

“Every artist was first an amateur.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson

Lynnville-Sully

6th Grade

Band Handbook

2017-2018

August, 2017

Welcome to the 2017-2018 edition of the Lynnville-Sully School Band! My goal this year is to provide each one of you with a band experience that is so positive and so rewarding that you can’t imagine not participating in the band again next year!

This handbook provides information to ensure the continuing success of the Lynnville-Sully Bands. It contains general information, and guidelines for performance and behavior. Also attached is a calendar of band activities. **Attendance at all the performance dates and important rehearsals is mandatory.** It is important that you share this information with your parents so that they can help you have a successful year too!

I know that your experience in the bands at Lynnville-Sully will be rewarding and exciting. Each one of you is important to the success of the entire group. Every one of us; myself, administration, students, and parents, are necessary to create a **year of excellence!**

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hillabolt

(641) 594-4445 ext. 139

[hillabolt@lshawks.com](mailto:hillabolt@lshawks.com)

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

**Expectations of All Band Members**

* Be on time.
* Have all necessary materials for class—instrument, music in band folder, pencil.
* Be courteous and exhibit good manners.
* Strive to have a positive attitude.
* Ask for and complete make-up work.
* Follow directions the first time they are given.
* Respond respectfully to the teacher’s requests.
* Participate in class to the best of his/her ability.
* Help keep the band room clean and orderly. Never write on walls, chairs, or stands.
* Keep chairs and stands in their proper places.
* Do not play on anyone else’s instrument, ***especially*** percussion equipment.
* Demonstrate courtesy at all times.
* **Course Descriptions**
* **6th Grade Band**
* All 6th grade band students will participate in a weekly lesson, which provides individual instruction. Students will participate in concerts, and the Lynnville-Sully Solo and Ensemble Festival. Attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances.
* Students will further their development in ear training, listening skills, playing skills (both individual and ensemble), tone production, technical mastery of the instrument, and musicianship appropriate to their level of performance.
* **Concerts and Contests**

Concerts and contests are a culminating activity of our work, a kind of “final exam.” We at Lynnville-Sully schools strive to have performances of high quality, and we expect everyone’s participation and very best effort. Students will receive a performance grade for all performances. If students miss a concert due to health reasons, there will be a make-up assignment made available to them.

**Solo and Ensemble Contest**

All students are required to participate in the Lynnville-Sully School Solo and Small Ensemble Festival. Students will prepare ensemble literature and perform for a judge. Solo performance participation is also encouraged.

**Guidelines for Excellence**

**Attendance**

All students are required to attend all rehearsals and all performances. One of the primary purposes of the band is to prepare for and participate in public performances. A calendar of the entire year's band activities is provided early in the school year so that there is adequate time to plan schedules and resolve conflicts.

**Excused Absences:**

The only acceptable excuses for absences are personal illness, a death in the family, a religious holiday, and serious extenuating circumstances approved by the director. From time to time there may be conflicting school-sponsored activities. In the event of a conflict, contact the director and coaches involved so that we may help you. Please discuss the conflict beforehand, not afterward. It is the student’s responsibility to report the conflict.

**Unexcused Absences:**

Non-school-sponsored activities such as community league athletic teams, shopping trips, parties, etc. do not constitute good reasons for missing rehearsals and performances. Please plan carefully. Doctor and dentist appointments should be scheduled, if possible, so that they do not conflict with lessons, and rehearsals.

* 1. **Required Equipment**
* All instruments must be approved by the director before they are used for band at Lynnville-Sully. This is very important for parents considering to purchase a used instrument on Craigslist. Sometimes the instruments found on selling sites need more repairs done to them than the instrument is worth. I (the band director) can help you to make sure the instrument will be a beneficial investment for your student.
* **6th Grade Band Materials**
* **Flutes** – *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, Flute*
  + Flute cleaning rod with clean cloth, and swab stick.
* **Clarinets** – *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, Clarinet*
  + A minimum of 2 good reeds, mouthpiece brush, swab, cork grease, cleaning cloth. A reed case is a good idea to protect your reeds.
* **Alto Saxophones** – *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, Alto Saxophone*
  + A minimum of 2 good reeds, swab, cork grease, cleaning cloth. A reed case is a good idea to protect your reeds.
* **Trumpet -** *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, Trumpet*
  + - Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, clean cloth.

**French Horn** - *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, French Horn*

* + - Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, clean cloth.
* **Trombones** – *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, Trombone* 
  + - Slide grease, mouthpiece brush, clean cloth.
* **Percussion** – *Essential Elements Student* ***Book 1&2****, Percussion*
  + - Practice pad, one pair of sticks (Vic Firth 1B) and one pair yarn mallets (medium). Stick bag, labeled with students’ first and last name.
* **Band Class Materials**

ALL equipment previously listed for **your** instrument.

(Please contact me with any questions about materials needed)

At least two **pencils—not a pen, marker, highlighter, etc.** at all band rehearsals. (Please put your pencils in the folder provided by the school, so you do not loose them.)

Instruments and **individual copies** of all music are needed for every class, lesson, and performance.

At the beginning of the year, students will be provided with a music folder, and sheet music. It is the students’ responsibility to keep track of this folder and its contents.

**Instrument Care**

The student is expected to keep his/her instrument clean and in good repair at all times and to follow the instrument care procedures he/she has been taught during class. If a student has a problem with an instrument, check it out with the director before taking it to the shop. Many times the director can make minor repairs and save the student and parent time and money.

Each student must have his/her name, address, and phone number labeled on his/her instrument case (You can use tape, or get a label from the director). Percussion students must have their name on all equipment including sticks and mallets.

**Performance Attire**

Unity is a musical goal for the band as an artistic ensemble, a concept you must convey during public performances. There is respect for individuality in the Lynnville-Sully Bands, and it is your right to express yourself in appearance during rehearsals. However, you are a member of a team while in concert. Students are expected to be in **full dress** wearing all uniform parts correctly. Improper attire will result in your not being allowed to perform. *\*\*(If your student needs help financially to meet the requirements, do not hesitate to contact the band director).*

**Concert and Symphonic Bands**

 **Formal** – Concerts, honor bands (unless otherwise noted) and other band trip performances

* +    **Girls** – Floor length black dress OR black pants (NO leggings please), and a black shirt. Shirt sleeves should be at least past the elbow. Shoes should be black if at all possible. Jewelry is okay.
  +    **Boys** – Black dress pants and black shirt. Shirt sleeves should be at least past the elbow. Shoes should be black if at all possible. If a tie is worn, it must be black or white.

**Student Assessment**

*Lynnville-Sully Middle School teachers are committed to grading and assessing in the best interest of our students. We believe grades and assessments communicate content knowledge, guide instruction, and reveal opportunities for enrichment and intervention.*

**L-S Band Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on the following rubric:

**1/3 of Grade: Weekly Participation** (10 points maximum per class session)

10 Points= Actively participating, prepared, and on time

5 Points= Unprepared or tardy

0 Points= Unexcused absence

**1/3 of Grade: Lesson Attendance and Homework Assignments**

-20 points per lesson

-10 points per assignment (such as turning in band contract, concert reflections, etc.)

**1/3 of Grade: Concert and Athletic Event Participation** (100 points per performance)

-Concert attendance is mandatory

**The grading scale is as follows:**

**A**= 93%-100%, **A**-= 90%-92.9%

**B+**= 87% to 89.9%, **B**= 83%to 86.9%, **B-**= 80% to 82.9%

**C+**= 77% to 79.9%, **C**= 73% to76.9%, **C-**= 70% to 72.9%

**D+**= 67% to 69.9%, **D**= 63% to 66.9%, **D-**= 60% to 62.9%

**F**= Below 60%

**Practice**

“Don’t practice until you get it right, practice until you CAN’T get it wrong!” ☺☺☺

-Anonymous

**Extra Credit**

Students may receive extra credit by attending pre-approved musicals or concerts (i.e. Symphony Concerts, Ballets, Operas, Musical Theater Productions, Jazz Band Concerts, etc.). To receive extra credit, I ask that the student turn in the program with their name on it and a parent’s signature. If no program is issued, please send a note indicating that your child was in attendance. *(You can have up to 3 extra credit concerts per semester)*

**Special Information for Parents**

**Communication**

**Email:** Be sure to check your email often, as this will be a large component of communication. (IF YOU DON’T USE EMAIL, please let me (the director) know immediately so I can make arrangements to communicate with you a different way.

You will receive newsletters frequently to let you know what your students are doing in band at Lynnville-Sully and to remind you of upcoming events and extra credit opportunities.

**Band/Drama Boosters**

Parents of children in the band automatically become members of the Band/Drama Boosters organization. This organization provides support for the entire Lynnville-Sully Band and Drama programs. There is no charge for membership.

The boosters aid the band program in many ways:

* Provide financial support, which promotes the band program at all levels.
  1. Assist with fundraising for Lynnville-Sully bands.
* Encourage the growth and development of a quality band program which compliments and extends the educational options for the students.
* Develop and implement new, creative avenues that encourage students to excel both individually and collectively.
* Disseminate information concerning band programs and projects.
* Cooperate with school district administration, school officials and band directors in pursuit of these objectives.
*  The band parents that work collaboratively in the boosters program tend to see more excitement and passion towards music from their student(s). The stronger the band community is with parents, the stronger the band community will be at Lynnville-Sully!

**Please Return this Form to Your Director by Wednesday, August 30th!**

***This is your first graded assignment!!!***

As a student member of the Lynnville-Sully band(s), I have read the **2017-2018 Lynnville-Sully Band Hand Book** (available at http://lsband.weebly.com/) and understand the membership expectations, particularly in regard to study, practice, rehearsal, and attendance.

Student’s Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of this student, we understand the rules and regulations, which our child is expected to follow.

Printed Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_