

Leesville Road High School Band Information Sheet



**** All this information including recordings, videos, pictures, schedules, calendars and much more can be found on the Leesville Band website – leesvilleband.org. ****

Commonly Asked Questions:

Is Band a year-long elective? Yes.

Can I take band and another elective?

YES! If you take band all year, all four years of high school and take all the courses you need to graduate, you still will have EIGHT remaining “free” classes to choose.

Can I play in the band and play sports?

YES! We have had a member of EVERY sports team – JV and Varsity - at some point in every single band here at Leesville. With limited after-school rehearsal requirements, most band students are involved with many other activities – Sports, Language Clubs, National Honors Society, Brain Game, etc.

What options of band do I have as a freshman?

Rising Ninth Graders have TWO choices of bands at Leesville Road High School – *Ninth Grade Band and Symphonic Band*.

The **Ninth Grade Band** is for 9th Grade Students who have had successful musical experiences in Middle School. *This is the general path of a Ninth Grade Student unless through audition, they are placed in the Symphonic Band.* The student will have the opportunity to advance in individual technique and grow in musicianship; develop tone and ensemble concepts in preparation for more in-depth study either in the Concert Band or in the Symphonic Band. The ensemble performs public concerts and school functions. The Band has received Superior Ratings at the N.C.B.A. State Contest in Grade III and also elects to perform at another national festival.

The **Symphonic Band** is Leesville’s premier audition-only band. The serious music student will explore the art of music from the classical “standards” by the Masters to pieces by contemporary composers. The student will learn advanced technique and musical concepts. The Symphonic Band has received Superior Ratings at the N.C.B.A State Contest in Grade VI, and usually attends at least one other judged festival. It is the featured performance band at many school functions. The Symphonic Band merges music with movement and is Leesville’s **Marching Band** to perform at home football games, parades, and competitions. Further, every student is expected to attend all Performances, Band Camp in July, before school morning rehearsals as well as weekly section rehearsals. This ensemble (both Symphonic and Marching) meets during fourth period. Therefore in order to be in **MARCHING BAND**, you **MUST** be in the Symphonic Band. Typically only about 5-10% of freshman are ready for this ensemble when they enter high school. Most wait a year or two before joining Symphonic.

****Once a member of either of these two Bands, other opportunities such as *Jazz Band, Pep Band, Winter Guard, Brass Ensembles and Woodwind Ensembles* are available to students.****

Does band give honors credit?

Ninth Grade Band is an academic level ensemble; therefore it is not an honors class. Symphonic Band IS an honors level ensemble.

How do I register for band?

Whether you have made the Ninth Grade Band or the Symphonic Band, students **MUST** register for “**Band II.**” Once in this course, students will be moved to the correct ensemble depending on their audition results.

Does the band go on a Spring Trip?

Both the Symphonic Band and the Ninth Grade Band go on a Spring Trip every year. The Symphonic Band trips are longer and more extensive. This year the Symphonic Band is headed to Orlando, Florida and the Ninth Grade Band is joining the Concert Band on a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.

Does it cost money to be in band?

Yes. In order to pay for instruments, new music, repair, transportation, clinicians, festivals, competitions, equipment, and the daily cost of running a successful band program, we have what we call a *Fair Share* to help pay these costs. For Ninth Grade Band this cost averages around \$80 per person, in addition to the cost of a uniform (New ~ \$100, Used ~\$50). For Symphonic Band Fair Share averages around \$300 with the additional cost of Band Camp during the summer averaging around \$400 (includes housing, food, transportation, etc.). Spring Trips are an additional cost that varies from year to year. Most students, however, fundraise the majority of all these costs and pay very little, if anything, out of pocket. The Bands Club also offers scholarships to those needing financial support.

What do I need to do to be in Symphonic Band?

Students will need to audition to be in the Symphonic Band. They will need to contact Ms. Montgomery (amontgomery@wcpss.net) to set up an audition **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

Symphonic Band Audition Requirements (FEBRUARY 6th-9th)

- **Brass/Woodwind Players:** Perform all 12 major scales/arpeggios and chromatic scale (two octave range) along with a short solo of your choice to show your musicality. Your private instructor or band director can assist you in finding a suitable selection – such as the All-District Solo. Students will also be asked to sight-read a selection during the audition.
- **Percussionists:** Perform all 12 major scales and chromatic scale (two octave range) on a mallet percussion instrument. All percussionists should demonstrate the ability to tune and perform a short timpani solo, perform a rudimentary snare drum solo, and a short xylophone/marimba solo. Students will also be asked to sight-read a selection during the audition.

What do I need to do to be in Ninth Grade Band?

You **DO NOT NEED TO AUDITION** for Ninth Grade Band **IF** you have **PRIOR** middle school band experience during 8th grade. If for some reason you did not take band in 8th grade, Ms. Montgomery will need to hear you play during the month of May. Beginning Band is not a band option at Leesville. You must have prior experience on an instrument.

Ninth Grade Band Audition Requirements if NO prior Middle School Band experience (*To be held in MAY*):

- **Brass/Woodwind Players:** 6 major scales (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db concert), chromatic scale (two octave range), short solo of your choice to show your musicality and a sight-reading selection.
- **Percussionists:** 6 major scales (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db concert), chromatic scale (two octave range) on a mallet percussion instrument and two short solos on two different of the following instruments of your choice to show your musicality: demonstrate the ability to tune and perform a short timpani solo AND/OR perform a rudimentary snare drum solo AND/OR a short xylophone/marimba solo. Students will also be asked to sight-read a selection during the audition.

What is the Bands Club?

The Bands Club is the organization of all parents of Leesville High School Band students. We meet once a month to update the families of LHS Band students on all that is going on. We look forward to having you join us.

Contact information for the Bands Club?

Leesville Road High School Bands Club
 Mia Batz, LHS Bands Club President
 Phone: (919) 846-5876
 E-Mail: miabatz@yahoo.com

Contact information for Ms. Montgomery?

Leesville Road High School Band
 Alyssa M. Montgomery, Conductor of LHS Bands
 Phone: (919) 870-4250 ext 24568 Fax: (919) 870-4287
 E-Mail: amontgomery@wcpss.net

Upcoming Dates: (Please note that dates/times may be subject to change.)

Tue-Fri, 6-9 th Feb	Auditions for Symphonic Band	<i>Please EMAIL Ms. Montgomery for time</i>	
Tuesday, 29th May	New Parent Meeting – LRHS Studio	7:00pm	For ALL New Band Parents
Monday, 11 th June	First Summer Rehearsal	6:00-8:30pm	For Symphonic Band only
Monday, 16 th July	New to Symphonic Band Camp – LRHS	Time TBD	For NEW Symphonic Band only
Tue-Sat, 17 th -21 st July	Pre-Band Camp – LRHS	5:00-8:30pm	For Symphonic Band only
Mon-Sun, 23 rd -29 th July	24 th Band Camp at Lees McRae College	All Day	For Symphonic Band only
14, 15, 16, 21, 22 Aug	Summer Rehearsals	6-8:30pm	For Symphonic Band only
Tuesday, 18th Sept	First Bands Club Meeting – LRHS Studio	7:00pm	For All Band Parents

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