



February Newsletter

Winter Conferences

LMS Winter Conferences concluded on February 23rd, but please do not hesitate to contact me at any time during the school year. I am available to go over any questions or concerns about your student's grades and performance in class via email, phone, or in person.

Grades are not solely determined based on concert attendance. Student grades also include homework assignments, such as weekly practice sheets or Rhythm Drill worksheets, in-class written work or quizzes, and playing quizzes. The breakdown of student grades is as follows:

Sectionals (independently assessed playing grades)	60%
Concert performance and written tests	30%
Practice sheets or other homework assignments	10%

My contact info:

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Performances Galore!

This winter is very hectic for the band program as the students are preparing for multiple performances. The first performance coming up on the calendar is the annual “**Band Festival**” in the LHS cafeteria and gym on **March 12th, 2016**.

Band Festival will start at 5:00 with the middle school and high school jazz bands. Jazz Band students will report at 4:30 in the LHS Choir Room to warm-up before the concert. While the jazz bands play, students and their families can enjoy listening to this concert and visit our café for dinner.

The entire 7th Grade Band will meet at 6:30 to warm-up. The concert band portion of the festival will begin in the LHS gym at 7:00. At this time, all five bands in the district will perform and our annual raffle will be held. Come early to find a seat because it will certainly be a packed house!

The Band Festival is a massive undertaking for our band families. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our Band Booster President, Jennifer Morrison, at (330) 936-0128. If you would like to bring items for our bake sale stand, individual servings of pies, cake, cookies, brownies or other desserts can be brought to the LHS Cafeteria on March 12th from 11:00 – 2:00.

OMEA Middle School Solo and Ensemble at Alliance High School on April 9th is also fast approaching. This will be the first time seventh grade students will have the opportunity to perform at such an exciting event. At Solo and Ensemble, students are split into small chamber groups and will have the unique opportunity to perform without a conductor in front of a judge. This judge will assess their performance based on how the group executes a variety of musical skills—such as dynamic contrast and correct notes and rhythms—to ultimately determine a rating. Students have already received small ensemble music and are hard at work during sectionals.

Students will meet in the LMS band room bright and early that morning and will ride a bus with the directors to AHS. Students will receive performance times approximately two weeks before Solo & Ensemble. Around Spring Break, please be on the look out for a multitude of papers concerning this particular weekend!

Family, friends, and peers from class are encouraged to attend the performances. This is an important step to take in this second year of musical instruction as students prepare to play in a much smaller group setting. Support for the students at home during practice sessions and in person at Solo and Ensemble is welcomed and encouraged!

Band Festival Raffle Tickets

One of the largest band fundraisers is our annual raffle ticket sale for the Band Festival. Each band student has just received a tan envelope with six packets of tickets. Each packet includes six tickets and can be sold for one ticket for \$1.00 or six tickets for \$5.00. If every band student in the program sold his/her raffle tickets, we could raise over \$8,000! Please encourage your student to participate in this fundraiser so we can continue to provide new equipment, supplies, music, and other classroom resources for our young musicians.

As students sell the tickets, please help us reinforce that this is NOT a door-to-door sale. Students should only sell tickets to people they know instead of asking strangers in the neighborhood. We want our students to stay safe as they participate in our fundraisers.

If your student sells out of all 36 tickets, I have more available in the office. He/she simply needs to ask me for more tickets in the morning before first period begins.

All ticket stubs, money, and unsold tickets need to be returned to me during rehearsal on **Monday, March 7th**. It is imperative for the students to return their envelopes that day so the boosters have sufficient time to count all tickets and money prior to the Band Festival.

Information about the Band Festival and raffle tickets can also be found in the yellow festival letter sent home with the ticket envelopes. I will also post the letter under the "Documents" tab on the LMS Band website.



Band Fees

Paying for band supplies is still an issue this year. Some students still owe money for a variety of band resources. If you or your student do not know if money is still owed to the department, please feel free to contact me with any questions. Beyond the general fees listed, I also have several students who owe for basic supplies, such as reeds, drumsticks, valve oil, etc. The band department does operate on a limited budget, and failure to pay for materials makes it difficult to purchase supplies in the future for the students. Please pay for your supplies as soon as possible or make me aware if you need a payment plan.

“Essential Elements” band book: \$8.00

“Excellence in Theory” workbook: \$7.00

Instrument usage fee: \$50.00

Music Resources

Beyond practicing our concert music, the students are utilizing other classroom resources and assignments to further their understanding of music. We will continue incorporating their **“Excellence in Theory”** workbook and our classroom InterWrite board to cover music theory topics. We reinforce theory topics with the **musictheory.net** website. This is an excellent resource as it provides simple slideshows to cover a multitude of lessons, various theory exercises to assess understanding, and other tools such as a metronome and a staff paper generator. I encourage all students to visit this site or to consider even purchasing the apps “Theory Lessons” and/or “Tenuto.” These are great mobile apps for students to use when they need to access the site’s resources offline.

We also cover music vocabulary in class with vocab cards and student-written lists. The musical language can be a challenge to learn as it involves associating symbols and abbreviations found in music with full-length terminology and definitions. If students are absent from class or did not have the opportunity to write all of the day’s vocab words that I post on our board, they can find pictures of each vocab page on the **LMS Band website** under the **“SLO Prep”** tab. Students can also download the vocab list if they wish to work ahead or if they lost their green vocab card from a few weeks ago.

Concert Dates

The 7th Grade Band students are required to perform at several concerts during the year. These concerts will be held on the following dates:

Band Festival

Saturday, March 12, 2016	5:00 PM Jazz	LHS Auditeria
	7:00 PM Concert	LHS Gym

OMEA Solo & Ensemble

Saturday, April 9, 2016	TBA	Alliance High School
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Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 3, 2016	7:00 PM	LMS Gym
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Please put these dates on your family calendar of events and plan well in advance to attend. An absence from a concert performance may severely impact that grading period's final grade. Only extreme illness or family emergencies are acceptable excuses from a concert. If there is a scheduling conflict with a performance, please notify me immediately.

For more information, please visit us at our Louisville Middle School band website, 7th Grade Remind account, and the Louisville High School Bands Facebook page!

@7lmsband

<http://louisvillemsband.weebly.com/>

<http://facebook.com/theprideoflouisville>

