. No flash photography while the band is playing.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

We try to have several social events throughout the year. These are meant to be a fun time for students and teachers to get to know each other better. Past events have included a winter carnival, video game tournament, movie day, and roller skating party. At these events, students are expected to be kind, courteous, and respectful to all directors, parent helpers, and other students. Any student who misbehaves will be asked to leave, may be banned from all other social events, and in the worst circumstances will be removed from the band program.

# Handbook Agreement Form

Please sign and return this form to a director.

**I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Lufkin Middle School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by the guidelines, expectations, and procedures as set forth by the Lufkin Middle School Principal, Danny Whisenant and the LISD Band Directors.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_