



Lancer Band Handbook

Laraway CCSD 70C

2016 - 2017

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Welcome

Dear Laraway Families,

Welcome to the Laraway Lancer Band! I am extremely glad that you have chosen to join the Lancer Band family. Your decision to become part of our program will ensure that the music tradition of pride, dedication and excellence will carry on for many years to come. As a member of the Laraway Lancer Band, you will learn more than just how to play a musical instrument; you will learn how to work as a team toward a common goal and experience success on a greater level than ever before. As a band member, you are joining the leagues of millions all over the world who, for the love of music, communicate and work together for the pure enrichment of the arts. Congratulations on joining our band family and I look forward to an exciting year together!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelly Thelen

Lancer Band Director

kthelen@laraway70c.org



Rehearsal Schedule

All *concert band* members will participate in a **large group rehearsal once a week from 3:00-4:30pm on Wednesday**. All *beginning band* members will participate in a **large group rehearsal once a week during 5th grade recess/junior high lunch time**, beginning in January. In addition, all students will receive a **30 minute small group technique lesson once a week**. For technique lessons, students will be grouped with like instruments (i.e. woodwinds, high brass, low brass, percussion). All technique lessons will take place during the school day on a rotating schedule. This ensures that students do not miss the same class each week. Students who are academically ineligible are not allowed to miss classes and will have their lesson during recess (5th grade) or after school (junior high).

Lesson and Rehearsal Procedures

Small Group Lesson Procedure:

1. Student(s) check in with their classroom teacher and record all assignments in their planner.
2. Walk to the music room and set up your instrument.
3. Each lesson will be 30 minutes.
4. Fill out the weekly goal sheet, pack up instrument, and walk back to class.
5. Students need to check *back in* with their classroom teacher for any missing work/handouts.

After School Rehearsal Procedure:

1. After the last class is dismissed, students need to bring all of their belongings to the music room.
2. Rehearsals will begin promptly at 3:15pm. Prior to this, students need to use the restroom. By 3:15pm, students should be seated with their instruments and ready to play.
3. When rehearsal is over, students need to pack up their instruments and line up by the door in order to receive their bus number.

Performances

Live performance is an important part of being a musician and is a great way to celebrate the process of making music. Because every musician makes a unique contribution to each performance, attendance is required. Performance dates will be provided in advanced. Should an emergency arise, please contact Ms. Thelen as soon as possible. Students will participate in a minimum of two performances during the academic school year.



Student Expectations

ATTENDANCE – Each student’s personal success is directly related to attendance, therefore band members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and lessons. Additionally, each band member contributes to the success of the group as a whole.

In order for students to participate in a concert, students must have good attendance at their lessons (no more than **two** unexcused absences), rehearsals, **and the last rehearsal prior to the concert**. Students who fail to meet this requirement will not be ready to perform in the concert.

In case of an **emergency**, a parent/guardian should call Ms. Thelen or provide a written note upon the student’s return.

Important **family or religious conflicts** should be communicated by a parent/guardian to Ms. Thelen in writing or by phone at least two weeks prior to the conflict.

School-sponsored activity or sport conflicts should be communicated Ms. Thelen at least one week prior to the conflict. Ms. Thelen will assist in creating a schedule that allows attendance at both activities.

BEHAVIOR – Band members are expected to follow all school and music classroom rules at all times. Your actions are a reflection of the Lancer Band as a whole. Misbehavior resulting in a major referral, suspension, etc. is unacceptable. Students who fight during lessons, rehearsals, field trips, or in the music room will be referred to the principal and will incur a possible loss of privileges.

There is a zero tolerance policy on bullying.

INSTRUMENT – Students are expected to stay with their instrument throughout the duration of the school year. Instrument switches are only done if a medical condition arises or per director recommendation.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY – Band members are expected to demonstrate personal responsibility when using music equipment, keeping track of their instrument, obtaining a parent/guardian signature on weekly goal sheets, keeping their band locker secure and clean, etc.



PRACTICE

A student’s success on a musical instrument is dependent upon positive participation during group instruction and daily individual practice. Students will be given a weekly **Goal Sheet** that lists warm-up, review, and new exercises that help develop musical skills and knowledge. The total number of minutes a student is expected to practice will be indicated on the goal sheet. Students may practice afterschool in the band room.

Bandroom Policies

Restroom Policy: Students need to use the restroom prior to lessons and after school rehearsal. Since lessons are only 30 minutes, students will not be permitted to use the restroom and should go before coming to the music room. Students will be given an opportunity to use the restroom before after school rehearsals and will not be permitted to go until after rehearsal is over.

Recess Policy: 5th grade students may practice or make up a lesson during their recess time, as long as they check in with their classroom teacher and are given permission. Students who do not use this time to their advantage (i.e. playing other's instruments, running throughout the room) will be asked to go back to recess.

Lunch Policy: Students in 5th-8th grade may eat lunch on certain days in the music room. All lunches must be eaten and cleaned up before students can practice or test for their Band Karate belts. Students who consistently leave food on the desks and floors will be asked to eat lunch in the cafeteria. Students also need to remain in the music room for the entire duration of lunch.

Practice Room: Practice rooms are available for students to use to practice during lunch, recess, and after school. Practice rooms can be reserved during breakfast each morning. Students need to ask permission before entering these spaces. All food and beverages (except for water) are not allowed in the practice rooms.

Offices and Storage Closets: Students must ask permission before entering these spaces. These rooms are filled with instruments and supplies and need permission before entering.

B.A.N.D.

Students in the 2014-2015 Lancer Band came up with B.A.N.D., an acronym to help students maintain and remember good behaviors during lessons, rehearsals, field trips, and performances.

Be respectful while others are playing or speaking.

Always come prepared.

Never give up.

Do your best every day.

Band Officers

Each year, students have the opportunity to be a Band Officer! Band Officers have leadership positions in the band and represent the ensemble to the school and to the Band Director.

Band Officer Guidelines:

1. Students must remain in good academic (not failing any classes).
2. Students must remain in good band standing. Any students who have two unexcused lessons and rehearsals will be ineligible to be an officer.
3. Students need to positively represent the musical ensemble.
4. Students will be voted into office by their classmates and will hold their position for the entire school year.
5. Once voted into office, students must attend the Band Officer meetings during recess/lunch.

Parent Expectations

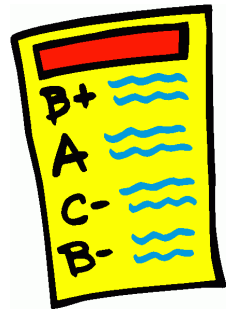
CHEERLEADER – Encouraging your child to finish something they started teaches them a valuable lesson that they can carry with them throughout their lives! The experience of trying something new and challenging is more enjoyable for students when someone is in their corner cheering them on with words of encouragement.



SUPERVISOR – Help your child grow into the best possible musician they can by supervising their practice activities and signing their Goal Sheet each week. Ask your student questions about what they are learning and allow your student to perform new skills, exercises and songs for you. If they are not sure about something encourage them to ask Ms. Thelen for additional assistance.

Progress Reports

Band is considered an extracurricular activity and therefore band members will not receive a grade on their report card. Throughout the year students will complete benchmark assessments to track their personal growth. This information will be sent home once a quarter. Benchmark assessments will be taken into consideration when recognizing students at the end of year banquet. Students who work hard and do well on benchmark assessments are more likely to receive awards, trophies and medals!



Band Karate

Each year, students will have the opportunity to complete Band Karate! As students progress through their method book, concert music, and scales, they can test for each belt. Band Karate belts can only be tested for in the following order: white, yellow, orange, green, blue, purple, red, brown, and black. After students successfully complete the required selections, they will receive a belt that they can proudly display! Students will receive additional information when the school year starts about Band Karate.



Care of Instrument

Your instrument must be stored properly in its case when not in use. It may only be taken out of the case for rehearsals, lessons and individual practice. Students **may not** take their instrument out of its case while on the bus, in hallways, or any other non-practice/performance location. This puts the instrument at risk of being damaged.

Students should not play other students' instruments, especially if they do not know how to handle them. Instruments can break very easily and should only be handled by the student playing it. Students who break instruments (their own or someone else's) are responsible for any repair costs.

Notify Ms. Thelen immediately if your instrument is not working properly. DO NOT try to fix your instrument on your own. Musical instruments are very delicate and should be repaired by a trained technician. Do not store your instrument in a car. Extreme hot and cold weather can damage your instrument.



Required Materials

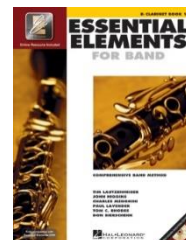
Students will need the supplies and instrument accessories listed below during lessons and rehearsals.

Families who rent from Laraway will be provided with all required supplies and instrument accessories. Oboe, clarinet, and saxophone players will be provided with the first 3-4 reeds. See note below about reeds.

Families who do not rent from Laraway will be provided with a band binder. All other supplies and accessories will need to be purchased.

Supplies

1. Instrument in good working order
2. Wire music stand (kept at home)
3. Band binder (1" white binder)
4. Essential Elements *for Band*
5. Sharpened pencil



Renting/Buying Instruments:

Recommended Instrument Brands:

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Selmer, or Armstrong

Oboe: Yamaha, Selmer, or Buffet

Clarinet: Yamaha, Selmer, Leblanc, or Buffet

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha or Selmer

Trumpet/Cornet: Yamaha, Selmer, or Bach

French Horn: Yamaha, Holton, Bach, Conn

Trombone: Yamaha, Selmer, or Bach

Baritone: Yamaha, Selmer, or Bach

Tuba: Bach or Yamaha

Percussion: Ludwig

Flute:

- Cleaning rod/cloth
- Slide Grease

Oboe:

- THREE working reeds
- Reed guard
- Small container for water
- Cork Grease

Clarinet:

- FOUR working reeds
- Reed Guard
- Cleaning swab
- Cork Grease

Alto Saxophone:

- FOUR working reeds
- Reed Guard
- Cleaning swab
- Cork Grease

Trumpet/Cornet, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba:

- Valve Oil
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Wash Cloth
- BERP (*Buzz Extension Resistance Piece*)

Trombone

- Slide Oil or Slide cream
- Small spray bottle if using slide cream
- Wash Cloth
- BERP (*Buzz Extension Resistance Piece*)

Percussion:

- Mike Balter 4BB Bell Mallets
- Vic Firth SD1 Snare Drum Sticks

FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN ON PARTICIPATING IN BAND IN HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND, A RENT-TO-BUY PLAN IS SUGGESTED. AN INSTRUMENT IS AN INVESTMENT THAT WILL LAST FOR A LIFETIME.

NOTE ABOUT REEDS: Reeds are “disposable” accessories because they wear out over time. Once a reed is chipped or worn out it must be thrown away.

- Additional **clarinet** and **alto saxophone** reeds may be purchased from Laraway for **\$1** each.
- Additional **bass clarinet** reeds may be purchased from Laraway for **\$2** each.
- Additional **oboe** reeds may be purchased from Laraway for **\$5** each.
- Boxes of reeds are available for purchase at the local music stores listed on page 8.

Choosing an Rental Vendor

Consider the following questions when selecting a rental instrument for your child.

- Does the music store display a wide variety of quality woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, supplies, method books and music?
- Are band rental instruments new or refurbished (used)?
- Does the instrument meet the recommended brand listing?
- How is the instrument delivered to you?
- Does the rental contract include a maintenance and replacement program?
- Are quality loaner instruments readily available during periods of repair?
- Are repairs completed in-house or out-sourced? How are instruments delivered when repairs are completed?

Rental Options

Laraway Community Consolidated School District 70C

Families may choose to rent an instrument directly from **Laraway School** for a one-time fee **\$30 for the entire school year**. The rental fee covers basic maintenance of wear and tear. Available instruments will be rented on a first come, first served basis. Tuba and percussion are not available for rent from Laraway School.

The \$30 rental fee does not cover repairs beyond wear and tear or instrument replacement if lost or stolen.

Major repairs and replacement are at the cost of the renter.

Rental Options Comparison Chart

	Laraway School	Brandolino's Encore Music Center	Quinlan & Fabish	West Side Music Center
Location	On Site	Shorewood, IL	Burr Ridge, IL	Joliet, IL
Initial Cost	\$30 yearly fee	\$25 : \$44 : \$61 3 month trial	\$50 : \$68 : \$115 4 month trial	\$49 : \$59 : \$105 : \$135 4 month trial
Monthly Cost	\$0	\$25 - \$61 per month until paid in full	\$20 - \$45 per month until paid in full	\$27 : \$31 : \$42 : \$55 per month
Condition	used	new and used	new and used	new and used
Maintenance & Repair Cost	major repairs at cost of renter	included in monthly rental cost	included in monthly rental cost	all repairs at cost of renter
Notes	n/a	payments apply toward purchase of instrument		portion of payments apply toward purchase of instrument
	no loaner instrument provided during repair	loaner instrument provided during repair		no loaner provided during repair
	n/a	free pick-up and delivery to school and home or pick-up in store	free pick-up and delivery to school or pick-up in store	pick-up in store only
Phone	815-727-5196	815-729-2858	630-654-4111	815-723-3718
Website	Larawaymusic.com <i>Instrument rental not available online</i>	rentfromhome.com <i>rent online</i> <i>CODE: pr76g</i>	qandf.com <i>budget rental</i> <i>not available online</i>	westsidemusiccenter.com/ <i>must rent in store</i>



Brandolino's Encore Music Center
700 W Jefferson Street
Shorewood, IL 60404



Quinlan & Fabish
6827 High Grove Blvd.
Burr Ridge, IL 60527



West Side Music Center
1009 W Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60436