

# ***Syllabus – Concert Band***

Lackawanna Trail High School

Mr. Kevin Dikeman – Band Director

[dikemank@ltsd.org](mailto:dikemank@ltsd.org)

Academic Year 2011 – 2012

Dear Parents/Students,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 concert band. In this document I will outline the goals and objectives for the LT Concert Band for this school year. Please read all of this because there are changes from last year. First of all the main goal is to be the best possible musicians and young adults as possible.

## **Course Description and Objectives**

Concert band is designed to further develop the students playing technique and aptitude. The class meets every day for 42 minutes. Some of the general objectives of this class include:

To play several major scales and understand how to construct key signatures

To further develop proper playing and rehearsal techniques

To develop an understanding of many new musical terms

To increase their awareness of musicality by playing in varied styles

To learn to interpret expressive gestures by the conductor

## **Materials**

In addition to their instrument, all students will need the following for class:

Any supplies needed to play their instrument (reeds, valve oil, etc.)

A pencil with an eraser

A positive attitude

Provided Repertoire

Technique exercises – I Recommend Packets or 'Chop' Busters

As last year, lesson plans will be posted in the band room and my webpage.

If you do not have these materials, you will lose participation points.

## **Class Guidelines**

- 1.) Students will enter the room quietly and are not allowed to play before the group is ready for warm-up.
- 2.) Students will have 4 minutes after the bell rings to be in their seats and ready to begin the activities. If you are not seated on time, you will be considered late for class. Brass players should buzz into their mouthpieces, woodwind players should prepare reeds.
- 3.) Talking will not be tolerated during instruction time. In a group this size, talking can easily disrupt the entire class. The band will uphold a standard of effective rehearsals.

- 4.) No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the band room. Students are responsible for keeping the room clean. If there is trash under your chair...please pick it up.
- 5.) Everything has a place and needs to be returned to that place when rehearsal is over. This means no music or instruments left out and percussion instruments are stored properly.
- 6.) If the instrument is not yours, don't touch it!!!! **That means do not touch the percussion instruments.**
- 7.) If you do not play the instrument in Concert Band or Jazz Band, to put it simply....YOU DO NOT PLAY IT!!!!
- 8.) Use your common sense! Do what you know is right. If you use your best judgment, manners and courtesy at all times in the class, you will give yourself the best chance to be successful.

## Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following criteria every quarter:

- 1.) There will be quarterly playing exams. There WILL be 4 per quarter. These playing exams can be taken anytime via Smart Music, during the lesson periods (lunchtime), during band, or after school on the designated days.
- 2.) Concert attendance / alternative project - see below for description
- 3.) Daily Participation – Participation is based on the class guidelines stated above.
- 4.) Quarterly written tests – this will be given to students to assess knowledge of content area such as basic theory and music vocabulary. Students will know at least one week prior to exams.
- 5.) After school extra rehearsals – There will be 1 mandatory after school rehearsal per concert. Other scheduled after school rehearsals will be on a bonus point basis. You will be given plenty of notice as to when the rehearsals will be.
- 6.) Mentoring Program – See below for description.

## Discipline Policy

As with any class, improper behavior will not be tolerated. As stated above, this is a large group; to be successful we need to be respectful to everyone in the room. If there is a discipline problem within the band, the following WILL occur:

First Occurrence: Teacher/Student conference with a call to the parents

Second Occurrence: Discipline Referral and detention

Any occurrences after: Determined by school administrators

## Mandatory Concert Attendance

Mandatory concert attendance at two choir performances is required of each student. All students will attend the Fall Choir concert and the Spring Choir Concert. All members will sit together in the auditorium. Any member who does not attend will complete an evaluation paper with rubrics clearly outlined.

## Music Department Events

Being in the band program means that you are a member of the music department 'family.' We support each other in every way possible. Below is a list of music department functions.

November 15, 2011 @ 7 PM	Fall Benefit Concert – Choral	Mandatory Participation
--------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------

November 10, 2011 @ 7 PM	Fall Benefit Concert – Band	Mandatory Participation
December 19, 2011 @ 7 PM	Holiday Concert – Choral	Bonus points for attendance
December 15, 2011 @ 7 PM	Holiday Band Concert	Mandatory Participation
May 8, 2012 @ 7 PM	Senior High Choral Concert	Mandatory Participation
May 16, 2012 @ 7 PM	Junior High Spring Concert	Mandatory Participation Jr. High Mandatory Attendance Senior High
May 11, 2012 @ 7 PM	Jazz Ensemble Concert	Mandatory Participation
May 24, 2012 @ 7 PM	Senior High Band Concert	Mandatory Participation Senior High Mandatory Attendance Junior High
To Be Announced	Choral/Band Competition	Jr. High Chorus and Band - optional
To Be Announced	Elementary Music Concert	Mandatory Attendance All Bands

## Performance Attire

Our selected performance attire will be ALL BLACK. If you do not have it now.....GET IT.

## Fund Raisers

The following fundraisers will take place to assist students to raise funds they need for any function of the music department:

Made in Pennsylvania Turn in Date: September 26, 2011

Pies/Coffee Turn in Date: October 31, 2011

Cookie Dough Turn in Date: January 23, 2012

Candles Turn in Date: TBD

Hoagie Sales Will be in the months of October, December, February, & April

The music booster club, Friends of Music, sponsors additional fund raising events throughout the year. Students are expected to participate in these events, which may include the concession stand and spaghetti Dinner.

## Mentoring Program

To continue producing a quality band the older students need to be a mentor to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Those students will look up to an older student more than they would a director. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have specific lesson times where they will be learning to increase their range and to increase their musical abilities. This may not sound like a big deal to you, but the younger students will remember your help for a long time. With that being said, 10 points per quarter will be for this purpose. Minimum of 2 times per quarter ( worth 5 points each) you are to mentor the younger bands. If you do it more than twice per quarter, you will receive an additional 5 points per session.

## Additional Rehearsals

Before each concert there will be 1 MANDATORY after school rehearsal. Other after school rehearsals will be on a 'bonus' point basis. You will be given plenty of notice as to when these rehearsals will occur.

## Band Composition

The band composition will take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter this school year. There will be different requirements based on grade. In other words, seniors will not have the same requirements as freshman.

### **Field Trips**

Filed trips will take place during the year as invitations to perform or travel are made to the music department. Participation will be by invitation only. Mr. D reserves the right to exclude a member for: poor classroom participation, excessive absences from class, discipline referrals resulting in detention and insubordination of any LTTHS faculty or staff. Students must maintain an average of 85 to participate in any field trips. Filed trips are a privilege.

### **'Other' Music Department Policies**

Do not bring big cases into the band room for rehearsals – this only clutters the room

No eating in the band room. The only drinks permitted will be water. Cafeterias are made for eating

The hallway and practice rooms are NOT movie theatres. No PDA.

Do not store books or instruments in the hallway. Anything left after the last music teacher leaves will most likely be tossed.

### **Website**

All announcements will be put on my website by band. If you are not a member of that fusion page, request it and I will accept you. Your parents may need to do the same. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE PLACED ON THE BAND'S FUSION PAGE. "I didn't know" is not an acceptable answer.

### **Practice**

I do not require the concert band students to keep practice notebooks. I would ask that students practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day outside of school. However, if I determine the progress is not meeting the expectations, the log will be reinstated. The practice notebook should contain the following items:

Date, time started, time completed, piece worked on (include measures) and a brief self-evaluation of the session.

Since band is now first Mod this year, it will provide us the opportunity to have some rehearsals that begin at 7 am. Be prepared, this WILL happen during the year whether it be full band or sectional rehearsal.