

LaMuth Middle School  
Instrumental Music  
2015 – 2016 Information

*I can learn a new piece  
of music by myself.*

**Contact Information:**

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**Purpose:**

Students will learn how to read, perform, compose, and write about music in this class.

**Rule:**

Show respect, earn respect, and make school appropriate choices.

**Materials:**

- Instrument & supplies
- ear buds or head phones
- The Simple Rhythmician
- Essential Elements 2000
- 3 ring binder
- pencil in music case
- instrument name tag
- recording device or blank CD

## Required Performances

Advanced Band Winter Concert  
Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at  
7PM in the RHS Auditorium

Advanced Band Spring Concert  
Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7PM in  
the RHS Auditorium

Beginning Band Spring Concert  
Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 7PM in the  
RHS Auditorium

**Extra Opportunities:**

- Mass Band 9/10 & 9/11 – 7<sup>th</sup> graders only
- Chamber Music Festival 3/19 – all classes eligible
- LMS Pops Ensemble – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders may audition
- National Anthem performances at Cavs, Monsters, and/or Gladiators games – 7<sup>th</sup> graders only based on audition and our schedule
- Music Alliance Honors Bands – both classes eligible
- OMEA D7 Events – 7<sup>th</sup> graders only

## Class Procedures

**Electronic Devices:**

Students will be permitted to use their electronic devices with permission during specified times during class. There is no talking or texting.

**Bathroom Pass:**

Students will be allowed to sign out to use the restroom after attendance during band class nine times per grading period.

**Gum, Candy, and Food:**

Band students (including percussion) are to deposit gum or any other food into the trashcan before class starts.

## Private Lessons

Percussion students need to enroll in private percussion lessons for the entire school year in order to take drums in band. (Lessons are available at local music stores.) You will need to rent a percussion kit that includes a snare drum (or practice pad), bells, sticks, and mallets.

Beginning Band members will need to enroll in private lessons for the first grading period if they are not playing the beginning instruments (flute, clarinet, and trumpet).

## *The Band Grade*

### **Assessments:**

Playing tests, compositions, concerts, vocabulary tests, essays, and theory exams will contribute to your report card grade for band class.

### **Playing Tests:**

Students will be encouraged to submit their playing tests electronically.

### **Retakes:**

Retakes are required for most summative assessments. If a student does not earn a perfect score on an assessment, then the BEST score between the original and retake will be used to compute the final grade. (There are no concert retakes.)

### **Practice and Homework Policy:**

Please read the separate document describing expectations for practicing at home and homework completion for this class.

### **Extra Credit:**

There are NO BONUS POINTS or other extra credit in band.

## *Instrument Storage*

Most students will be assigned an instrument locker and lock located in the band room for storage of their instrument and music materials. Students will be assigned a partner in some cases. Lockers are to be LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. The school district, LMS, and Mr. Swislocki are not responsible for items lost or stolen from these lockers. The students are responsible for turning in their lock at the end of the year.

## *Concert Policy*

A majority of the work and effort taken during the band class period will culminate in an evening concert. Failure to participate and attend the concert will result in a zero for the concert grade. Concert dates are listed on the other page of this document. Calendars should be planned accordingly so a student does not miss out on the concert experience.

A written excuse at least one month prior to the concert signed by the student's caregiver will excuse the student from the concert. However, a

written paper will need to be completed to receive credit for the concert in the event of a planned (30 day written excuse) or excused (sick day) absence from school.

The content of this paper must be based on the repertoire being performed. Topics may include the composer, background on the title, historical significance, origin, style, information on original performer(s), and the arranger. Papers need to be two pages, double-spaced, in 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins, and follow the writing procedures learned in the LMS English Language Arts curriculum. Students must use at least two sources and cite those sources in a bibliography. One of the two sources must NOT be from the Internet. This make up assignment is due on or before 2PM on the last day of the respective grading period. Late papers will not be accepted.