

LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
SYMPHONIC BAND PERCUSSION
WIND ENSEMBLE PERCUSSION
COURSE HANDBOOK, 2023-2024



"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit."
"Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."
"We can do together what none of us can do alone."

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mr. Mroczek
E-mail: cmroczek@lw210.org
Website: www.lwcmusic.org

PHILOSOPHY & GOALS

The goals of the Lincoln-Way Central Band Program are:

1. To study, rehearse, and prepare music to the highest level of understanding and excellence so that students can experience the exciting rewards of sharing musical gifts with others through performance.
2. **To provide students with an opportunity to be a part of the greater whole – to know that each individual is equally important to the success of the entire group.**
3. To learn about ourselves through the journey of studying, preparing, and performing those things that will help make us better people.

The Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble Percussion classes are both an integral part of the Lincoln-Way Central Band Program. **Percussionists meet in a separate class and join the winds via after school rehearsals prior to performances.** The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Percussion classes provide percussion students the opportunity to develop their skills outside of the band rehearsal setting. A "fusion" arena for other subjects, both classes foster high performance standards while offering members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and musical horizons. Both are devoted to the study, preparation, and performance of quality traditional and contemporary percussion and concert band literature. The curriculum is designed to emphasize the development of comprehensive musicianship, general musical knowledge, and instrumental performance fundamentals, through the study of mid-level high school literature.

GENERAL REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsal Time:	2 nd (WE) or 6 th (SB) Period
Rehearsal Schedule:	A weekly schedule will be posted online or in the band room.
Class Materials:	All personnel are expected to own a stick bag, at least one pair of snare drum sticks, one (two for Wind Ensemble) set of marimba mallets, one pair of timpani mallets, a practice pad, a 3-ring binder with dividers for his/her music/handouts (see "Binder Evaluation"), a pencil <i>at all times</i> , and a metronome (smartphone apps apply). Students are expected to be aware of how to access digital platforms, including Microsoft Teams, Microsoft OneDrive, FlipGrid, Breezin' Thru Theory, and Sight Reading Factory.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. **Respect Each Other** – We are all starting from different points of musical ability - please be kind and work together for our mutual benefit. Be on time. Pay attention in class. Turn in your assignments on time. Be ready, responsible, and industrious!
2. **Respect Your Instrument** – If you own your instrument, you know how important it is to maintain it: keep your case interior free of garbage; grease corks and slides regularly; clean your mouthpiece regularly; discard old reeds; keep rags and swabs clean; oil valves regularly; store it properly in the case, and store the case appropriately. If you are using a school owned instrument, treat it as if it were your own.
3. **Respect the Facility** – This is your band room - be proactive! Everyone is expected to help keep the rehearsal facilities clean. Please store all equipment in the proper location, and please not bring food or drinks other than water into the room.
4. **Respect the Music** – You may not enjoy every piece of music we study this year, but that does not mean you will not learn and grow from the experience. Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time at home.
5. **Respect YOUR Craft** – This is the most important expectation because it embodies and encompasses everything we do:
 - Be prepared for rehearsal by bringing necessary items and practicing at home.
 - Amateurs practice until they get it right. Professionals practice until they can't get it wrong!
 - Remain quiet and engaged during rehearsal when you are not being addressed or worked with directly.
 - Always mind what you say when representing the ensemble.
 - **Profanity is NOT tolerated.**
 - Extend respect to others outside the ensemble and music department. Leave a positive impression in the minds of others about our program and school.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. **NO** cell phones in class unless otherwise instructed.
 - a. They are a distraction/disconnect to our pursuit of high quality musicianship.
 - b. When not being used as a rehearsal tool, cell phones must be stored away.
2. No food, drinks other than water, or gum in the band room.
 - a. They can cause damage to school instruments.
3. Leave all backpacks, cases, and other unnecessary items outside of the band set-up.
 - a. They are a distraction to our pursuit of high quality musicianship.
4. If "it" is not yours, do not touch "it."
 - a. Instruments are expensive. Instrument *repairs* are expensive.
5. Do not "hack" (play) when you are not being directly worked with.
 - a. It is a distraction to our pursuit of high quality musicianship.

IN PERSON/REMOTE LEARNING REHEARSAL PHILOSOPHY & PROCEDURES

Rehearsals (Re-"HEAR"-sals) are not to learn your part – rather they are to learn everyone else's part and therefore, the music. Rehearsals are a time to work together, not individually. The development of music fundamentals and the discovery of how the composition works in relation to the composer's intent is the focus of rehearsal time. **Your part is your responsibility.**

Before rehearsals the:

1. Musician prepares for rehearsal through frequent and focused practice.
2. Musician is inside the band room or at his/her band locker when the bell rings.
3. Musician sets up his/her own stand and chair properly and in the correct area.
4. Musician attends rehearsal with music (including method books), pencil, music stand, and instrument in good working order and with all accessories.
5. Musician prepares for rehearsal that day by demonstrating proper warm-up technique (long tones, lip slurs, scales, etc.), then demonstrates proper decorum by concluding all preparations when the conductor starts rehearsal.

During rehearsals the:

1. Musician works and performs to the best of his/her ability.
2. Musician demonstrates proper posture, hand position, and embouchure.
3. Musician demonstrates frequent eye contact with the conductor while playing and receiving verbal instructions.
4. Musician takes notes or marks the music for future improvement and individual practice.
5. Musician demonstrates proper rehearsal decorum by staying engaged and quiet while the conductor is rehearsing another instrument group.

After rehearsal the:

1. Musician stores chairs and stands for the next ensemble rehearsal.
2. Musician demonstrates proper instrument, equipment, music care, and storage. Instruments should be disassembled, swabbed (if necessary), and put in cases.
3. Musician prepares for the next rehearsal through frequent and focused practice.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students should follow the rules and expectations stated above and in the Lincoln-Way High School Parent-Student Handbook at all times. If a student is not following the rules and expectations, being disruptive, or misbehaving, the student will be warned and/or issued a referral to the Student Services Office (SSO) for further discipline.

GRADING POLICY

The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:

80% Semester

20% **Final Exam**

- Participation – Showing up is expected, not to get credit!
 - If a student is not prepared on a consistent basis, it will be reflected in assessments related to the mastery of the content. If the director feels that a student has missed enough class time to be detrimental to subject mastery, parents will be notified, and additional assignments may be assigned.
- Summative Assessments – **55% of your semester grade**
 - Ensemble Performance
 - Daily rehearsals culminate in performances. It is mandatory that students attend dress rehearsals and performances, be on time, and prepared.
 - For a concert, a student's grade is calculated as follows: (25 Points) Dress Rehearsal #1; (25 Points) Dress Rehearsal #2; (50 Points) Concert Performance. Students who do not attend or participate in any of these three events **can** make up their grade (See "Attendance Protocol").
 - Written/Digital Assessments
 - Students will be assessed on musical material practiced/studied in class. These assessments include quizzes, tests, and individual performances. Grades will be given based on a rubric to be discussed later in class. **Students should keep the resulting rubrics in their 3-ring class binder.**
 - Binder Evaluation
 - Students are expected to take notes in class and retain all handouts and graded assignments for evaluation.
- Formative Assessments – **45% of your semester grade**
 - These are independent activities designed to enhance the rehearsal and study of the music. This includes shorter playing assessments, digital assignments, assignments graded for completion only, self-assessments, worksheets, music theory drills, etc. **Students are expected to keep these items in their 3-ring binder after they are graded.**
 - **Students will NOT "fail" these assessments, they can be re-taken until the student earns a passing grade.**

DRESS REHEARSALS & CONCERTS

WW/Brass students meet in one class period, and percussionists meet in another. Due to this scheduling method, it is necessary for students to rehearse together outside of the school day to complete final preparations for a performance.

There will be 1-2 "dress rehearsals" scheduled per performance, which are scheduled after school on dates close to the day of the concert performance. Students are expected to attend.

There are four scheduled school concerts per year. Students are expected to attend at the announced call time and participate for the duration of the entire event.

These dates and times for these events are listed in the "...Calendar" page in this document.

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL

Students must be in the **band room** or at their band storage locker at the scheduled start time, or they are **tardy**. Students may also be considered **tardy** if they use an excessive amount of time to prepare for rehearsal.

If a student is absent from a regular school day, it is the **student's** responsibility to check with the director, practice music to maintain classroom standards, and take care of any make-up work.

As a member of the Lincoln-Way Central Concert Bands, students are expected to:

1. Place attendance at all band dress rehearsals and performances as of equal, if not greater, priority to any other activities in which you are involved.
2. Demonstrate responsibility by informing your parents of rehearsal/performance dates.
3. Demonstrate responsibility by informing a director of potential conflicts in advance.

If a student misses a performance (or dress rehearsal) for ANY reason, the instructor will determine an appropriate make-up assignment and due date commensurate with the cornerstone assessment that the concert represents. Makeup assignments will be assigned on a case-by-case basis and decided upon as a mutual agreement between teacher and student.

CONCERT DRESS / ATTIRE

Whether on stage or seated in the auditorium, concert dress is to remain "intact" until the conclusion of a concert.

Details regarding concert dress outfits will be discussed in class.

"Black" concert wear removes the visual distraction and puts the focus on the music.

ADVISORY PERIODS

The LWC Fine Arts Center is equipped with several practice rooms for student use. Students are encouraged to use their Advisory period to practice in the Music Department facilities.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private instrument lessons from a highly qualified instructor can be a highly rewarding and worthwhile experience for any band student. Students are and will be encouraged to take private lessons. Assistance and contact information for a variety of private lesson teachers is available from Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Mroczek.

MUSIC

"Parts" will be assigned by the director on a "rotating" basis, challenging every student equally.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS & LOCKERS

School owned instruments are available and will be checked out by Mrs. Jackson or Mr. Mroczek. Families will be required to pay a fee of \$150.00/yr. (\$75/sem.) to rent an instrument from the school. This fee covers the cost of annual service and repair for the instrument.

The student is responsible for the care and security of the musical instrument/equipment. Should this item become damaged due to negligence, lost, or stolen, the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be held financially responsible for its repair and/or replacement. All instruments/equipment **MUST** be checked in at the end of the school year. The band director and department chairperson can revoke the privilege of renting this item at any time.

Lockers are available to students to store their personal instruments. Only combination locks that are provided by the school are allowed. Lockers must be kept clean and orderly. If misused, the **privilege** of storing personal items in a band locker may be revoked. **If a student loses the provided lock, a fee of \$10 will be assessed for its replacement.**

LWC BANDS CALENDAR

Please put these dates into your personal calendar. This schedule is also available on the Lincoln-Way Central music website. Dates listed in **BOLD** are mandatory events. This calendar is subject to change/addition.

EVENT	DATE	TIME
ILMEA District 1 Digital Audition Window Opens	Wednesday, September 20	All Day
ILMEA District 1 Audition Submission Deadline	Wednesday, October 4	All Day
Fall "Dress" Rehearsal #1 - Both (50 min. each)	Wednesday, October 25	After School
Fall "Dress" Rehearsal #2 - Both (50 min. each)	Wednesday, November 1	After School
Fall Concert	Thursday, November 2	Evening
<i>Pep Band Rehearsals Begin</i>	<i>Mid-November</i>	<i>TBA</i>
ILMEA Jazz Festival	Saturday, November 11	All Day
ILMEA District 1 Senior Festival	Saturday, November 18	All Day
Vespers "Dress" Rehearsal - Both	Wednesday, November 29	After School
Vespers Concert	Friday, December 1	Evening
<i>TBA – Dress Rehearsal for "Batavia Festival" Event (SB)</i>	<i>TBA - Early February</i>	<i>After School</i>
<i>TBA – Batavia Band Festival (SB)</i>	<i>TBA - Saturday in February</i>	<i>All Day</i>
<i>TBA – Dress Rehearsal for "SWSC Festival" Event</i>	<i>TBA - Early February</i>	<i>After School</i>
<i>TBA – SWSC Band Festival</i>	<i>TBA - Early February</i>	<i>During School</i>
LWC Jazz "Swing Knight"	Saturday, March 9	Evening
Winter "Dress" Rehearsal #1 - Both (50 min. each)	Wednesday, March 13	After School
Winter "Dress" Rehearsal #2 - Both (50 min. each)	Monday, March 18	After School
Winter Concert w/ JH Schools	Tuesday, March 19	Evening
<i>TBA – Dress Rehearsal for "CICBF" Festival (WE)</i>	<i>TBA - Early April</i>	<i>After School</i>
<i>TBA – Chicagoland Invitational CB Festival (WE)</i>	<i>Saturday, April 13</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Spring "Dress" Rehearsal #1 - Both (50 min. each)	Wednesday, May 1	After School
Spring "Dress" Rehearsal #2 - Both (50 min. each)	Wednesday, May 8	After School
Spring Concert & Awards Ceremony	Thursday, May 9	Evening
LWC Spring Jazz Concert	Thursday, May 16	Evening