

Lakeview Middle School Band

Lakeview Middle School
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The Colony, TX 75056
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Band Handbook 2010–2011

Chris Anderson, Director
Carolyn Cansler, Associate Director

LAKEVIEW



MIDDLE SCHOOL

This and other information about our program can also be found at:

www.LakeviewBand.com

About the Directors

Chris Anderson is in his 3rd year as director of the Lakeview Middle School Bands in The Colony, Texas. Mr. Anderson moved to Lakeview from Katy, Texas where he was the assistant director at Cinco Ranch Junior High. Mr. Anderson began teaching 16 years ago after graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas in Austin. He began teaching as the assistant band director at Copperas Cove Junior High in Copperas Cove, Texas with 3 additional years at Jackson Middle School in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Anderson received a Masters degree from Texas Tech University in trombone performance. His bands have received superior ratings at both UIL Contests and Festivals. Mr. Anderson comes from a family of band directors, whose great-grandfather, D.O. Wiley, is the “Father of the Texas Bands”. Wiley was at Texas Tech for 25 years and a pioneer of the Texas Music Educators Association. Mr. Anderson attended the Joe Alessi Seminar as a participant, Brevard Music Center as a Teaching Assistant, and played with the Brevard Music Center Orchestra and Texas Music Festival Orchestra. Mr. Anderson currently plays trombone with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra.

Carolyn Cansler has been teaching band in Lewisville ISD since 2001, when she moved to Texas after teaching high school band for two years in her home state of Illinois. This is her fourth year at Lakeview Middle School. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois where she studied clarinet with Dr. William King, and conducting with Gary Shaw and Dr. Brad Holmes. Mrs. Cansler has traveled throughout the United States as a clinician for the George N. Parks Drum Major Academy since 1998, teaching conducting, marching techniques and leadership skills to high school students from across the country. Before moving to Texas she was a member of the Northshore Concert Band under the direction of Mallory Thompson and John P. Lynch, and can be heard on their CD release *From Broadway to Hollywood*. She currently resides in the Denton area with her husband Chris, who is the band director at Guyer High School (Denton ISD), and her two children Haley (age 5) and Eric (age 2).

Table of Contents

About the Directors	2
Communication	3
Course Objectives	4
Standards of Behavior	5
Procedures.....	5
Disciplinary Consequences	5
Grading Policies	6
Attendance	6
Sectional Rehearsals	6
At-Home Practice	7
Copy Policy	7
Uniforms	8
Academic Eligibility	9
Private Lessons	9
Concert Etiquette	10
Image and Band travel	10
The Colony Band Booster Club (TCBBC)	11
School-Owned Instrument Policy	11
Charms	11

Communication

The Lakeview band staff makes every effort to communicate information and expectations effectively with students and parents. We use in-class reminders, handouts, our band's website (www.lakeviewband.com), and e-mail to try keep you informed of what is coming up so that you can plan accordingly. Please check your student's band binder weekly for information that we have passed out in class. Please mark your family calendar with the band events pertaining to your child. These two things, in conjunction with making sure we have at least one valid e-mail address in our online database, are the best ways to ensure that you stay informed.

If you have a concern, or cannot find the answer to a question on our website, please feel free to contact us at the following numbers/e-mail addresses. Please understand that we have very full teaching schedules during the day, but will make every effort to return your call/e-mail as soon as possible.

Mr. Anderson – Wind Ensemble, 6th grade brass classes
(972) 350-3126 AndersonC@lisd.net

Mrs. Cansler – Symphonic Band, 6th grade flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon
(972) 350-3187 CanslerCM@lisd.net

Mr. Huestis – All percussion. Office at The Colony High School.
(469) 948-2523 HuestisM@lisd.net

Mr. Peterson – 6th grade saxophone class. Office at The Colony High School
(469) 948-2521 PetersonJT@lisd.net

Course Objectives

Aesthetic experiences are a vital part of student growth. Band, as a musical organization, provides one medium of aesthetic expression for students. Our goal, therefore, is that each student be able to express aesthetic values of music, through performance skills and theory comprehension.

- To develop a lifelong love of music and a recognition of its importance in helping to enrich the human experience.
- To develop self and group discipline through preparation and practicing of instrumental music.
- To develop leadership skills, responsibility, diligence, and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member.
- To develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination.
- To develop an ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, intonation, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing dynamics and articulation.
- To develop skills in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs and symbols.
- To develop proper instrumental technique, care for instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, good tone, correct breathing, technical proficiency, and rhythmic skill.
- To develop instrumental technique in finger/tongue coordination, intonation, musical phrasing, dynamic control, rhythmic skills, and articulation.
- To develop music reading skills, hand/eye coordination, and to interpret musical symbols both written and presented in aural examples.
- To develop musical sensitivity through performance of music as well as listening to music. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard.
- To evaluate the quality of music performance the student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress. Students will evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performance, and recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, intonation, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- To develop creative self-expression in every performance experience and explore possible careers in music.
- To exhibit concert etiquette as an informed, actively involved listener during varied live performances.

Standards of Behavior

Standards of behavior ensure that the Lakeview Band will establish and maintain a tradition of excellence and will protect students and equipment.

- No gum, candy, food or drinks in the Band Hall, unless provided and supervised by the directors.
- Do not interfere with the director's ability to teach or a student's ability to learn.
- Students are not to touch or handle any equipment or instrument that they are not assigned to play by the school.
- All required materials are to be brought to class each day – instrument and necessary accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.), band binder with all music/books/assignments, pencil.
- Do not bring extra materials to your seat in rehearsal. Backpacks and instrument cases will be stored as directed in class.

Procedures

1. Students should refrain from playing their instruments until class begins and the director starts the warm-up.
2. Students must be in their chair with instrument by the start of the class period.
3. Students should not leave their instrument unattended unless it is in its proper storage location.
4. Keep your eyes on the director when he or she is speaking.
5. Instruments may be stored in their assigned band cubby during the school day. Cases must be clearly labeled with the student's name. Other class materials are not allowed in the instrument storage areas.
6. Percussion instruments are only for the percussionists
7. As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the Band Hall.
8. You will be expected to take your instrument home every day. Instruments should be picked up immediately after school is dismissed. Athletes should make arrangements with Mr. Anderson for pick up and storage. If you leave school early, be sure to pick up your instrument before you leave.

Disciplinary Consequences

Violation of the standards or procedures outlined in this handbook may result in one or more of the following actions. (The order of these steps may vary if behavioral problems are severe):

1. Verbal warning
2. Time-out (may include a writing assignment) resulting in loss of participation points.
3. Teacher detention
4. Parent contact
5. Referral to the principal's office
6. Parent conference
7. Removal of band privileges
8. Removal from Band

Grading Procedures

- 40% Major Grades** – Performances, before/after school rehearsals, playing tests, and written test throughout the year. All performances are mandatory events. See **attendance policy** below.
- 40% Daily Grades**– Students will be evaluated for their daily class participation as well as sectional/rehearsal attendance, and quizzes.
- 20% Weekly Grades** – These consist of class preparation and completed practice records. **Practice records** will be graded on a weekly basis. The practice week begins on Monday and will conclude on Sunday. If a practice log is not completed and signed by a parent/guardian when graded in class on Tuesday there will be a 10-point penalty for each day it is late through Friday. If it is not completed by Friday, a “0” will be entered for that week.

Attendance Policy

Any activity which is included in the course is considered curricular. Sectional rehearsals, performances, and clinics are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities.

We cannot teach an empty chair, and we do not have a bench of extra players like sports teams do. Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental or other appointments around band activities and class time. Every member of the band is important.

Unlike other core classes, it is not possible to make up a performance or special rehearsal. Attendance at all rehearsals, clinics and performances are mandatory. All absences must be approved in advance by the director. **Advanced notice should be given at least three school days for morning or after school rehearsals and two weeks for performances.** Only conflicts of a serious nature will be considered. Failure to have an absence excused in the previous manner may result in the student receiving a zero for the event, and therefore failing the six-week grading period. If you absolutely must miss an activity due to an unavoidable conflict or family emergency, a written request by a parent or guardian will be needed. Please submit the request in a timely manner. Requests will be reviewed and excused at the directors’ discretion. Unexcused absences may result in the reassignment to a different part or role in the rehearsal or performance.

The majority of students who miss events have missed due to the lack of planning or lack of communication. Most absences can be avoided or excused by planning ahead. Many times a parent’s schedule does not allow time to transport their student to an event. There are many ways to solve these problems ahead of time. Many parents have worked out a carpooling system with band members from their neighborhood. Carpooling works if you plan ahead. Mark your calendar for all band events now!

Sectional rehearsals

Every Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble member is required to attend a sectional rehearsal once a week per district instrumental music policy. It is during sectional time that playing tests are administered and individualized instruction is given. **Please do not schedule appointments (i.e. orthodontia etc.) during sectional time. These will not be excused absences.**

The sectional schedule will change throughout the year to help facilitate athletics and unexpected conflicts. Students should keep the current schedule on the back cover of their band binder. The Lakeview Band website will be updated with any changes to this schedule as quickly as possible.

At-home Practice

Following a consistent, daily practice schedule is essential for a student to progress at an acceptable rate on his or her instrument. Parents, encourage your child to adopt a routine for practice every day. Past experience has shown us that students who are practicing and making noticeable progress on their instrument are more likely to enjoy band than those who do not practice. Just as with anything else that is worth learning, there are parts of learning an instrument that are not as fun as others. Often, as the newness wears off, practicing becomes more “work”. When this happens, please encourage your child to push through the difficult parts, and they will become easier in time.

Please keep the following guidelines in mind when establishing a practice routine:

1. Practice for results, not just for the sake of “putting in time”. Ask yourself “Is it getting better? What could be improved-upon?”
2. Keep distractions to a minimum: no radio or TV.
3. Set up a daily schedule and stick to it. Treat practice as part of your homework.
4. Always use a music stand. This helps avoid the formation of bad habits.
5. Always use a metronome. This greatly enhances your sense of pulse.
6. Try to follow a daily routine:
 - Warm-up exercise used in class each day
 - Fundamentals (scales, etc.)
 - Review material covered in class (or your private lesson) that day
 - Practice assigned material
 - Work ahead on material not yet covered.
7. Fill out your practice record during **each** practice session.

Practice Records

Practice records are an important part of the student’s grade. Please see “Grading Policies” on page 6 of this handbook for grading details. Official LVMS Practice Records are available to print or download at www.LakeviewBand.com.

Copy Policy

Due to a rising problem with students losing their music, we have implemented a copy policy. Each student will be given the one copy of the required music, assignments and exercises appropriate for his/her class. If a student requires us to make a copy of music that he or she has lost, they will be required to handwrite “The Detention Paper” either at home or during a teacher detention. This paper is approximately one typed-page long.

Band Uniforms

These guidelines are not meant to infringe on a students' right to self-expression. They are designed to maintain uniformity among the band members. The directors take these guidelines very seriously, as should the student members of the band. Failure to comply with the above guidelines can result in a student being removed from the performance in question and/or future performances resulting in a lower grade. All dress should comply with the LVMS Student Dress Code, found in the student handbook.

Beginning Band Uniforms

Beginning band students will be required to wear the Informal Uniform listed below for festival performance in the spring (Sandy Lake). Their dress for the **winter and spring concert** should be "nice clothes" (formerly referred to as "Sunday Best"). No jeans, t-shirts, gym shoes, etc. Boys should wear a collared shirt tucked in, with slacks (no jeans) and dress shoes. Girls may wear a dress (within the confines of the school dress code) slacks or skirt and an appropriate top, and dress shoes. Dresses and skirts should cover the knees when seated.

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Uniforms

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble students will have both a formal and an informal uniform for varying performances throughout the year.

Informal Uniform

Lakeview Band t-shirt- All band students will be required to have a t-shirt for various functions throughout the year. This shirt will be ordered through the band directors and cost \$10. Replacement later in the year (for lost or damaged t-shirts) may have an additional cost.

Blue Jeans- These will be neat, clean, full-length blue jeans. The t-shirt will be tucked in.

*There are occasions when the informal uniform will be edited to allow the students to wear shorts. This is situational, and at the discretion of the band director. Students will be notified ahead of time if they are allowed to wear shorts for an event. If so, they will be blue denim shorts, with the shirt tucked-in. If the director has not specified (or if in doubt), students will need to wear full-length blue jeans.

Formal Uniform

The formal concert uniform for Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble is classic "Concert Black". This basically consists of all-black dress clothing. No stripes, patterns, etc. please. Please remember accessories in this as well, such as black socks and undershirt.

Girls – All black: blouse, slacks or long skirt (must cover the knees when seated), hose, low-heel closed-toe shoes. For ease of movement and safety, no slides, sandals, flip flops, mules, etc. No heel over 2 inches is allowed. Shirts must cover the waist band of the pants when the arms are raised. No sleeveless shirts are allowed.

Boys – All Black: collared long sleeve button down dress shirt, slacks (no jeans), belt, **black socks** and dress shoes (no tennis shoes). The shirt will be tucked into the pants. Please do not wear any off color undergarment, especially white t-shirts. The band t-shirt makes a great undershirt choice for concert performance.

Academic Eligibility

As mandated by the Texas University Scholastic League (UIL) any grade below 70 on a six-week report card will deny you competitive performance privileges for a three or six week period. Because of the adverse effect this problem can have on an individual and the group as a whole, we will always monitor this situation very closely, especially around All-Region, Solo and Ensemble, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. We ask that you continue to supervise your child and communicate with his/her teachers if any grade questions should arise. Students should understand that their grades have a direct influence on other students as well as themselves. Every individual in the band plays a vital role as a link in our chain. Consequently, when a link is missing, the chain breaks. Any one individual has the ability to prevent an entire band from performing to his full potential.

UIL Academic Requirements (no pass, no play)

1. If a student receives a grade below a 70 in any subject, that student will become ineligible for extra-curricular activities, as defined by the UIL, starting on the Friday following the end of the six week grading period in which the failing grade was received.
2. A student can regain eligibility on the Friday following the three-week grading period if the student is passing EVERY class and receives no remark of "currently failing" on his/her 3-week progress report

*The directors can answer specific situational questions as they may arise.

Private Lessons

In order to provide the very best learning experience for each student, Lakeview Band students are offered the opportunity to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. Instructors are carefully selected by the band directors and work closely with the directors and students to improve the performance and understanding of their instrument and music. Although it is not mandatory to study privately, the individual attention that the student receives generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. Lessons are held once a week and are offered both during band and outside of school time.

Partial tuition scholarships are available for need-based families. Please contact Mr. Anderson to request a scholarship application.

Parents are usually asked to pay for lessons on a monthly basis. This is left to the discretion of the individual lesson teacher. You should receive a statement at the beginning of each month indicating your share in this program. All money will be paid directly to the private lesson teacher. Prompt payments will be greatly appreciated by the teachers. In many cases this is their sole source of income.

The LISD private lesson fee as of August 2010 is \$17.00 per lesson to work a degreed instructor.

Concert Etiquette

Audience manners are based on a respect for performers and for others in the audience. They are expressions of courtesy. Unfortunately, young people in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of the standards of appropriate behavior. When attending concerts (winter concert, spring concert, etc.) throughout year, LV Band members will be expected to display appropriate behavior while in the audience listening to their peers perform.

By following these guidelines you can help us by set a proper example for our students and will make the concert more enjoyable for all.

1. Avoid entering or leaving the venue during the performance. If necessary, move only between pieces.
2. Applause is welcomed, but whistling or cheering is inappropriate for a formal concert.
3. Talking is inappropriate during a performance. Young children who are talking or crying should be escorted out of the performance area.
4. Attention should be directed to the performing group at all times.
5. Cell phones, texting devices and other electronics should be turned off. This can be very distracting to the audience, and can ruin a band's performance and recording.
6. In true formal concert etiquette photography is strictly prohibited. In the middle school setting we understand parents would like to have pictures. No flash photography, please, during the band's performance. If you would like to use flash photography, please do so before or after the performance.

Image and Traveling with the Band

It is the expectation of the directors and administration that the Lakeview Band members will maintain a positive image at all times. The Lakeview Band represents the entire school, as well as The Colony. Band members always make every effort to be courteous and respectful. We understand that we never get a second chance to make a first impression.

Lakeview Band students will always remain entirely in uniform while in public, as the situation allows. When in situations with other performing organizations it is imperative that you treat students from these ensembles with respect and dignity. We expect our students to refrain from negative or derogatory statements.

When traveling with the band, students are expected to follow all directions as set forth by the directors and parent chaperones. All adults are to be treated with the utmost respect. Proper bus behavior will be required of all students. Music-listening devices without earphones will not be allowed. Failure to follow the guidelines set forth may result in disciplinary consequences during the trip and/or upon return to Lakeview. **Students who are not in good-standing with the band (having paid all fees, etc.) will not be allowed to participate in the band's non-performance trips or events.**

The Colony Band Boosters (TCBBC) – Volunteer!

Parents play a very important role in the success of our band program. The Colony Band Booster Club was set up to support the bands of The Colony High School and its feeder campuses, Griffin and Lakeview Middle Schools. Please consider chaperoning, helping in the band office, or assisting at a TCBBC function – they are there to support our kids!

It is required that all volunteers complete a criminal history check available at: www.lisd.net (under the “Parents/students” dropdown menu select Volunteer/Background Check). The district background check will enable you do volunteer at all LISD campuses. Instructions can be found at <http://lakeviewband.com> in the forms section titled Volunteer Application Instructions.

School-Owned Instrument Policy

LISD requires that all students who use school-owned instruments pay an annual maintenance fee of \$80.00. This fee is intended to help offset a portion of the **normal repair and upkeep** cost of these expensive instruments. Any damage to an instrument outside of the realm of “normal wear and tear” (as determined by a director) will be the financial responsibility of the student. Students are still expected to maintain their instruments routinely as taught in class.

Fees should be paid before September 24, 2010. **Checks need to be made payable to Lakeview Middle School** (NOT TCBBC!) All fees are non-refundable. If a student moves or is no longer part of the band they will not receive a refund. No student will be prohibited from playing an instrument simply because they are unable to pay this fee. Contact a band director if you need assistance.

CHARMS

Charms is a secure web-based program that will assist the band directors and booster club in communicating, financing, and organization of the Lakeview Band program. Please try to keep student and parent/guardian information up-to-date on this program so you will not miss important e-mails and announcements. A link to the band’s official website is also available on this site.

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com
 - Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN” section of the web page
 - Login to your child’s account using the login **LakeviewMSBand**
 - This will bring up the main parent page, allowing you to view the calendar, e-mail us, etc.
 - Enter your Child’s LISD student ID number as the password, and you will see another more detailed screen with options to view your student’s information, financial records, forms, handouts, assigned inventory, etc.
- Student Information Page** – this is where we need you to confirm and update your contact information (phone numbers, e-mail address, etc.) so that we may communicate with you more effectively. Please make sure you click “Update” after you make any changes.