

LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
SYMPHONIC BAND PERCUSSION
COURSE HANDBOOK, 2017-2018



*"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
Phone: (815) 462-2305
E-mail: cmroczek@lw210.org
Website: www.lwcmusic.org
Office Hours: By Appointment / After school

* I'm always available and ready to help and answer your questions! My office door is always open!

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 is an integral part of the Lincoln-Way Central Band Program. A "fusion" arena for other subjects, it fosters high performance standards while offering its members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and musical horizons. It is devoted to the study, preparation, and performance of quality traditional and contemporary 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. Percussionists will meet in a separate class and join the winds via after school rehearsals prior to performances.

The Symphonic Band Percussion Class is one of two curricular percussion classes in the band program. It provides percussion students the opportunity to develop their skills outside of the band rehearsal setting. Students will be given instruction on all percussion instruments and also be required to perform in front of their peers. Students in this class will perform on the percussion ensemble concert, with the Symphonic Band on regular concerts, as well as contests at the director's discretion. Students in this ensemble are **highly encouraged** to participate in "Solo & Ensemble" contest as well as to take private lessons from a highly qualified instructor.

GENERAL REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsal Time:	1 st Period (A104), Dress Rehearsals (See calendar), 4B Advisory
Rehearsal Schedule:	The schedule for each week will be posted in the band room.
Class Materials:	All personnel are expected to have a stick bag, at least one set of Vic Firth SD1 drum sticks, a 3-ring binder with dividers for his/her music and class notes (see "Binder Evaluation"), required method materials (provided by director), a pencil <i>at all times</i> , and a metronome (smartphone apps apply).

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Treat others the way you wish to be treated:

1. Be Kind.
2. Be Respectful.
 - a. Pay attention in class. Listen closely when someone is talking.
 - b. Do not talk. Raise your hand to speak.
 - c. Socialize before or after class, not during.
 - d. Use the bathroom before or after class, not during.
 - e. Be on time.
 - f. Work hard in EVERY rehearsal. Mark your music!
 - g. Come to class with a positive attitude.
3. Be Ready, Responsible, and Industrious.
 - a. Be PROACTIVE.
 - b. Practice routinely outside of class.
 - c. Be a leader! Help others succeed!
 - d. Work together with your fellow band members!
 - e. Clean and care for your music & instrument on a regular basis.
 - f. Care for the band room and other related school property.

Three general precepts:

1. I respect your time – you respect mine by being on time and prepared.
2. Respect the music – If you do, you will care for it in a personal fashion.
3. I'll treat you respectfully – act accordingly and with respect.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Cell phones may be used as a rehearsal tool ONLY. (See school policy on cell phones).
 - a. Why? – They are a distraction to our goal and against school policy.
2. No food, drinks, or gum in the band room.
 - a. Why? – They can cause damage to school instruments.
3. Leave all backpacks, cases, and other unnecessary items outside of the band set-up.
 - a. Why? – They create distractions.
4. If "it" is not yours, do not touch "it."
 - a. Why? – Instruments are expensive. Instrument *repairs* are expensive.
5. Do not "hack" (play) when you are not being directly worked with.
 - a. Why? – It is a distraction and disrespectful to other students and the conductor.

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. This standard is important because it is the professional standard and it is what good musicians do.

Before rehearsals the:

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

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. Musician takes notes or marks the music for future improvement and individual practice.
4. Musician demonstrates proper rehearsal decorum by not talking while the conductor is rehearsing another section.

After rehearsal the:

1. Musician prepares their chair and stand for the next ensemble rehearsal.
2. Musician demonstrates proper instrument, equipment, music care, and storage. Instruments should be disassembled, swabbed (if necessary), and put away.
3. Musician prepares for the next rehearsal.

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 subject to the Lincoln-Way High School Discipline Policy, and the following system:

1. First offense: Verbal warning.
2. Second offense: Verbal warning. Written referral to main office. Parents will be notified.
3. Third offense: Written referral to main office. Parents will be notified. A Parent-Teacher conference will be scheduled. Students may be removed from class.

Steps in this hierarchy can be passed over as a result of extreme misconduct.

GRADING POLICY

The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:

40% 1st Quarter Grade

40% 2nd Quarter Grade

20% **Final Exam including Concert Review / Binder Evaluation**

- 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 necessary to fulfill class assessment needs.
- Ensemble Performance – 60% of your quarterly grade
 - Daily rehearsals culminate in quarterly performances. It is mandatory that students attend dress rehearsals and performances, be on time, and prepared. **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 quarterly cornerstone assessment that the concert represents.**
 - For a regular 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 makeup their grade (See "Dress Rehearsal & Performance Make-Ups").
- Individual Performance – 20% of your quarterly grade
 - Students will be assessed on musical material distributed and worked on daily in class. **Students will NOT "fail" these tests, they can be re-taken until the student earns a passing grade.** Grades will be given based on a rubric discussed in class.
- Supplemental Musical Activities – 20% of your quarterly grade
 - These are independent activities designed to enhance the rehearsal and study of the music. Activities will strengthen a wide range of musical skills from theory and composition to writing and listening.
- Concert Review
 - Student musicians will need to complete one review **per semester**. This assignment will be included in the "Final Exam" grade. These can be turned in at any time, but must be done by final exams. To complete this assignment, students will simply need to attend any musical performance of a group they are NOT involved in, and complete a short write-up of what they experienced. Details on how to complete this write-up will be discussed in class.
- Binder Evaluation
 - Students are required to keep a 3-ring binder that contains their class materials. A detailed rubric on how to organize the binder will be provided in class. Each student's binder will be evaluated at the end of each semester.

ATTENDANCE & TARDY PROTOCOL

The attendance policy is the same as Lincoln-Way High School's attendance policy.

Students must be in the **band room** (or at their band locker) when the bell rings, or they are **tardy**. Days that students are **tardy** will be tracked and reported to the SSO.

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 Symphonic Band, 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 dress rehearsal and performance dates.
3. Demonstrate responsibility by informing a director of potential conflicts in advance.

If a possible conflict can be foreseen, a note should be given to the director no less than 7 days prior to the performance. **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 quarterly cornerstone assessment that the concert represents.**

All musicians are expected to stay for the ENTIRE concert, in the auditorium. Musicians who are tardy for the call time, display improper concert etiquette, leave the auditorium, or leave the building before the time stipulated by a director may have their performance grade lowered.

DRESS REHEARSAL & CONCERT MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS

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 quarterly 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. Potential options include: Individual practice sessions at school; essay on a select composer; additional SmartMusic activities; or additional www.musictheory.net activities.

ADVISORY PERIODS

The LWC Fine Arts Center is equipped with several practice rooms for student use. Students in Symphonic Band Percussion are encouraged to use their Advisory period to practice their music in the Music Department facilities. Students are also encouraged to complete SmartMusic assessments during this time, as well as practice in small groups. Students who wish to use these facilities during Advisory periods will need a Hall Pass from a teacher.

WEBSITE

The Lincoln-Way Central High School Music Department has a website, www.lwcmusic.org. From this website, students and parents can access the LWC "Charms" system. This web-based system contains, among many things, an updated music department calendar, which should be checked regularly for important upcoming dates or schedule changes.

PRACTICE

Individual practice/review of music and other related classroom materials outside of the school day is essential to the success of the student musician and the Symphonic Band as a whole. Students should set aside a daily time to do so. Students in the Symphonic Band are expected to practice at least 3-4 days a week for 30 minutes. **Practice time is more effective if completed in smaller portions on a frequent basis instead of all at once.**

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private instrument lessons from a highly qualified instructor can be a highly rewarding and worthwhile experience for any band student. Students are not required to take private lessons, but will be highly encouraged. Most private lesson teachers in this geographical area teach right in the LWC Music practice rooms, making it easy for students to schedule and attend lessons.

** A full list of private instructors is available on the LWC Music Website: www.lwcmusic.org

Assistance and contact information for a variety of private lesson teachers is available from Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Mroczek.

CONCERT DRESS / ATTIRE

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

MEN & WOMEN: Students must provide/wear **black** dress pants, a white dress shirt, **black** belt, **black** dress shoes, and **long black dress socks**. *(Students will also wear a formal red necktie that will be provided, if applicable.)*

Female students are expected to adhere to the following dress regulations: 1) **ONLY Black, silver, or gold jewelry can be worn;** 2) **Any hairpieces need to be black;** 3) **Appropriate black dress shoes need to be worn;** 4) **Hosiery needs to be a "natural" color.**

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

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS & LOCKERS

School owned percussion instruments and various mallets (not sticks) are made available for the students to use. Students will need to sign an Equipment Loan Contract and pay a one-time fee of \$40 to cover the cost of supplies and damages.

Lockers are available to students to store their personal equipment. 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.**

REQUIRED DATES FOR A GRADE

Please put these dates into your personal calendar. This schedule is subject to change. This schedule is also available in the "Charms" system linked on the Lincoln-Way Central music website. If any changes are made, they will be posted online and students will be notified.

Dates listed in **BOLD** are mandatory events. This calendar is subject to change/addition.

WHAT	DATE	TIME
Fall Dress Rehearsal	Monday, September 25	3:50 – 4:40
Fall Concert	Thursday, September 28	Evening
*IMEA District Auditions	Wednesday, October 11	Evening
*IMEA Jazz Festival	Saturday, November 11	All Day
Vespers Dress Rehearsal #1	Wednesday, November 15	3:55–4:40
*IMEA District Festival	Saturday, November 18	All Day
Vespers Dress Rehearsal #2	Wednesday, November 29	3:55–4:40
Vespers "Tech" Rehearsal	Thursday, November 30	After School
Vespers Concert	Sunday, December 3	Afternoon
SWSC Dress Rehearsal	Wednesday, February 7	3:05 – 4:00
SWSC Festival	Thursday, February 8	During School
*LWC Jazz Festival	Saturday, February 10	All Day
Winter Dress Rehearsal #1	Wednesday, February 28	3:55–4:40
Winter Dress Rehearsal #2	Wednesday, March 7	3:55–4:40
Winter Concert	Thursday, March 8	Evening
*L-W Solo & Ensemble Contest	TBA – Saturday, March 2018	All Day
Hersey Concert Band Festival	TBA – Saturday, April 2018	All Day
Spring Dress Rehearsal #1	Wednesday, April 18	3:05–3:50
Spring Dress Rehearsal #2	Wednesday, May 9	3:55–4:40
Spring Concert	Thursday, May 10	Evening
LWC Graduation (Non-Seniors)	Wednesday, June 30	Evening

* Select students.

"If excellence is attainable, good is not good enough."

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives!"

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not!"



**LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
SYMPHONIC BAND PERCUSSION**

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT

**PLEASE FILL-OUT AN RETURN BY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ATTACHED "LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL SYMPHONIC BAND SYLLABUS" AS BOTH GIVEN AND DISCUSSED IN CLASS. I HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY IT AS INDICATED BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW. FURTHERMORE, I RECOGNIZE THAT FAILURE TO DO SO COMPROMISES THE MUSICAL INTEGRITY AND SUCCESS OF MY FELLOW MUSICIANS AND THE SUCCESS OF THE ENSEMBLE AS A WHOLE, AND MAY LEAD TO MY REMOVAL FROM THE ENSEMBLE.

PRINT STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT PARENT NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____