

Lone Oak Middle School

Mighty Buffalo Band

Student/Parent Handbook



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Welcome!

Welcome to Lone Oak Middle School Band! We are very excited about the upcoming year and we expect great things from our program. The Lone Oak Middle School band program is made up of 6th grade beginner band and the 7th/8th grade band. The band program is a cornerstone of the community here at Lone Oak ISD, and we are glad you have decided to continue that tradition of excellence with us! This handbook is designed as a guide to provide specific details concerning all aspects of the band program to parents and students.

Thanks for taking the time to familiarize yourself with our policies. Please understand that this is not an all-inclusive list; individual situations will be assessed on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the overall good of the group and then its individual members. The following policies were drawn up not to punish anyone or restrict any personal freedoms, but rather to allow everyone to be aware of the rules necessary to keep the Lone Oak Band program functioning in a smooth and positive manner, and protect the rich history and tradition of the Mighty Buffalo Band!

Upon completion of reading this handbook, **the agreement at the end of this document must be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.** Please keep this document for reference throughout your time in the Lone Oak Middle School Band.

*****Enrolling in band is a full year course, and students who enroll are expected to commit for the full academic school year*****

What is band really about?

As a body of musicians, we desire to produce beautiful music together, but as you may know, band is much more than just a music class. As you identify and evaluate members of our community, you would be pleased to find that leaders in every field received their start, and oftentimes credit their success to the time they spent in their school band programs. Band is a unique experience which allows us to learn not ONLY music, but also the traits sought after by employers, universities, and your future spouses! Band teaches discipline, work ethic, responsibility, punctuality, communication skills, and leadership. If you were to poll recruiters at any major university, you would find that most, if not all, would tell you that being in band sets you apart from the rest. Recruiters seek out high achieving students who have given their time and energy to band because they know that these students will succeed amongst the rigors of university life.

So, "WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME," you ask? It means that if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere! Your hard work and dedication to our program makes you extremely desirable to potential employers and major universities. Above all else, band is designed to teach you the life leadership skills that will allow you to be successful in your future endeavors!

~Life is the lesson, music is merely the vehicle!~

Contact and Communication

The band directors here at Lone Oak encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with their parents.

Please understand that our communications to you – the parents – are a very high priority to us. If you are unclear about anything, please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

All communications will be through email and/or the Band app. Email is checked regularly however for the quickest response please join the appropriate Band app group for your students.

You can find your students' Band app QR code below. Just scan the code and follow the instructions to join your students band class for the latest and most prompt, up to date information and communication.



Beginner Band (6th Grade)



Middle School Band (7th/8th Grade)



Volunteers, Friends, & Families

Directors Email:

Robert Cheek

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LONE OAK ISD BAND DEPARTMENT

As a member of the band, your student is a member of one of the most prestigious student programs at Lone Oak ISD. As with any other organization, the success of the band depends on the level of loyalty by all of its members.

DISCLAIMER

The rules set forth by Federal Law, Texas State Law, Texas Education Agency (TEA), and University Interscholastic League (UIL) supersede any policies in this handbook that are found to be in conflict. This handbook adopts policies that are sometimes more stringent than those adopted by Lone Oak ISD and Lone Oak High School as allowed by district policies.

PURPOSE

The handbook was written to serve as a guide to help students and parents understand policies that will be followed on a daily basis in the Lone Oak Buffalo Band. Understand that it covers some policies already set for in the LOISD handbooks and additional policies that are unique to the Lone Oak High School Band. Students are required to follow all guidelines within. Students are also expected to follow ALL rules and regulations set forth by the organizations listed in the “Disclaimer” section. If an issue arises that is not covered in this document, the Band Director will decide on the appropriate action.

ORGANIZATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Lone Oak High School Band Students will learn the importance of dependability, teamwork, and music. LOISD band students will also learn that hard work is the only path that leads to success. By doing this, students will be prepared to become good citizens and future leaders in our society.

BAND OBJECTIVES

Cultural: To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best literature in music.

Educational: To develop interested and discerning listeners and provide a well-rounded musical background.

Service: To provide music and support for certain school and community affairs, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the band at music performances.

Recreational: To provide all students with an opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, and an emotional outlet and good social experiences.

THE BAND PROGRAM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE STUDENT

- Providing the band members with the proper kind of rehearsal room, ventilation, lighting, seating, music stand, instrument storage space, and such other equipment as is necessary to aid in good, lasting performance habits.
- Plan each day's activities and encourage daily progress of the entire band.
- Provide the student with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, teaching, testing, and listening.
- Assure that no individual member through inappropriate or irresponsible behavior interferes with the learning (achievement) of the group. It is the responsibility of the band department to see that all members conform to the school and department policies.
- Supervise the students in class or on school sponsored band trips. Each student will receive communication via the Band App containing the plans for each trip, the type dress, and the complete schedule of activities
- Grade the progress of each member on his/her instrument and their participation in the band.

THE BAND MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PROGRAM

- Be regular in attendance and make sure all absences are excused by the Band Director prior to the absence. Excessive absences (exc. OR unexcused absences) may result in loss of performance privileges.
- Make a real effort to learn and improve on a daily basis
- Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions
- Be personally clean, neat, dress appropriately, and respect the LOISD Band uniform
- Have the proper respect for those in authority
- Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions given for trips
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program
- Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by the best use of your talents
- Read and play music with insight and expression
- Communicate with the Band Director when conflicts arise. We want you to be **SUCCESSFUL** in everything that you do
- Most of all: **HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE**
- Never settle for "**Good enough**"... Always Strive for **The Best!!**

Instruments, Materials, and Expected Band Fees/Costs

Parents and students are encouraged to procure an instrument for their student to participate in band at any grade level. The band program does have a limited number of instruments that it can loan out to students if a student is in need. Parents are expected to understand that these instruments are used and show typical wear and tear for instruments of their age and use.

Directors encourage parents to make purchases and rentals from a reputable music store where they can have their students' instruments repaired if needed. The “*Big Box*” stores and overnight shipping websites often SEEM like a great deal and a more affordable option up front. However, sometimes these can be more costly purchases with extensive repairs down the road.

Each instrument uses a specific music book that students will need to purchase along with other materials such as reeds, oils, cleaning swabs, cork grease, and more items and materials that are instrument specific. This information will be disseminated at the beginning of each year.

Band Fees:

Band fees will cover the cost of a shirt and future expenditures for trip costs. Middle school students will need to purchase their band shirts for contests and trips. This is a shirt that when purchased, is theirs to keep. If a student has their shirts from previous years and they still fit, they will not have to purchase a new one. Sizes and shirt needs per student will be collected/assessed at the beginning of the school year.

LONE OAK BAND GRADING PROCEDURE

The grading scale will be used in concordance with the Lone Oak ISD grading scale.

Daily Grades

- Chair Tests/Playing Tests
- Portfolio Entries/Practice Records/Objective Sheets
- All Music Pass-Offs
- Other Daily Grades, Folder Checks, Pencil Check, Supply Check etc...

Test Grades

- Playing & Written Exams
- Attendance of Rehearsals/Performances-proper dress and on time
- Dress Rehearsals and Concert/UII Performances will each count as a test grade

~Any and all performances are considered tests and will be graded as such. Parents/students are expected to understand that performances cannot be made up if missed. Especially a contest performance. On the rare occasion that a student has to miss a performance and that has been communicated to the director appropriately and in a timely manner, that student will be given a make-up assignment and ample opportunity to complete it. However, if a performance is missed with no communication and without being excused by the director well in advance it is considered unexcused and a make-up assignment may not be given. Emergencies that can not be avoided excluded.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE DAILY REHEARSALS

The daily class time is the basis from which good performances originate. *A conscientious effort at rehearsals will guarantee successful performances and this means that adequate preparation on your individual part must take place at home.* Band rehearsals are designed to learn about music and solve ensemble problems and not to teach you your part note by note.

To make each class more productive...

- Be on time!!! *To be on time is to be late... To be early is to be on time!*
- Warm-up softly and slowly once the director has instructed you to do so. (No Blasting)
- Have a pencil or writing utensil at all times.
- Make sure your folder is at all rehearsals.
- Maintain a good posture at all times keeping both feet on the floor.
- Do not talk/play (except when instructed to do so) while the director or anyone is talking
 - Students will respect the podium
- Be attentive and anxious to participate.
- Cell phones are not allowed in the band set up. Please see Lone Oak High School cell phone policy.
- No profanity. Profane language is unbecoming of a band member and will not be tolerated.
- **NO CHEWING GUM IN THE BAND HALL WHATSOEVER!**

BAND HALL RULES

- Enter and exit the band hall in an orderly, QUIET manner.
- When getting your instrument out, get YOUR instrument only. You should not be in any other section of the instrument storage area except your own.
- Be in your seat when the director steps on the podium to begin class with YOUR band folder, your music, your instrument, your pencil, and any other required materials.
- No talking once class has begun unless given permission by the director.
- **Listen and follow directions at all times. They may not always be repeated.**
- Remain seated until dismissed.
- When class is over, be sure to get all personal belongings. Anything left will be placed in the lost and found or turned into the office.
- No food, drink, candy, **or gum** is allowed at any time during rehearsal time. Water is okay.
- Respect others; their rights, property, person, and feelings.
- Cell phones are not allowed in the band set up. Please see Lone Oak High School cell phone policy.
- Absolutely no PDA (Public Displays of Affection) of any kind at any time.

Band/Music is a class where many different forms of teaching methods are used. As directors we're excited to use any and all means to help educate our band students. At times, there may also be substitute teachers who will be filling in for us and we may opt to watch movies, musicals and so on during class. Below is a list of movies/musicals (rated G and/or PG) that may be shown throughout the year.

The Music Man (musical/1962)
The Music Man (musical/2003)
Fantasia (musical/1940)
Fantasia 2000 (musical/1999)
Singin' in the Rain (musical/1952)
The Sound of Music (musical/1965)
The King and I (musical/1956)
Bedknobs and Broomsticks (musical/1971)
Anastasia (musical/1997)
Rock-A-Doodle (musical/1991)
Cats Don't Dance (musical/1997)
Annie (musical/1982)
Hercules (musical/1997)
Mulan (musical/1998)
Pete's Dragon (1977)
Cinderella (1950)

Oklahoma (musical/1999)
Tarzan (musical/1999)
Ferngully (1992)
Sing (2016)
Sing 2 (2021)
Encanto (2021)
The Little Mermaid (1989)
Fiddler on the Roof (musical/1971)
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile (musical/2022)
The Princess and the Frog (musical/2022)
Mary Poppins (musical/1964)
Mary Poppins Returns (musical/2018)
I Can Only Imagine (2018)
The Aristocats (1970)
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1973)
Camp Cool Kids (2017)

Trip Conduct/Uniform Expectations

Since the band is a part of the whole school system, we will operate by the rules set down by the school district with a few additions of our own. The band will always travel to a performance as a group on assigned buses. Once a student has been assigned to a bus, there will be no changes in the seating arrangement. A student may ride home with his/her parents after being signed out by the parents. All student leadership will be required to travel to and from events for logistical purposes. **Prior to the trip, information will be given which will tell students exactly where to be, at what time, with what equipment, and in what uniform or dress, and for what purpose.** Students are expected to follow these instructions to the letter.

The middle school bands, comprised of grades 6, 7, and 8 will take an annual Spring Trip to Splash Kingdom water park in Canton, Texas. This is where the band students will participate in the Sound Post Music Festival. Students will have a dress code while attending the trip that will consist of blue jeans with no holes, tears, or tatters and their grade levels band t-shirt while performing. Boys will be allowed to wear swim trunks while attending the water park (no regular shorts or cut-offs) and girls will wear a one-piece bathing suit with no area of the mid-section showing/exposed. Cover-ups such as shorts, shirts, bathing suit covers are acceptable to wear over their bathing suits. Due to the nature of bathing suits having various styles and forms, what is considered “appropriate” will be left to the discretion of the band directors and/or principals/admin staff.

Transportation will always be provided by Lone Oak ISD on school band trips. Our drivers are acquainted with the routine and responsibilities of the Lone Oak band. The bus trip's sole purpose is to transport Lone Oak band to and from an event safely. It is not for entertainment. Parents can only travel on the bus if they are an approved chaperone through the district background check system for chaperones. The following rules will be followed at all times while you are on the bus:

- Respect the bus driver and all chaperones and adults
- Be completely quiet during roll call
- No food or drink, unless authorized
- Use normal tone voice
- Absolutely no PDA at any time.
- No sound devices are allowed unless they have headphones
- Students must ride school transportation to all events

This handbook agreement serves as the official Lone Oak Band permission slip for traveling to and from contests/competitions, field trips, and all instances where the band will travel together as a group.

***** Failure to return this handbook/signature page agreement and/or pay band fees by the deadline specified by directors at the beginning of the year may result in a schedule change for students. Without an agreement between students, parents, directors and staff, the band program cannot function as it should. Please note that cost will never prevent a student from participating in band at Lone Oak ISD. Please reach out to a director if there are special circumstances or specific situations that you feel we need to be aware of. *****

****Sign and Return THIS page.***

LONE OAK BAND

Handbook Signature Page

This handbook is provided to help ensure that the band program will be an enjoyable and rewarding educational experience for all its members. Clear expectations that are established at the beginning of each school year will help make that possible. This handbook contains information about general rules and regulations of the program along with academic rules, UIL rules for competition, school owned equipment, individual equipment, alternates, concerts, bands, band hall policies, uniform procedures, and attendance policies. **It also serves as a travel permission slip for any and all band trips.** Please do not be overwhelmed by the information, especially if you are new to the Lone Oak Band Program. The band experience should be a positive one and this can be achieved through cooperative teamwork among directors, parents, band members and the community.

I have read and discussed the Lone Oak Band handbook with my son/daughter/student and we will abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. We understand the responsibilities that come with being a member of the Lone Oak Buffalo Band Program and will accept the decisions of the Band Director(s). We understand that this signature page also serves as the official band travel permission slip and that specific trip information will be distributed to students and parents in a timely manner throughout the year well in advance.

Student's Name (Print)

Student's Signature & Date

Parent's Name (Print)

Parent's Signature & Date