

# Lake Dallas High School Band

## Concert Band Syllabus

### Contact Information

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### Course Description

Students will continue to learn what it means to be a role model. During the first semester, students will learn and develop their marching techniques and musical consistency. Starting in November, the band will shift to be solely focused on concert music and preparation, where students will deepen their fundamental techniques and listening skills. During the Second semester, students will continue to grow in their musical fundamentals.

### Objectives

Students will learn basic components of music theory and demonstrate literacy.

Students will learn fundamental concepts of technique and demonstrate on their instrument.

Students will learn basic exercises and demonstrate them in class.

Students will learn the skills required to play Grade appropriate band and solo literature.

### Expectations

Foster a growth mindset throughout class. Individual growth helps the whole group. Be humble and work hard.

Practice frequently. "Habits are the compound interest of self-improvement."

Have excellent attendance in class and perfect attendance at performances.

### Assignments and Grading

**Daily preparedness** is the state of consistently bringing all required materials (i.e. binder in working order, pencil, personal percussion equipment). Points for these minor grades will be earned through personal responsibility.

**Playing tests** are in-class demonstrations of specific playing assignments. Points for these major grades will be earned based on numerous criteria including, but not limited to, correct notes and rhythms, intonation and musicality, and evidence of effort.

**Pass Offs** are a system of tracking knowledge, skills, and understanding throughout the year. Points for these minor grades will be earned based on completion of exercises. Students will play passoffs on their show music, region etudes, and other exercises to ensure that students are making progress as musicians.

**Event attendance** is based upon performing at Lake Dallas HS band concerts, events, and contests and attending rehearsals and/or clinics outside of school. Points for these major grades will be earned through timely attendance. In accordance with our band handbook, missed events will result in a zero.

**Written Assignments** are to help students improve their individual listening skills, and understanding of their playing. These will vary throughout the year, but will range from multiple choice tests to a listening paper to be written in March.

### Course Content

#### All-Region Auditions

Timeline: 9.1 – 9.2

9.2: region auditions

Objective: Learn and perform the current year's all-region music and compete at a high level.

Purpose: To improve individual student musicianship by deepening their existing understandings of percussion principles and improving the precision of their existing technical skills through the lens of competition.

Key Tasks: Effectively balance and manage time.

Develop areas of personal weaknesses.

Overcome anxiety about playing alone.

End goal: Students will have developed their individual musicianship while working on soloistic consistency and precision.

### Course Content (cont.)

## **Marching Band**

- Timeline: 9.1– 9.2  
9.1: marching show
- Objective: Learn and Perform a marching show at the highest level.
- Purpose: To improve students' sense of timing, musical consistency, and use of air on their instruments.
- Key Tasks: Refine visual technique.  
Work to ensure absolute precision across the ensemble.  
Demonstrate humility in the face of a common goal.
- End goal: Students will have developed their precision, consistency, and fundamental techniques to enhance the musicality of the marching band.

## **Concert Band**

- Timeline: 9.2– 9.4  
9.2: Winter Concert  
9.3: Pre-UIL, UIL C/SR  
9.4: Reward trip and performance, EOY auditions, band festival
- Objective: Learn concert band pieces and perform with their competing band at a high level.
- Purpose: To improve individual student musicianship by deepening their existing understanding of musical principles, apply those to principles to more complex music, improve their existing technical skills, and develop ensemble awareness in a concert setting.
- Key Tasks: Refine technique on a variety of styles.  
Improve recollection and application of common rules of music.  
Demonstrate humility in the face of a common goal.
- End goal: Students will have developed their ensemble musicianship while working to be consistent and precise and enhance the musicality of their competing band.

## **Solos / Chamber Ensembles**

- Timeline: 9.2 – 9.4  
9.3: Chamber concert  
9.4: solo festival
- Objective: Learn and perform solo music at a high level. Learn and perform chamber music at a high level.
- Purpose: To improve individual student musicianship by deepening their existing understanding of music principles, and increasing ensemble skills and individual accountability through chamber music.
- Key Tasks: Develop the ability to musically interpret solo repertoire.  
Express themselves through solo performance.  
Develop musical skills and rehearsal techniques in a small ensemble setting.
- End goal: Students will have developed their musicianship while working on solo literature and chamber ensembles.