

Livingston Academy Band

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"Spirit of the Wildcats"

2011-2012 Band Handbook

Welcome to the Livingston Academy Band! Please read the following material carefully as you and your parents will be responsible for knowing this information. At the end of this handbook there will be a place for you and your parents to sign and return saying that you have read all the rules contained here in this handbook.

Philosophy: It is the philosophy of this program to engage all students in a thoughtful and rewarding experience both educationally and aesthetically through the use of music, artistry, and showmanship. Band is a unique offering at Livingston Academy. There are curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, as well as extra curricular requirements similar to athletic teams. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one, performance oriented, academic course of study.

Goals: Each student should show growth and understanding of music, artistic sensitivity, solo/ensemble/large ensemble performance skills, and music theory. Students will also represent this school and program with the attitude, dedication, and maturity that it deserves. Responsibility, dedication, and perseverance are also traits and goals the students will learn.

Purpose: It is the purpose of this program to serve as the musical outlet for the school, community, and any other source necessary. The purpose will also be to perform a variety of quality literature and gain leadership skills along the way.

Activities: Students in this program will participate in rehearsals, class work, concerts, festivals, community and school performances, extra curricular activities, field trips, and all other events deemed necessary by the band director.

Course Requirements: You will commit to attending **ALL** rehearsals and

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performances for the school year as well as any other events deemed necessary by the band director. Band is a **yearlong class** (split into two semesters) and should be thought of as such. Extra practice (individual and group) will be required as needed. The students will also be required to act and dress according to the high standards that the band represents. Dedication, responsibility, perseverance, and discipline are also traits that the students will be required to demonstrate as well as pursue.

Evaluation (Grading Policy):

1. **Grading Scale:** (As set by school board)

<u>Percentage Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Rating Grade</u>
93-100	A	Superior
85-92	B	Excellent
75-84	C	Good
70-74	D	Average
69 and below	F	Below Average

2. **Attendance** – 10 points per day. Regular school class attendance rules apply during the school day. For after school rehearsals, performances, and other events, attendance is mandatory and students' grades will be lowered if missed. The band director must approve any absences in advance. The only acceptable excuses are severe hospitalized illness of student / family member or death in the family.
 - a. **Be On Time:** Arrive early enough to be in your seat with your instrument and music before the rehearsal begins. Remember..."EARLY IS ON TIME. ON TIME IS LATE!"
 - b. **Participation:** 10 points per day. All students are to work together in a cooperative environment with each other and the director. Leaving rehearsals is not allowed until the director dismisses you.
 - c. **Talking:** Disrupting rehearsals or a performance is unacceptable. Daily points will be deducted for this as well as other measures will be imposed if you can't follow this rule.
3. **Performances:** Performances will count as 100 points. Equivalent to a major test grade.
4. **Other Events:** All other events will count as 100 points. Equivalent to a major test grade.
5. **Tests:** (Other than performances) will count as 100 points.
6. **Makeup Work:** All work missed as the result of an absence must be made up within 3 days of the student's return to class. All responsibility for arranging make-up work lies solely with the student.

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7. **Extra Credit:** Extra credit will be added to the student's grade for any of the following.
 - a. **Attend Concerts:** Attend any concert outside the school day and bring a signed program back to the band director.
 - b. **Solo and Ensemble Festival:** Attend and participate in Solo and Ensemble.
 - c. **Regional Band:** Attend and try-out for regional honors bands.

General Rules: As with any program we have to require rules. These rules will be the extension of the normal school rules. Both sets (school rules and band rules) apply to all students in the band program.

1. All policies of the Livingston Academy Student Handbook will be followed. This includes the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Law enforcement will be called in to deal with these types of situations.
2. Cell phones are not allowed in the classroom, rehearsals, or performances. They may be used on trips as a means of communication with parents.
3. All students are to be in their assigned seat and ready to start class (with instrument, music, etc...) when bell rings.
4. Act and speak professionally and with respect / discipline.
5. Keep the Band Room clean and orderly. The Band Room is not a locker. Items left on the floor will be thrown away.
6. Maintain at least a 2.5 (C) grade average in all classes.
7. Always display the behavior and attitude that this program deserves. Relationships should not be displayed in rehearsals, performances, trips, or in public.
8. No hats are to be worn in the classroom or during inside rehearsals / events.
9. Students are to be seated at all times on the bus. Students will also sit with a member of the same sex only. Couples are only allowed to sit together if they sit in the very front of the bus with a chaperone seated in close proximity. No blankets or coverings will be allowed on bus trips.
10. Theft or vandalism of any school or personal property will be turned immediately over to school authorities or the local law enforcement.
11. Students are not allowed in private rooms (with the door closed) with members of the opposite gender unless a chaperone is present.

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12. Students are to ride to and from all band related trips / functions with the Band Director. Parents may request that their child ride home with them if permission, in writing, is granted by the principal and given to the Band Director in advance.
13. Students are to wear, at minimum, their **Band T-Shirt and Shorts** under their uniforms at all times. When changing uniforms separate changing rooms will be used that will be monitored by a chaperone. If a student needs to change into fewer clothes than their t-shirt and shorts then they must go to a private bathroom to do so.
14. Non-Band Members are not allowed to attend rehearsals / practices, be in the band room, or just “hang” around the band. Parents are encouraged to attend as much as possible and can be used to help with the running of the program.
15. There is to be No Food or Drink in the Band Room.
16. Uniforms are to be treated with the highest respect. They should never be on the ground and should be hung up when not being worn. When in uniform, students should always have their coat on and zipped unless otherwise directed by the Band Director.

Disciplinary Actions:

1. Reprimand from the Band Director. A form outlining the offense will be sent home to the parents. This form must be signed and returned to the Band Director to be put on file.
2. A conference with the Band Director and parents will be scheduled. A second form outlining the offense will be placed on file. The student will also not be allowed to participate in any performances or events until the parent conference. School administration will also be notified.
3. Conference with the Band Director, Parents, and School Administration. Student will be suspended from band and removed from the performing ensemble. An alternative curriculum will be established so student can complete the semester. A form outlining the offense will be placed on file and student will be dismissed from the Band Program indefinitely at the end of the semester.

Bullying and Favoritism Policy

1. There will be absolutely no bullying allowed in the band program. Students that are found bullying other students will be removed immediately from any ranks they might hold and be dealt with on Step 3 of the "Disciplinary Actions" clause.
2. Favoritism is also not tolerated in the Band Program. Students must audition for any ranks or positions they earn. These positions will not be guaranteed and if necessary changes will be made.

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Band Officers: Selection and Responsibilities

1. **All Officers:** Officers will be decided by the Band Director. They must be on time, support other officers and the Band Director in and out of rehearsal, bring student concerns to the Band Director, accept awards on behalf of the band at awards ceremonies, and be good leaders / examples for the other students to follow. These positions are **NOT** of a disciplinary nature. They are of a supportive and teaching nature and should be handled as such or risk being removed from such positions.
2. **Drum Major:** Conduct / lead the Band, help the Band Director in preparing for and conducting rehearsals, conduct inspections, and support the other officers. The Drum Major is also responsible for knowing everyone else's part/music/drill.
3. **Band Captain:** Help the Band Director when needed, act as primary student representative for the band, and be prepared to conduct / lead the band whenever necessary. The Band Captain should know everything the Drum Major does in case something should happen to or removal of the Drum Major should become necessary.
4. **Lieutenants:** Help the Band Director when needed, monitor all loading and unloading of equipment including instruments and uniforms. This includes equipment needs for trips, performances, and rehearsals.
5. **Section Leaders:** These students are responsible for their own sections. They should ensure their members know their music, drill, follow rules, and act according to the standards set forth within the Band and this handbook. Section Leaders are the **PRIMARY** source for band members to receive feedback, music, equipment, or to ask questions that they may have.
6. **Librarian:** Will take care of filing and cataloguing music. Help in keeping the Library neat and orderly, distribute and collect music, keep account for lost or damaged music, and help manage student portfolios.
7. **Guard / Percussion Captain:** Help all guard and percussion members stay organized and out of trouble, lead their section in warmups for practice and performances, make sure their sections instruments are properly stored and maintained, keep storage areas clean and maintained, and make sure all necessary equipment is loaded and unloaded on all trips.

Student Responsibilities for Trips:

1. Each student should maintain their own uniform and all its parts.
2. Each student should maintain and take care of their own instrument, music, lyre, mouthpieces, reeds, etc...

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3. Each student should help load and unload the equipment under the guidance of their Lieutenants.
4. When we arrive home students should clean up the bus and make sure that it is left cleaner than when we got on it. Uniforms should be hung up in the Uniform Room and Instruments stored in their proper places.

Uniform and Concert Attire:

1. Instrumental Members:

- a. Band Furnishes – Uniform, Shako, and Accessories
- b. Student Furnishes – Band T-Shirt (included in band camp fee), Black Marching Shoes (Bought through Band Director-about \$27), Black Socks, and White Gloves (Bought through Band Director- about \$2).
- c. What Not To Wear – No makeup or jewelry, hair must be up and under shako.

2. Colorguard:

- a. Band Furnishes – Accessories, Flags, Other Equipment
- b. Student Furnishes – Uniform, Black Guard Shoes and Gloves (Bought through Band Director – about \$80 for Uniform, \$27 for Shoes, and \$5 for Gloves)
- c. Reminder – Makeup will be used to accent eyes and cheeks and will be worn as per Color Guard Instructor's direction. No jewelry allowed.

3. Concert Dress: The band may be required to wear their marching uniforms to perform in during concert performances. All concert dress announcements will be made ahead of time.

- a. Boys – White dress shirt, black dress pants/slacks, black socks, tie, and black shoes.
- b. Girls – Black tea-length dress or white blouse and black skirt tea length, black shoes and appropriate stockings.

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Membership Acceptance Form

This form is a statement that indicates:

1. You have read the Livingston Academy Band Handbook
2. You understand it.
3. You will abide by its concepts.

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date: _____

This form must be turned in to the Band Director where it will be kept on file.