

Lufkin Independent School District



***7th-8th
Band Student Handbook***

Lufkin, Texas

Welcome to the Lufkin band family! It is our desire that your tenure in the band program here in the Lufkin Independent School District is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences in your public-school career. This handbook has been prepared in order that you will be better equipped to be an outstanding band member. We look forward to working with you and your family.

- *The Lufkin Band Staff*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff Contact Information	2
Communication	2
Band Website	2
Remind	2
LMS Band Google Classroom Codes	3
Charms	3
Band Membership	3
Grading System	4
Attendance Policies/Absences	4
Conduct	5
Band Hall Rehearsal Rules	5
Digital Citizenship	6
Stadium Guidelines	7
Bus and Trip Regulations	7
Discipline Management Plan	8
Performance Policy	8
No Pass No Play	9
Extra Rehearsals	9
Financial Obligations	9
Fundraisers	9
School Owned Instruments	10
Band Trips	10
Band Uniforms	10
Explanation of Events	11
Student Leadership	12
Student Contact Information Confidentiality	12
Cell Phone Policy	12
Handbook Parent Agreement Page	13

Staff Contact Information

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COMMUNICATION

Band Website

To access the band website, go to <http://sites.lufkinisd.org/lms/lms-band/>. The band website has a monthly calendar and is updated regularly with band pictures and news.

Remind

Remind is a texting service that allows students and educators to communicate safely. No real phone numbers are used. Using Remind is vital for Lufkin MS Band students and parents to stay up to date with the latest Panther Band information and announcements.

To become a member of the primary Lufkin **7th Grade** Band Remind group:

- Enter this phone number – 81010
- Text this message - @4aagf8ehkc
- You can also sign up using the Remind app and the @4aagf8ehkc code

To become a member of the primary Lufkin **8th Grade** Band Remind group:

- Enter this phone number – 81010
- Text this message - @79caek7h7d
- You can also sign up using the Remind app and the @79caek7h7d code

LMS Band Google Classroom Codes:

The Lufkin MS Band utilizes Google Classroom for every band class. You will need to check here often to access assignments, post playing tests, etc. You may also ask the teacher a question in the google classroom.

Here are the codes for the 7th and 8th Grade Bands:

Lufkin 7th Grade Band **tzv4jnu**

Lufkin 8th Grade Band **2feiqzv**

Charms

The Lufkin Band uses Charms (a secure database stored in the cloud) to maintain student contact information and to send mass emails.

Use the following links to fill out the LMS Band Student Data Forms so that we can easily upload the information into Charms:

7th Grade- <https://forms.gle/hxdB2oiZ2KbxGXrBA>

8th Grade- <https://forms.gle/naTJvYfZJBwFG35E8>

BAND MEMBERSHIP

1. Band at Lufkin is an elective. Membership in the Lufkin High School Band is contingent upon successful completion of membership in the Lufkin Middle School band and the recommendation of the Lufkin Middle School band directors.
2. Students moving into Lufkin ISD will need to audition with a band director for appropriate chair placement.
3. Band is a full year course. No student may register for only the fall or spring semester.
4. Students will only be allowed to change their schedule into or out of band with written approval signed by the band director.
5. Band membership is cumulative. Students may not be readmitted to band after they are removed from the program due to disciplinary reasons or after they decide to quit participating.

GRADING SYSTEM

Every Lufkin band student will earn their progress report and report card grades based upon the following criteria and will be given one grade per week of the school year:

1. Daily Participation

- A student's grade may be lowered for coming to rehearsal without their instrument or needed supplies, or if a student is found during uniform inspection to be without the proper uniform parts (see the Uniforms section of the handbook for more details).

2. Music Pass Offs

- Music Pass Off Assignments will be graded as follows:

Definitions

- "Passed Off" is when a student performs assigned music for a band director with the correct notes and rhythms with a good sound, the correct tempo, appropriate dynamics, and appropriate musical style/interpretation.
- "Attempted" is when a student attempts to perform assigned music with the "pass" criteria in mind but does not completely satisfy the criteria according to the expectation of the band directors.
- "On Time" means performed for the first time before the designated deadline.
- "Late" means performed for the first time after the designated deadline.

Grades

- 100 - Passed Off (on time)
- 80 - Passed Off (late)
- 80 - Attempted (on time)
- 50 - Attempted (late)
- *Students are given until the next to last day of the grading period to bring their grade of "attempted" up to "passed off". Repeated attempts to pass selected music off may result in a student's grade being raised. The amount that a grade is raised will depend on the number of times attempted and the amount of improvement shown. Any music attempted late (after the set deadline) will have a maximum grade of an 80 upon bringing it up to a "pass".*

ATTENDANCE POLICY/ABSENCES

The success of any good organization is due largely to the commitment of its members to attend all functions that are scheduled. Therefore, attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

A calendar of events is issued to each student well before any events take place in order to circumvent potential conflicts with other organizations and/or family functions. Out of respect for your time, every effort will be made to keep you informed well in advance. We ask that you try not to schedule appointments during band rehearsals if possible.

Absences will be excused and grades can be made up if you are disabled due to a debilitating illness or if there is a death in the family. You are expected to fully participate when you are at school unless you have a note from your doctor stating that you are to be excused from a specific aspect of participation. All absences, excused or unexcused, must be reported to the band director prior to the absence if at all

possible. *Any excused absence must have a written note or email from a parent or admit slip from the attendance office or it will be considered unexcused. Any unexcused absence from a performance can result in a failing grade and may be grounds for dismissal from band.*

CONDUCT

The Lufkin Band and its members serve as representatives of our school district. You are expected to follow the LISD Student Handbook/Code of Conduct and you are subject at all times to Student Handbook/Code of Conduct consequences. Keep in mind that you also represent your community, family, and school. Your behavior reflects us all.

BAND HALL & REHEARSAL RULES

1. No food, gum, candy, or drinks will be allowed in the band hall. Bottled water ONLY.
2. No horseplay or rough-housing: anything broken because of horseplay will be repaired at the expense of the student.
3. Instruments should be stored in their cases with the latches closed and 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. Get a drink of water and use the restroom prior to the beginning of rehearsal. Due to COVID-19 concerns and policies, the band hall water fountains are off limits for now. Please bring a bottle of water with you to class. Please leave the bottle of water in your backpack during class.
10. If your instrument will not work during a rehearsal, let the director know about the problem as soon as you become aware of it. Sit and do fingerings and listen to instructions. It is important that you stay engaged in the rehearsal. Your director will attend to your instrument as soon as possible. However, necessary repairs may have to wait until after the rehearsal has ended.
11. When the director stops the band, please refrain from talking. These necessary stops are to provide feedback concerning the ensemble's performance and to give further instruction.
12. Most importantly, always give the directors your full attention and respect.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Maintaining a high standard of conduct includes ensuring that band member websites and online social media interactions are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Students and parents must be aware that all digital communication (Snap Chat, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, texting, etc.) is public domain even if it is marked as private. Members are responsible for their personal sites and postings, as well as postings from or on other students' sites. The following are examples of inappropriate digital communication: profane, foul, or disrespectful language; pictures with suggestive poses or inappropriate clothing; references to alcohol, weapons, drugs, vaping products, or tobacco; postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards LISD teaching staff or band members; demonstrating poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident may result in review by the band director and principal and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

Band members that violate internet and digital communication guidelines shall be subject to the following consequences:

- Step 1 – Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the site(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and necessary band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Step 2 – Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the site(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and necessary band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student may be suspended from all band activities for a period ranging from 3 days to 3 weeks, depending on the offense.
- Step 3 – Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member is subject to removal from the band program.
- Any violation deemed extreme enough may result in immediate dismissal from band without following Step 1 or 2 as outlined in this section

STADIUM GUIDELINES

1. Please keep in mind that your performance begins the minute you leave the band hall. Therefore, everything about your behavior, uniform, etc. is on display for evaluation.
2. There will be no unsportsmanlike or derogatory comments made by any Lufkin band member toward ANYONE including each other, other students, players on the field, adults, and the officiating crew.
3. You will have assigned seats in the stadium. You will remain in your assigned area during the game.
4. When the band plays, everyone is expected to play. Always be ready to do your job.
5. Always take your flip folder music to the stands with you. A lyre can be used to help you manage your music while you play.
6. When our team scores, be ready to play the fight song.
7. Stay in complete uniform as specified by the band director at all times. "Do-rags", hats, or caps are not permitted.
8. Students should use the restroom before the band enters the stadium. Students asking to use the restroom once in the stands will be handled on a case by case basis.

BUS & TRIP REGULATIONS

1. Follow the instructions of the bus driver, band director, or adult chaperones at all times.
2. Stay seated while the bus is moving with conversation voices only - no loud outbursts.
3. Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the windows. This includes voices - no yelling out of windows.
4. DO NOT throw things out of the windows at any time. Do not open the back door except in the case of an emergency.
5. Small music players (such as cell phones or MP3 players) are permissible WHEN USED WITH HEADPHONES! You are responsible for any personal property that you bring on the bus. The Lufkin band, band directors, and chaperones will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen property and you will not be reimbursed for lost or stolen property
6. Eating and/or drinking on the bus are not allowed on LISD buses, except for bottled water. Eating and/or drinking privileges on charter buses can be taken away if abused.
7. Glass bottles or containers are not allowed on any bus.
8. When leaving the bus, be sure all windows are closed. After returning to school, double check to make sure that you unloaded all of your personal belongings and equipment. Your instrument and music must be placed in their proper storage area or taken home with you.
9. Students may be signed out to ride home with parents without prior written notification. Parents wishing to give their permission for their student to be signed out by someone else need to send a signed note (or email) stating to whom they will be released. People to whom students may be released are: other band parents or **ADULT** family members. To sign a student out, parents or their designee must present a driver's license to their chaperone after the event is over. Students are not allowed to be signed out by friends, siblings that are still in high school, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.

** For safety and logistical reasons please make every effort to give any notes to the LMS band directors by the end of the school day at least one day before the bus trip for which that note is intended. Parents may qualify another adult to pick up their student more than once by specifying all of the affected dates in one note.*

DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Expectations

Lufkin band students are always expected to follow all policies outlined in each section of this handbook as well as the LISD Student Handbook/Code of Conduct. Taking a proactive approach to making good decisions about one's own actions is always the best choice.

Students should respect other students' right to learn and the teacher's right to teach. Disrupting the learning process or compromising the safe environment of other students will not be tolerated.

Rewards

Lufkin band students who meet expectations can expect verbal or written praise from directors. Students can also expect to be a part of a successful and respected band program. Students will be assisted in forming a positive self-image and will be proud of the high level of self-discipline and hard work required to meet all expectations.

Corrective Actions

In the event that a student fails to comply with Lufkin Band guidelines, disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, the following may be taken:

- Assignment to lunch detention.
- Office referral.
- Anything else deemed necessary at director and principal discretion.

Dismissal from Band

Any student may be dismissed from the band due to conduct requiring principal or law enforcement intervention (whether or not you are with the band at the time of the conduct infraction), lack of cooperation, refusal to conform to rules and regulations, a general poor attitude, or unexcused absence from rehearsals or a performance.

Parents/Guardians will be notified of a problem which could lead to a student being dismissed from band in advance of a dismissal actually taking place. This will almost always be a warning notification. However, in extreme cases a student can be dismissed without "having a second chance". Extreme cases can include violence, destroying band property, displays of extreme disrespect, an unexcused absence from a performance, sexual harassment, inappropriate digital media and anything else deemed appropriate for immediate dismissal by the band director and principal. Students will not be readmitted to the band after being dismissed from band for disciplinary reasons.

PERFORMANCE POLICY

All band students will be given the opportunity to perform with the band. However, there are circumstances under which a student may not be allowed to perform:

1. Failure to pass-off or perform music at acceptable levels.
2. Unexcused absences and/or tardiness.
3. Director discretion (usually involving student misconduct).
4. Failing a course (No Pass No Play—state law).

NO PASS NO PLAY

No Pass No Play refers to a state law which requires students in Texas to be academically eligible in order to participate in school related public performances and competitions. Events that academically ineligible students are not allowed to participate in include the Honor America Performance. Academically ineligible students are allowed to participate in the Lufkin Band Christmas Concert and Spring Concert due to the fact that these concerts do not cost money to attend and are required to teach all of the state required TEKS for music.

EXTRA REHEARSALS

Extra rehearsals are necessary for obtaining the level of excellence that the Lufkin band program is used to. These rehearsals can be individual, section, or full band rehearsals. Extra rehearsals will take place as necessary for preparation concerning a concert, contest, or individual band event. Students will be notified well in advance of any extra rehearsal. Attending extra rehearsals is mandatory, and unexcused absences may result in consequences as outlined in the Discipline Management Plan in this handbook.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

While the LISD band program tries to provide for as many expenses as possible, some of the cost to participate does go to the students and parents. You will be notified of any fees that need to be paid in advance of those payment due dates. Any financial difficulties involved with paying band fees should be communicated to a band director prior to the fee's due date. Prior notification is essential in order to provide ample time to find a solution to the problem.

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.

FUNDRAISERS

The Lufkin band participates in several fundraisers each year. Participation in a fundraiser indicates acceptance of the financial responsibility associated with that particular fundraiser. Money due as a part of a fundraising activity is to be turned in by the fundraiser ending date.

Information concerning fundraiser dates, procedures, and profit distribution will be supplied through Remind messages, emails, and handouts. Fundraisers are a very necessary part of every highly functional band program. Thanks in advance for helping the Lufkin Panther Band raise money!

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The Lufkin band provides certain instruments for students. These instruments are most commonly oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and Bari sax, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion equipment. Every instrument not listed here is the responsibility of the parent to provide.

School-owned instruments will be issued to students to use and care for as if it were their own personal instrument. Students are only allowed to use their personally owned or school issued instrument. Please do not “swap” instruments without director approval. Please notify a band director if your instrument needs maintenance. Only band directors are allowed to issue instruments!

It is the policy of the band to pay for any expenses pertaining to routine repair and maintenance of a school owned instrument. However, damages caused due to student negligence will be repaired at the expense of the student. Students will fill out appropriate forms with the band directors before taking any equipment from the Lufkin MS band hall.

By agreeing to the terms and conditions of the handbook, you are also agreeing to the instrument check out terms and conditions stated in this section.

BAND TRIPS

(As of this time, there are no band trips scheduled for this year)

The LMS 7th and 8th Grade Bands will take a trip every spring semester to a location which will be announced upon determination of each destination. These trips are to provide an enrichment opportunity for students as well as to serve students as a reward for hard work and dedication to the LISD band program.

Trips are paid for by band booster funds, student fundraising, and student payments. Required student trip payment amounts and due dates will be communicated in advance and all payments must be paid in a timely fashion to secure an individual’s chance to travel with the band.

The rules outlined in the “Performance Policy” section of this handbook will govern whether or not a student will be able to participate in a trip.

UNIFORMS

The Lufkin Middle School Band wears their uniform for performances at football games, Honor America Night, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and various other events.

The LMS Band uniform for 7th and 8th Grade students consists of:

Fall Events: The LMS Band Polo

Blue Jeans

Black/Brown Belt

White socks

Tennis Shoes

Spring Events: The LMS Band Polo

Black Pants or Slacks

EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

LMS 8th Grade Band Camp: Band Camp is essential to getting a head start on the school year, building a sense of family, and establishing our work ethic. We accomplish in just a few days what would usually take weeks. Attendance is mandatory for all 8th Grade band members.

Football Games: The Lufkin Middle School Band attends and performs at select LMS and LHS football games. This is a great way to prepare for HS band.

Pep Rallies: There are several football pep rallies held during the school year and are listed on the performance calendar.

LMS Superbowl: The last scheduled LMS Football game where the 7th and 8th grade bands will perform together in the stands.

Honor America: Honor America takes place each fall on or near Veteran's Day. Honor America is a truly unique event that features all Lufkin ISD bands and seeks to honor and recognize our active and veteran armed forces personnel. Attendees will be treated to patriotic music, twirling performances, a performance of the Middle and High School Bands, the HS Band marching contest drill, and fireworks!

Christmas Parade: The Lufkin 8th Grade Band marches in the Lufkin Christmas Parade which is held after Thanksgiving each year. Students are welcome to wear a Santa hat and decorate their instruments with Christmas lights!

All-Region Band: (Individual Competition) Students prepare prescribed music to audition for a position in the TMEA Region 21 All-Region Band. Students who are selected to be a member of an all-region band will participate in rehearsals and a concert. The clinic/concert is conducted by superior teachers and directors. Participation in the All-Region Band audition process is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

Solo/Ensemble Contest: Students prepare prescribed solos and ensembles to be evaluated by TMEA adjudicators. Students need to practice after school and at home and strive to do their best. Medals are given to students who achieve a first division rating. Participation in solo and ensemble is mandatory for all members of the 8th Grade Band.

Concert & Sight-Reading Contest: Each concert band will represent Lufkin ISD at the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Three prescribed selections of music are prepared to be performed for three adjudicators who will evaluate the performance according to a state-wide standard. After performing on stage, the students will move to the sight-reading room where they will be evaluated on their sight-reading abilities by three additional adjudicators. Participation in concert and sight-reading contest is mandatory for all LMS 7th and 8th Grade band members.

Christmas Concert: This is a concert that both 7th and 8th grade bands will perform in December to various Holiday favorites.

Spring Concert: This is a concert that both the 7th and 8th grade bands will perform in May. This will be our last full band performance of the year. Music performed at this concert will be from our UIL Concert and Sightreading contest as well as new pieces.

Stephen F. Austin State University Band Camp: This is an optional camp which is held in June on the campus of SFASU in Nacogdoches, TX. All students going into grades 7-12 are eligible to attend this camp. While the SFA Band Camp does cost a fair amount of money, the benefits are tremendous and scholarships are available. Look for details about the SFA Band Camp during the spring semester of the school year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students have the opportunity to serve in various roles on the Student Leadership Team (SLT). Specific requirements that must be met to qualify for a position on the SLT will be posted in the band hall throughout the school year. Student leaders are held to the highest standards within the band program.

Positions Available by Audition

- Drum Major (8th Grade Only)
- Majorette

In addition to the guidelines set forth in this band handbook, Drum Major and Majorette candidates/qualifiers will be held to the selection guidelines, expectations, and enforcement policies as outlined in a separate packet specific to being Drum Major or Majorette. Drum Major and Majorette audition packets will be passed out in late February or early March. Auditions are held in early May.

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY

All student and parent contact information given to the Lufkin band will be kept confidential. Only LISD band staff and select band boosters will be allowed access to personal phone numbers and email addresses. Certain band boosters will need contact information in order to communicate volunteer needs for specific events.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Lufkin band students are allowed to take cell phones with them on all band functions. Students may be asked to turn off and/or turn in cell phones to band directors and/or chaperones as necessary to facilitate proper etiquette as required for each function. A student may have their cell phone taken up by a band director when caught texting or calling during rehearsals and performances. Parents may have to come to the band office to retrieve the phone.

This document is used as a guideline by directors and administration. They can, at any time, deviate from the stated guidelines, procedures, or consequences to deal with a situation that may occur.

Please read and fill out the Lufkin MS Band Handbook Agreement Google Form by using the following link or scanning the QR code below. This form must be completed and submitted in order to retain membership in the Lufkin MS Band.

<https://forms.gle/hQA2FHWHW22M16cA6>

