

# LADUE HORTON WATKINS HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENT HANDBOOK

## 2023-2024

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## Class Schedule

**Symphonic Band 7th hour – B7**  
**Concert Band 8th hour – W8**

## Contents

**Page 2**  
Organizations within the Band Program

**Page 3**  
Grading Policy

**Page 4**  
Performance/Rehearsal Schedule

**Page 5**  
Audition Procedures - Behavior  
School Instrument Policy

**Page 6**  
Out-of-Town Travel Policies  
Uniforms

**Page 7**  
Band Awards

**Page 8-10**  
Handbook  
Field Trip Form  
Emergency Form

## Organizations Within the Band Program

### **Symphonic Band/Concert Band**

The band is organized into two performing ensembles. Students will be placed in either ensemble based on an audition measuring musical ability and knowledge. Each band allows students to learn performance skills in order to understand the musical language and to develop a capacity for understanding and appreciating music. Students will perform a variety of literature to improve their musical skills and usually will give two or three concerts each school year.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

All students enrolled in the band program as percussionists are members of the percussion ensemble. Besides preparing band music for performance with the pep band, symphonic band, concert band, and jazz band, students will study percussion techniques and form various percussion ensembles that will be performed throughout the year. The percussion ensemble will play at the fall symphonic/concert band performance and also give a concert at the end of the academic year.

### **Musical Orchestra**

Students wishing to play in the musical orchestra must audition and are selected by the director. This orchestra is a combination of wind and string students. It provides the music for the high school's spring musical. Musical orchestra rehearses outside of class as needed, with performances in February. Musical Orchestra is considered an interscholastic activity. Students must meet the eligibility standards set forth in the Ladue Horton Watkins High School Handbook in order to participate.

### **Pep Band**

All students enrolled in the band program are members of the Pep Band. The band plays at select home football games, home basketball games, pep assemblies, and special performances outside the school. All home football games are considered part of the first semester grade. **In addition, the pep band will perform, if possible, at any home football playoff games including the state championship. The school community appreciates band members understanding and flexibility with regards to this request.**

### **Jazz Band**

Jazz band members must be enrolled in band. Jazz band meets during our class period as part of our curriculum and evenings as necessary. Students will perform a variety of literature to improve their musical skills and usually will give two or three concerts each school year.

### **Chamber Ensembles**

Chamber ensembles are an important part of our program. Our goal with chamber ensembles is to provide students with another outlet for performing, to encourage students to prepare music on their own and take full responsibility for their performance, and to apply skills learned through this assignment to the large ensemble. Students should work with their ensemble partners along with guidance from the directors in preparation for scheduled performances listed on the band calendar.

## Grading Policy

### **A. Individual Performance Tests (70%):**

Playing and written tests measuring knowledge and skills in: tone quality, embouchure, note reading, proper fingering, breathing, rhythmic accuracy, articulation, sticking, playing position, musical terms, intonation, and tempo/pulse.

*\*\*Turning a performance test in late will result in a 5% point deduction for each school day the test is late. Students should submit work within two weeks of the due date before the assignment is assigned a grade of zero. Work submitted late will result in a reduction in citizenship grade.*

### **B. Concerts/Rehearsals (20%):**

Please see the attached sheets regarding performances and rehearsals associated with the band program. Band members are expected to be present at all performances and rehearsals outside the normal school day. Points will be assigned for each concert and/or rehearsal outside of the normal school day for each grading period. In order to receive the designated points, you must be present for the entire concert/rehearsal. Conflicts should always be reported to the director in advance so that a suitable solution can be arranged, if possible. College visits should not be scheduled during a performance or rehearsal and will not be considered excused. The performance and rehearsal schedule for each academic year is published in August so that you can plan accordingly to avoid conflicts.

### **C. Practice/Written Assignments (10%):**

Practice is essential to your child's success and should be considered a homework assignment for instrumental music students. With consistent daily practice, we are confident that your child can succeed in band. Forms to sign, concert reviews, practice records (if necessary) and/or written tests will be part of this portion of your grade.

## Auditions - Behavior - Instruments

### ***Audition Procedures - Symphonic/Concert Band***

Students will audition for chair and ensemble placement within the symphonic and concert band. The audition consists of various musical and technical excerpts, scales, and sight-reading. This audition will also be part of the student's grade for that year. During the course of the year, chair placement and ensemble placement may change based on various factors such as student performance on tests and attendance at performances and rehearsals.

### ***Behavior***

Guidelines for general conduct, behavior, and discipline are outlined in the Ladue Horton Watkins High School Handbook and students are expected to follow these guidelines in band class. Below are some specific guidelines for the band program.

1. The band room and practice rooms are here for the band members to use. Students should keep them clean by picking up after themselves.
2. Students may not chew gum in the band room during class.
3. Students may not eat or drink in the band room.
4. All students should take special care to see that the instruments and equipment in the band room are not damaged.

### ***School Instrument Policy***

Students are expected to provide their own instruments for use in band. The school will issue an instrument to a student based on need as determined by the school administration and director.

Students issued a school instrument are held personally and financially responsible for that instrument. It is their responsibility to return the instrument in good working order and to take care of the instrument properly while it is in their use. Any damage resulting from misuse or neglect will be the responsibility of the student and the student will be expected to pay for the repairs. All other repairs will be handled by the school district. If a school instrument is not working properly, a student **MUST NOT** take it to be repaired; he/she should inform the director so that the problem can be corrected. If the instrument is lost or damaged beyond the possibility of repair, the student will be responsible for replacing the instrument with another of the same make, model, style, and finish at current replacement cost. **Students using a school-owned instrument will be required to pay a \$45.00 maintenance/use fee.** Any student who is not able to pay the instrument fee should let us or their counselor know so that we may provide assistance if necessary.

# Out-of-Town Travel Policies - Uniforms

## ***Out-of-Town Travel Policies***

The Ladue Horton Watkins High School Handbook lists policies and guidelines for being eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, athletic and non-athletic. The band will adhere to these policies for all out-of-town trips. Students must be eligible for the quarter or semester in which the trip will occur. Failure to do so will jeopardize one's opportunity to participate on the trip. It is the student's responsibility to maintain eligibility so they can participate on band trips. If a student becomes ineligible in the grading period in which the band trip occurs, moneys may be forfeited due to prepayment to out-of-school agencies.

In addition to the above, the following guidelines will be used:

1. In order to be eligible to travel with the band, each student must be invited and qualify based on defined performance expectations outlined in class. Students will be given adequate notification and time to meet the performance eligibility criteria.
2. Students are expected to have satisfactory citizenship in ALL classes during the quarter in which the trip will occur. Failure to do so will jeopardize their opportunity to participate on the trip.
3. Students must attend all performances and rehearsals during the course of the year. Failure to do so will jeopardize their opportunity to participate on the trip.
4. Students must maintain a "C" average in band in order to be eligible for the trip.
5. Each student's trip must be paid in full by the appropriate time. Each student is responsible for earning the money for the trip through fund-raising activities or through personal contributions.
6. Students who have a record of disciplinary and behavior problems in the classroom or school will jeopardize their opportunity to go on the trip. These cases will be handled through consultation with appropriate principals, teachers, and the director.
7. Students will be given, prior to each trip, a list of behavior expectations for that trip.

## ***Uniforms***

### **Pep Band uniform**

Each student will be given a band polo shirt and pullover which we will wear at pep rallies, basketball games, band trips, etc. Shirts and pullovers will be passed out at the beginning of school and are the responsibility of ALL students in the high school band program.

### **Symphonic and Concert band uniform**

Students have 2 different formal uniform options:

#### **Option 1**

- black concert jacket (school provided)
- black pants
- white collared shirt
- black bow tie (school provided)
- black cummerbund (school provided)
- black dress shoes and black socks

#### **Option 2**

- long black skirt (below the knee) or black dress pants
- black dress shirt
- black dress shoes and black socks

If it presents a financial hardship to follow one of the above options, please let us or your counselor know so that we may provide assistance if necessary.

### **IMPORTANT**

Students are held personally and financially responsible for the uniform parts that are issued to them and they must return the uniform in good condition at the end of each school year. Any damage to the uniforms resulting from misuse or neglect will be the responsibility of the student and the student will be expected to pay for the repairs. If the uniform is lost or damaged beyond the possibility of repair, the student will be responsible for replacing the uniform or uniform part. Do not wash or dry any part of the uniform in a conventional washer and dryer, as this will damage the uniform. Do not take the uniforms to the dry cleaners. All uniforms are cleaned during the summer. If a uniform becomes exceptionally dirty, the student should see the director.

## Band Awards

### ***George M. Turmail Band Award***

George M. Turmail came to the Ladue School District in 1952 and taught until 1977. He served as band director, musical orchestra director, and coordinator of music during his tenure with the Ladue Schools. His compassion and dedication for music and students was exemplary. This award, named after Mr. Turmail, is presented to the senior who, during four years in the bands, has become an outstanding musician on their instrument. The student must be involved with the band program and should participate in other outside activities such as the musical orchestra, All-Suburban Band, All-State Band, Solo Festival, Community Music School of Webster University orchestra, the Youth Symphony, or other community groups. The student should demonstrate leadership qualities, be a good role model for younger students, have a good knowledge of music, and demonstrate qualities that are similar to those of George M. Turmail. The award will also include a scholarship toward the student's future education.

### ***James R. Waechter Band Award***

James R. Waechter came to the Ladue School District in 1987 and served as Director of Bands for the high school and middle school until his retirement in 2011. During his tenure he also directed the musical orchestra, was department chair for the Fine and Performing Arts Department, and was the district music facilitator. In honor of his years of dedicated service, the Senior Class of 2011 began this award to recognize and honor of his years of dedicated service and leadership. This award is presented to the senior who has actively participated in the band program and should be striving for excellence in themselves and others. The students should take advantage of the extra-curricular musical opportunities, and encourage others to do their best. The award will also include a scholarship toward the student's future education.

### ***Bill Brackman Distinguished Service Award***

Bill Brackman came to the Ladue School District in 1963 and taught until 1993. He served as elementary band director, junior high band director, and orchestra director. His dedication and enthusiasm for teaching was exemplary during his 30 year tenure with the Ladue School District. This award is presented to the senior who has been involved with the band program and who has/have demonstrated instrumental proficiency. The student should participate in other activities such as the musical orchestra and be an individual who constantly thinks of the group first, never expecting anything in return. This award will go to an individual who has gone beyond the call of duty, who has willingly assisted in the day to day operation of the band program, and who demonstrates qualities that are similar to those of Bill Brackman. The award will also include a scholarship toward the student's future education.

### ***Michael D. Faris Percussion Scholarship***

Michael D. Faris came to the Ladue district in 1991 and was Assistant Director of Bands as well as Director of Ladue Percussion until his retirement in 2019. A native of Washington State, Faris moved to St. Louis in 1987 for graduate work while also performing with the St. Louis Symphony and St. Louis Opera before accepting his position with the Ladue district. During his tenure, Ladue Percussion gained a reputation for definitive musical interpretations and the promotion of contemporary percussion literature. As the first full time high school percussion director in the state, Faris initiated many of the educational and musical efforts that have become standard practice for percussion programs throughout Missouri. In honor of his years of dedicated service, a scholarship was created in his name. This award will go to an individual who is a percussion student in grades 9-12 to be used for private lessons, summer music camp experiences, or continuing studies in college.

### ***Tom Poshak Band Camp Scholarship***

Tom Poshak was Director of Bands for Ladue High School from 1973 until 1985. He subsequently moved to Kirkwood High School and served as Director of Bands and Music Coordinator from 1985 until his retirement in June 2001. In honor of his years as a music educator, former students from Ladue wanted a way of saluting and thanking him for his dedication to music education. An award has been established to be applied toward summer study at a music camp or seminar of the student's choice. This award will go to an individual who is a current band student in grade 9, 10, or 11 and is based on merit and need.

### ***Daniel K. Bruns Scholarship***

Daniel K. Bruns (1981-2003) was a member of the Ladue Band program until his graduation in 2000. As a tuba player he achieved great success having been awarded the George M. Turmail Band Award and selected to the Missouri All-State Band, St. Louis Suburban District Honor Band, and the St. Louis Youth Symphony Orchestra. He studied privately with notable tuba players such as Jim Martin, Rex Martin, Gene Pokorny, Mike Sanders, and Alex Saratowski. Dan was a student with a love and passion for music. He was able to touch many peoples' lives through this passion. Dan demonstrated that people from different backgrounds can come together in their appreciation of music. His perseverance and creative spirit allowed him to develop into an accomplished musician. In memory and recognition of Dan's contribution to the Ladue Band program a scholarship fund will be established in his name. The student who receives this award should be striving for success, have a passion for music, and a respect for the individuality of his/her fellow students. This scholarship is to be used for private lesson study to enable the recipient to achieve their goals on their instrument and achieve success similar to that achieved by Dan. This scholarship will be presented to an individual who is a current band student in grade 9, 10, or 11 and best represents the character, desire, and passion of Daniel K. Bruns.

## LADUE BAND HANDBOOK FORM

Please sign in the appropriate areas and detach this page. Return to Dr. Box by Friday, August 25, 2023. If you have questions, please feel free to call or email. This assignment is worth 100 points and is part of your classroom grade.

I have read and understand the information contained in the Ladue Horton Watkins High School Band Student Handbook.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_