

# LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## ◆ BAND HANDBOOK ◆

### WELCOME

Welcome to the Instrumental Music Department at Libertas Christian School!! We are excited that you are a part of our music-making team. Please review this handbook, as it contains information you need to be successful as a musician. We welcome your questions. Our office hours will be posted online at the beginning of each school year. Here's to a wonderful year of music-making and praising Our Lord together!

Mrs. Kerrissa Silverthorne,  
Middle and High School Band Director

Mrs. Anne Brown,  
Beginning Band Director

### BAND DEPARTMENT CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Christ will be the Head of our ensembles. In all that we do, we will strive to please Him with our behavior, to honor Him with our sacrificial service, and to bring glory to Him through our music.

We are surrounded by music every day and need a framework to make decisions about this music. It is the teacher's goal to give students the tools they need to critically evaluate the music they hear, and to enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles and genres both as a listener and performer. Through the pursuit of excellence in performance and diligent daily practice, students will learn an appreciation for music, while growing personally and socially.

All rules and regulations regarding student behavior and dress code in the Libertas Christian School Handbook will be used for this ensemble at school and at all activities.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Silverthorne: (616) 730-2291. [ksilverthorne@libertaschristianschool.org](mailto:ksilverthorne@libertaschristianschool.org)

Mrs. Brown: (616) 610-0063. [abrown@libertaschristianschool.org](mailto:abrown@libertaschristianschool.org)

We look forward to seeing you at our performances and at school conferences. Feel free to come and talk with us about any questions or concerns. It is always appreciated when brothers and sisters in Christ follow the injunction of Matthew 18:15: "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you." Please show the courtesy of approaching us directly if you have any concerns.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

*The following policy has been approved by school administration before publication.*

Performances are a vital part of being in band and are a major test that cannot be rescheduled. **Excused absences require notice IN WRITING from the parent to the director.** Unexcused absences will lower the marking period grade one full letter grade. No extra credit will be available.

If a student requests an excused absence that is approved by the director, the student will then be expected to make up the grade (see director for a sheet about make-up assignments).

Accepted Excused Absences:

1. Death in the family.
2. Extremely Serious Personal Illness. Call the director before the concert time. You must have a doctor's note the day that you return.

### 3. Family Vacation out of town (requires at least 3 weeks advance written notice).

Please note that students will not be excused for work. Students are responsible to inform their employer of future obligations. A letter to the employer stating the necessity of attendance to receive credit for this course will be available upon request. Excuses presented beyond the 3 listed above will be excused only as the director deems absolutely necessary. The most important thing is to communicate with the director.

## UNIFORMS / CONCERT DRESS

Middle and High School Bands have a concert uniform, which will be signed out to you before our first performance. These are not to be kept by the student but are to be returned at the end of the season in good condition. Please, no jeans or sneakers.

Beginning Band concert wear is: Girls: Dress or skirt: hem below the knee; or very nice slacks, nice blouse, dress shoes. Boys: Dress pants, shirt with a collar (preferably button down), dress shoes. Please, no jeans or sneakers.

## EQUIPMENT

Students must have the following equipment:

Flutes: tuning/cleaning rod with soft, lint-free cloth. Recommended: flute pad saver (fuzzy absorbent rod to decrease moisture on the pads during storage), Bo-Pep left hand and thumb finger guides

Clarinets and Bass Clarinets: pull swab for cleaning, 3 good broken-in reeds at all times plus more to work on breaking in, cork grease. Recommended: thumb rest cushion, mouthpiece saver (fuzzy absorbent rod)

Saxophones: Neck strap (recommended: padded version), cork grease, pad saver (feathered absorbent rod that wicks moisture from the pads), 3 good broken-in reeds plus more to work on breaking in

Trumpets: valve oil, slide grease, straight mute. Recommended: additional mute (cup, harmon, plunger), trumpet snake for cleaning, soft cloth for polishing

French horns: rotary valve oil (NOT trumpet valve oil), slide grease. Recommended: mute, soft cloth for polishing

Trombones: slide cream such as Trombotine (cream - not oil in a squirt bottle), slide cream for tuning slide, trombone snake, small spritzer bottle with water for slide lubrication. Recommended: soft cloth for polishing

Euphonium and Tuba: valve oil, slide cream. Recommended: soft cloth for polishing.

Percussion: your own snare drum stick pair (label with your name), snare drum practice pad. Recommended: personal stick bag, soft mallets for cymbals.

Strings: rosin.

## STRING INSTRUMENTS POLICY

String players wishing to join the instrumental ensemble must meet the following requirements:

- interview with director
- commitment to private lessons with an approved private lesson instructor
- understanding that the music we perform is geared toward band instruments and acceptance that string players must practice two or three times as long as the band students due to the different nature of the music (college-level key signature study, shifting into third and fifth position, use of "low" fingerings that are not pedagogically appropriate for this age level)

## GRADING PROCEDURE

### 50% - Performance Participation

Come to all performances on time and you get a perfect grade in this area! Grade Deductions:

- An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a lowering of the marking period grade by one full letter grade (i.e. from an A to a B).

- Failure to complete make-up assignment after receiving an excused absence from band director – marking period grade is lowered one full letter grade (i.e. from an A to a B).
- Unexcused tardy to a performance – 20 points deducted from that performance's grade.

### 50% - Testing / Assignments / Class Participation

Class participation includes punctuality, behavior, attitude, preparation of parts, and having all needed materials with you. Students who forget their instrument will receive a lunchtime detention; repeated infractions will result in a conference with parents.

Students must practice their part. After several days of having the music, the student should know all the notes. Students are expected to be quiet while the director is working with other sections or individuals, without disturbing the class. Students will be respectful to others.

Written tests are sometimes given to check the students' understanding of musical concepts.

Playing tests are given to assess student ability and to assign parts that are appropriate for each student's ability level. Chairs may be reassigned on a daily basis if it becomes apparent that a musician is not playing a part suitable for him/her.

### Middle and High School Practice Assignments:

There will be twice-monthly practice assignments, which are to be submitted to the director electronically. These tests help the director know how to help you improve, and ensure that everyone is contributing. The material will be announced in class 2 weeks in advance. The student should practice the assigned material, and when ready, submit the test in one of the following ways:

- Make an audio recording using any program you choose. On an iPhone, you can use the app Voice Memos which comes with the phone. You may erase and re-record until you get a recording you like. Then, email it to the director & your parents. Include your name in the email and what piece of music you're playing.
- Make a video of yourself playing the music. On an iPhone, you can use the Camera app that comes with the phone. You can erase and re-record until you are satisfied with your performance. Then email it to the director & your parents. State your name and the piece somewhere.
- Call the director's Google Voice number (616) 730-2291, announce your name and the piece of music, perform. This is the least preferred, since you don't know if the message was received.

### Beginner Band Practice Assignments:

AT HOME PRACTICE - records will be filled out weekly.

- First Semester: 20 minutes 4 days a week
- Second Semester: 30 minutes 4 days a week

Beginner Band playing tests will be conducted in class.

## **BAND DAILY PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

- 1) At the beginning of each rehearsal, get your instrument, music and stand ready, and quietly warm up in your assigned seat until ensemble begins. Percussionists are to warm up on their drum pads. No goofing off on the instrument, honking or screeching will be tolerated. Because of the serious risk to others' hearing that this may pose, there will be no warnings given if this occurs; it will immediately result in a detention. Only percussionists may play the percussion instruments.
- 2) Classroom instructions will be written on the whiteboard or posted for each rehearsal – you are expected to read them and be prepared for them. Get all of your music ready at the start of class.
- 3) Respect others at all times, following "The Golden Rule": treat others how you wish to be treated.
- 4) Band members should have the following for every rehearsal:
  - INSTRUMENT with the necessary accessories (reeds, oil, strap, mute, sticks, etc.)
  - ALL MUSIC – look for instructions on the whiteboard for the rehearsal order
  - PENCIL (not pen)

## BAND 2015-2016 COMPREHENSIVE PERMISSION FORM

1. **COMPLIANCE WITH BAND POLICIES.** We have read the Libertas Christian School Band Handbook, and we understand and will be responsible to the policies outlined therein, including the fact that there are performances outside of the school day for which attendance is required to fulfill grade requirements. We will encourage our child(ren) to practice their music at home and will encourage positive behavior and attitude in class.

2. **BUS PERMISSION.** My child/ward has my permission to ride the school bus or preapproved parent transportation (i.e. carpool) to and from all Band events during the **2015-2016** school year and summer of 2016.

3. **AUTHORIZATION TO TREAT A MINOR.** I, (We) the undersigned parent(s) or legal guardian of the minor child listed below, authorize any hospital or licensed physician to treat my child, charge with any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis rendered under the general or special supervision of any member of the medical staff of the hospital/clinic or office of a licensed physician. It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required, but is given to provide authority and power to render care when the physician, in the exercise of his/her best judgment, may deem advisable. It is understood that an effort shall be made to contact the undersigned prior to rendering treatment to the patient, but that treatment will not be withheld if the undersigned cannot be reached.

Student's Name PRINTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name PRINTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If parent unreachable, call this number: \_\_\_\_\_ Name/relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special medications, medical conditions or other pertinent information on minor, including allergies:

\_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_