

LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY

**LQP** **V**  
*BAND*

5-12 Band Handbook  
**2023-2024**



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Here in the LqPV music department we pride ourselves with a well-rounded, positive, and successful program. None of that could be possible without our student musicians. I am excited about working with each and every one of you and passionate about achieving greatness with you during our upcoming year.

-Mrs. Nyssa Jimenez

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this handbook is to inform every student participating in the LqPV Band Program of the requirements, expectations, and privileges associated with being a part of this department.

Both students and parents should read and understand its contents. As you examine these policies and procedures, you will see that they are dictated by common courtesy, respect for individual rights, a concern for safety, and the need for group order and responsibility.

The Band Program is made up of many different kinds of students, most of them have two things in common: an interest in instrumental music and a very busy schedule. In other courses, oversights and mistakes hurt only the person who causes them. In a band ensemble, each member's activities and preparedness are translated in the sounds and motions, which become the group's performance. One or two people who do not do their part can ruin or severely damage the efforts of all the others who are trying to do their best.

Most students will normally follow these policies and do their best even if this handbook did not exist. The goal is for EACH AND EVERY MEMBER to adhere to the policies and procedures so that the entire group can achieve its fullest potential. If we are going to reach our goals this year each member must be prepared to do their part and even sometimes a little bit more. Please view this handbook as a formula for success and a guide to a great musical education. I am very proud to have each student take part in the musical activities of the LqPV Band Program.

## **Values of our Program**

### *Inclusivity*

Everyone gets a chance to be in the music program. Regardless of your musical knowledge or skill, we have a place for you.

### *Musical Excellence*

We strive to make beautiful and meaningful music together. Auditioned groups offer advanced opportunities for students looking for musical challenge.

### *Personal Growth*

Through the study of music, students will gain life skills necessary for success in any future career.

# Ensembles

## 5th grade band

This class is open to all 5th graders at LqPV Middle School. All students will meet 2-3 times per week on a rotating schedule. Each student will also take private lessons with Mrs. Jimenez once a week. This ensemble is required to perform in 2 concerts throughout the year.

## 6th grade band

This class is open to all 6th graders at LqPV Middle School. It is recommended to have 1 year previous experience, but we will accommodate any new members. Please speak with Mrs. Jimenez before enrolling. All students will meet 2-3 times per week on a rotating schedule. Each student will also take private lessons with Mrs. Jimenez once a week. This ensemble is required to perform in 3 concerts throughout the year.

## Junior High Band

This class is for students in 7th-8th grade interested in continuing their musicianship. It is strongly recommended that the student have previous musical background. However, it is not a requirement and those beginning their musical studies must recognize that they will have to put in extra attention and practice time towards the musical requirements set forth for them to achieve. This class meets every other day during period 2 with assigned sectionals or private lessons on off days as part of their final grade. This ensemble will be required to perform in 3 concerts throughout the year.

## Senior High Band

This class is for students in 9th-12th grade interested in continuing their musicianship. It is strongly recommended that the student have previous musical background. However, it is not a requirement and those beginning their musical studies must recognize that they will have to put in extra attention and practice time towards the musical requirements set forth for them to achieve.

*This ensemble will be required to perform in 3 concerts, perform at Veteran's day, march the homecoming parade, Applefest Parade, attend all pep band events, take place in solo and group contest in the spring, and graduation.*

## **Extra Curricular Ensembles**

(based on student interest)

### **Jazz Band**

The jazz band is made up of musicians from the LqPV Bands and performs for various events in the community as well as at the concerts. Students performing on alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, trumpet, trombone, electric bass, guitar, piano and drum set are welcome to join. The director will determine a set instrumentation for the ensemble. This may vary from year to year. Students with prior experience in jazz band are encouraged to return. We meet Tuesday & Thursday at 7:30 am. Jazz band is open to students in 7-12th grade.

### **Drumline/Percussion Ensemble**

This ensemble(s) is open to all 7-12th grade band students and will be admitted through audition. All percussion students are encouraged to take part. This ensemble practice times will take place after school at tbd times/days that work best for its members. Our goal will be to perform at a Basketball game with the drumline and at small ensemble contest in the Spring. This ensemble will only exist with interest from students - please consider joining, you don't need to play percussion to take part!

### **Other**

All-State Band, Honor Band, Band Camps, etc are also available for students looking to expand their musical experiences even future. Please reach out if you are interested in these opportunities or be open to taking part if Mrs. Jimenez reaches out to recommend these for you.

## **Contests**

### **Large Group Contest**

High school band students will travel to KMS for large group contest. We will perform 1-3 selections for three judges. One of the judges will come to the stage and work with the band on various aspects. The event will take place at KMS on a Monday March 11th, time TBD. This is typically an afternoon/evening event. This event is required for 9-12th graders.

### **Solo/Ensemble Contest**

*All High school band students will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest.* Students may prepare either a solo or small ensemble piece and will work with Mrs. Jimenez to select appropriate music. We will spend our "small band days" to practice these selections. Contest takes place on Saturday April 6th at Benson High School. This event is required for 9-12th graders.

# Grading

The Grading Scale outlined in the Lac qui Parle Valley Student Handbook will be followed.

A 93%-100% A- 90%-92% B+ 87%-89% B 83%-86% B- 80%-82% C+ 77%-79%

C 73%-76% C- 70%-72% D+ 67%-69% D 63%-66% D- 60%-62% F 59% and below

## 7th-12 grade

- Individual Performances - 40%
  - Individual Playing Tests (20%) - Students will periodically be given playing tests. These tests will measure the student's ability, their effort and preparation time, and their understanding of the musical concepts introduced during class.
  - Rehearsal Etiquette (20%) - Students are expected to be prepared for rehearsal musically and must also use correct ensemble behavior for each rehearsal.
- Group Performances - 40%
  - All Public Performances, students are required to be at every performance with the band including all concerts, clinics, and contests. Students are given notice of all events well in advance and should make sure that they are always on time and prepared for each event. Being prepared at each event means having all music fully prepared, being appropriately dressed, and using appropriate concert etiquette.
    - EXCUSED ABSENCE - Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family and other extenuating circumstances. The student or family spokesman should contact the band director and relate the facts causing the emergency and the probable length of time the student will miss rehearsals.
    - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES - An unexcused absence is failure to attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance without the specific approval of the Director of Bands. An absence will be declared unexcused for students who do not bring a note within two days after returning to school. Work is *not* considered an excused absence.
- Daily Points - 10%
  - These points are given to students everyday for attendance, showing up on time, being ready to rehearse with instruments out and warmed up, and having all music and materials needed for that particular rehearsal.
  - Students will get 5 points everyday for coming prepared to rehearsal and on time. If they are tardy or forget something 3 points will be taken off. If they are absent and it is unexcused they will lose all 5 points.
- **Pep Band - 10%**
  - Pep-band events are MANDATORY for all students in the high school band, optional for 7th-8th graders. If a student is unable to attend a game due to a school-related conflict (game, concert, theater performance, competition, etc.), the director must be notified a minimum of one week in advance. If this is the case, the absence will be excused and will not affect the students' grade. All unexcused absences will need to be made up with an alternate assignment. If the student has a job, they should clear the dates with their employer as soon as possible. Work, lack of transportation, vacation, rehearsals for other organizations not sponsored by LqPV, etc. will not be considered an excused absence. If a student is unable to attend, the director must be notified 1 week in advance.
  - Pep-band is how the community sees us perform so it is important we have great attendance in order to sound our best - every player matters!

# Grading cont.

## Middle School

- Lessons-30%
  - Students are expected to attend weekly lessons with Mrs. Jimenez. We will work together to learn how to play your instrument so these are a vital part of your grade and learning process. Any lessons missed due to school activity will be excuse with the option to make it up. Any lessons missed not due to a school activity will be required to be made up in order to get the grade.
- Performances-40%
  - All Public Performances, students are required to be at every performance with the band including all concerts, clinics, and contests. Students are given notice of all events well in advance and should make sure that they are always on time and prepared for each event. Being prepared at each event means having all music fully prepared, being appropriately dressed, and using appropriate concert etiquette.
  - EXCUSED ABSENCE - Excused absences are those due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family and other extenuating circumstances. The student or family spokesman should contact the band director and relate the facts causing the emergency and the probable length of time the student will miss rehearsals.
  - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES - An unexcused absence is failure to attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance without the specific approval of the Director of Bands. An absence will be declared unexcused for students who do not bring a note within two days after returning to school. Work is not considered an excused absence.
- Practice Time-20%
  - Students are expected to practice at home a minimum of 105 minutes per week (15 minutes per day) and turn in their times to Mrs. Jimenez each month.
- Daily Points - 10%
  - These points are given to students everyday for attendance, showing up on time, being ready to rehearse with instruments out and warmed up, and having all music and materials needed for that particular rehearsal.
  - Students will get 5 points everyday for coming prepared to rehearsal and on time. If they are tardy or forget something 3 points will be taken off. If they are absent and it is unexcused they will lose all 5 points.

## Extra Credit (5th-12th grade)

Students may earn up to 25 extra credit points per quarter by:

- Attending concerts in which they do not participate (can be from within our district or from another district) and turn in a 1/2 page summary. Students must also turn in a program from the event.
- Performing in a small group or as a soloist in a function not affiliated with the school (maximum of 1 per quarter). Must inform Mrs. Jimenez and bring a program or note from parent.

## Band Room Policies

- The choir/band room should be kept neat and orderly AT ALL TIMES. It should exemplify the PRIDE and ORGANIZATION that reflects the program. Students should clean up around his/her own area, instruments are to be restored in their designated places, and backpacks will be left against the wall or in cubbies.
- There will be NO FOOD OR DRINKS in the band room at any time. Water bottles used for marching band will immediately be placed in backpacks upon entrance of the band room. (Gum and candy are also considered a food that will not be allowed in the band.)
- Students will only handle things that belong to them. No one should touch the instrument or personal belongings of another student.
- Take your instrument home each weekend to practice.
- No cell phone use during rehearsals. While technology has a positive place in music, the use of electronic during rehearsals is not one of them.
- **Performance Attendance-*students are expected to attend all scheduled performances, including concerts, contests and pep-band. If an absence must occur for a concert or contest, the request must be submitted via email by September 30th. In the event of illness, the director must be notified via email by 8 AM on the day of the event. Regardless of the type of absence, the student will be expected to complete an assignment in place of the absence. The type of assignment given will vary depending on the absence.***
- Students will follow all of the rules and expectations set forth by the LqPV student handbook.
- Mrs. Jimenez can add/modify rules as she sees convenient for the ensembles.

## Required Materials

- Instruments
  - Students must be sure that their instrument has a case and a nametag. There is no way to lock instruments on the shelves, so it is important for students and parents to know that neither the school district nor the director are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged instruments/cases.
  - Students should keep their instrument in their allocated space and not in their personal lockers. If using a personal instrument, be sure to keep the information on your instrument on hand. This will be important should it be misplaced.
    - Serial number
    - Manufacturer/brand
    - Model number
    - Place of purchase
- Extra reeds, valve oil, slide oil and other additional materials you may need for your instrument are very important to have...you never know when you will need them!
  - Woodwinds: 1 box of reeds, having no less than 3 reeds at a time
    - Recommended reeds are as follows:
      - 5th grade: LaVoz Medium Soft Reeds
      - 6th-8th grade: LaVoz Medium Reeds
      - 8-12th grade: LaVoz Medium Hard Reeds
  - Brass: 1 bottle of valve/slide oil
  - Percussion: 1 set of sticks and 1 set of mallets
- **Rental Instruments** : A select number of school owned instruments are available to rent for a fee of \$70 per year.
  - This covers a cleaning that is done at the end of the school year.
  - All other repairs are at the expense of the renter.
  - Percussion students pay this rental fee as well because they use school instruments each and every day we have class.
- Pencil - Writing in your music is an important part of what we do!

## Important :

- Students are responsible for their instrument at all times.
- Lac qui Parle Schools are NOT responsible for instruments left in the band room, locker room, storage shelves, lockers, bus, etc.
- Students are responsible for maintaining their personal and school instruments in top playing condition at all times.
- The student in possession of a LqPV instrument or equipment is responsible for all maintenance and repair of the equipment.
- If their instrument or equipment is lost or damaged beyond repair, the student is responsible for the replacement of that instrument or equipment.



## Dress Code

- Marching Band
  - Each member of the marching band will be required to purchase a Band t-shirt and wear that to Homecoming and Applefest
  - Blue jeans with no large holes
- Pep Band
  - band shirt, any LqPV shirt, or dressed as the theme night
  
- 5th-8th grade Bands
  - ALL black - shirt, pants, dress, skirt, shoes, socks, tie etc.
    - NO tennis shoes with white - black dress shoes preferred
    - NO jeans or shorts - wear black dress pants only.
    - NO t-shirts - please wear black dress shirts.
    - NO hats.
- 9th-12th grade band
  - School issued attire
    - Tux - jacket, shirt, button covers, bow tie, pants, shoes.
      - please wear BLACK socks
    - Formal dress - you provide your own ALL BLACK dress shoes (no sandals)

## Fundraising

All ensembles will have fundraising opportunities and activities throughout the year. This will help defray the cost of materials, supplies and trips the ensemble may take. All students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to participate in fundraisers. ***Unless otherwise noted, all fundraisers go towards individual student music travel accounts. Fundraisers are never required!***

# 2023-24 LqPV Band Events

\*subject to change\*

Date	Event	Grades
<b>Monday Sept 18</b>	<b>Coronation Performance</b>	9th-12th
Thursday Sept 21	VB pep band - Homecoming	9th-12th
Friday Sept 22	Homecoming Parade Marching	9th-12th
Friday Sept 22	FB pep band - Homcoming	9th-12th
Thursday Sept 28	VB pep band - Renville	7th-12th
Friday Oct 6	FB pep band - McCray	7th-12th
Monday Oct 9	VB pep band - Wheaton	7th-12th
<b>Friday November 10</b>	<b>Veteran's Day Performance</b>	9th-12th
November 10-12	Musical - Moana	
Monday Nov 27	GBB pep band	7th-12th
Monday Dec 4	BBB pep band	7-12th
<b>Monday Dec 11</b>	<b>Band Concert</b>	6th-12th
Dec/Jan TBD	5th grade Informance	5th
Friday Jan 5	BBB Pep band	7th-12th
Monday Jan 8	GBB Pep band	7th-12th
Friday Jan 26	GBB Pep band	7th-12th
Thursday Feb 1	BBB Pep band - Snow Daze	7th-12th
Friday Feb 2	GBB Pep band - Snow Daze	7th-12th
Monday Feb 12	GBB Pep band	7th-12th

Date	Event	Grades
Friday Feb 16	BBB Pep band	7th-12th
Thursday Feb 22	BBB Pep band	7th-12th
Late Feb/Early March	GBB/BBB playoffs	9th-12th
<b>Monday March 11th</b>	<b>Large Group Contest</b>	9th-12th
<b>Thursday March 21st</b>	<b>Band &amp; Choir Concert</b>	5th-12th
<b>Saturday April 6th</b>	<b>Solo/Ensemble Contest</b>	all 9th-12th
<b>Monday May 13th</b>	<b>Band &amp; Choir Concert</b>	9th-12th
<b>Monday May 20th</b>	<b>Band &amp; Choir Concert</b>	5th-8th
Sunday May 26th	graduation	8th-11th

- **Pep band is REQUIRED for Senior High students** (see the *grading page* for excused and unexcused absences) and highly encouraged for 7th-8th grade students, but not required.
- Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances, including concerts, contests and pep-band.
- If an absence must occur for a *concert or contest*, the request must be submitted via email by **September 30th**.
- If an absence must occur for a *pep band* event, the request must be submitted via email **1 week before the event**. If for a school related event please let me know as soon as you know and it will be excused.
- In the event of illness, the director must be notified via email by 8 AM on the day of the event.
- Regardless of the type of absence, the student will be expected to complete an assignment in place of the absence in order to get the grade. The type of assignment given will vary depending on the absence.
- All events are subject to change.
- Other events that the school requests our presence at may be added under the discretion of the director throughout the year.

# 2023-2024 LqPV Band Member Contract

*Please return by Friday Sept 8th*



**scan QR code to  
read the  
handbook**

I have read the band handbook and understand the obligations, privileges and expectations of being in the Lac qui Parle Valley Band Program. It is known that any and all applicable policies are subject to change at any time by the band director, Mrs. Jimenez. We are committed to any event in which the band participates and will adhere to the provided performance schedule. Should a conflict arise involving a band obligation, I will adhere to the established guidelines and procedures in order to resolve the conflict. I agree to abide by the expectations outlined in this document and intend to give my best effort to achieve personal and group success as a member of the Lac qui Parle Band Department.

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student printed name

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student signature

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parent/guardian printed name

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parent/guardian signature

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date