



5th and 6th GRADE BAND STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026

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OUR MISSION

The Leverett's Chapel Band department is dedicated to providing outstanding musical experiences and opportunities to its students while helping them grow into responsible, mature adults. To make these experiences successful, we require discipline, organization, and commitment to the program. Being a part of the band is to be seen as an honor and students will be expected to help serve as role models for the school and other organizations within it. As a result of our high expectations, discipline, leadership and social opportunities, the students have the opportunity to develop valuable life skills such as a positive self-image, time management skills, confidence, poise, responsibility, and loyalty as well as the musical abilities needed to be a successful musician.

PREFACE

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Leverett's Chapel 5th Grade Beginning and 6th Grade Band! 5th Grade Beginner Band and 6th Grade Band is required for all 5th and 6th grade students. As a member of the Band, you are committing yourself to a music program which is dedicated to maintaining traditions of outstanding musicianship and school pride! The continued success of the Leverett's Chapel Band will depend on the loyalty, cooperation, and dedication of each and every member.

The band program's main focus is to provide a comprehensive music education for all students. It is our goal to equip tomorrow's musical consumers with the tools they need to enjoy a lifetime of music no matter their ultimate career choice. Although we understand that not everyone will make music their profession, we do expect every student to establish goals for improvement, to always act responsibly, and to always give their best effort for the good of the organization.

We are excited to be entering the year and are grateful to all former band members and their families for the wonderful organization they helped to create. By accepting membership in the Lion Band, students agree to do their part to keep the tradition of excellence alive, take ownership in the band, and always be a proud and contributing member!

This handbook contains important information and guidelines which will hopefully assist you throughout the year. Please keep it handy as you will likely refer to it often. UPON COMPLETION OF REVIEW BY STUDENT AND PARENT, PLEASE PRINT, SIGN, AND DATE THE STATEMENT OF CONSENT AND PHOTOGRAPHY PAGES.

Anything not covered in this Band Handbook will be left to the judgement of the Band Director.

If you have any questions or need assistance, the band directors are here for you!

Leverett's Chapel Band Staff

Mrs. Amanda Johnson

Head Band Director, 903-834-3181 ext 515 ajohnson@leverettschapelisd.net

Mr. Ralph Devereux

Assistant Band Director, 903-834-3181 ext 516 rdevereux@leverettschapelisd.net
Drumline Director

Please 'like' our Band Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LCLionBand>

We look forward to celebrating another year of excellence with you and your family!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Devereux

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE RULES AND CONDUCT

1. Attend all classes, rehearsals, and performances regularly and on time. **Always strive to be at least ten minutes early to everything! “To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late; to be late is to be sorry.”**
2. The band program will follow all school policies and will not tolerate students that go against school regulation. **Obey all district, campus, and band rules and seek changes in policies in an orderly and responsible manner through appropriate channels.**
3. Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others. Respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and staff. **Be kind to one another. Lend a hand when necessary. If someone is struggling, help them. Give respect, get respect!**
4. Always be prepared. Students must have all materials needed for a successful rehearsal. Always have your music, instrument, pencil, and mind ready to go! Have music learned in advance. **Have a sense of what's going on at all times with regard to your own musical progress. Are you constantly challenging yourself to become a better musician?**
5. Students must show respect for all band members, directors, and parents and behave in a responsible manner. Whether they are a part of our organization or a part of another organization, it does not matter. **Be dependable to others and accountable to yourself.**
6. Be well groomed and dress appropriately. **Follow school dress code and maintain excellent hygiene.**
7. Students must show respect for all property. Every area the band visits should be left in better condition than it was before they entered it. **Take care of your own belongings; respect other people's property by not touching it; take care of your instrument (maintenance); everything has a space, everything has a place...maintain an orderly environment.**
8. Students must have music prepared.
9. No food or drinks will be allowed at any rehearsal or performance.
10. Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline. **Do what is expected of you and avoid hindering others from doing the same.**
11. Proper language is to be used at all times!
12. Band should be fun! Remember, the more effort you put into the program and making every rehearsal successful, the more fun and worthwhile your experiences become.

BAND HALL POLICIES

1. The band hall should be kept neat and orderly AT ALL TIMES. It should exemplify the PRIDE and ORGANIZATION that reflects the program. Students should clean up around his/her own area, instruments are to be stored in their designated places (personal lockers only), and backpacks should be left against the wall in the foyer. **Instrument cases should be put up before, during, and after rehearsals.**
2. There will be NO FOOD OR DRINKS in the band hall at any time. **Gum and candy is also considered a food that will not be allowed in the band hall.**
3. Hats/hoodies and earbuds will be removed when entering the band hall.
4. Non-band students will not be allowed in the band hall. Band Students have earned the privilege to be in the band hall.
5. Students will only handle things that belong to them. **No one should touch or play the instrument or personal belonging of another student. This includes all percussion instruments!**

DESCRIPTION OF BANDS & PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

5th Grade Beginner Band

Every 5th grader is a member of the beginner band. At the beginning of the year, the students will have an opportunity to try out several instruments. Selection of instrument is based upon student interest, physical characteristics (formation of lips and teeth), rhythmic coordination (percussion instruments), and instrumentation requirements (the number of students playing each instrument must be kept within reasonable limits in order to be able to perform the music written for the modern band). The band directors will make the final decision on which instrument the student will play. Students will be issued a school band book. If it becomes lost, they will be required to pay \$10 to replace it. If you wish to buy a band book for your child, please let us know. Students will be required to attend the Christmas concert in the Fall unless the student has certain religious beliefs and cannot participate. If they cannot participate they will be graded by a special assignment. This concert will count as their test grade. If they do not attend this concert, they will more than likely not have a passing grade for that six weeks. During the spring, they are also to perform in the spring concert. This will also count as their semester grade. Not attending the concert will result in a non-passing grade. Absence due to lack of transportation is not an excused absence; please make plans in advance. An absence from a concert will be excused only in the following cases: A. the student's illness (must have a doctor's note); B. family emergency (such as a death in the family); C. special arrangements made with the band directors at least two weeks in advance of the concert; D. religious reasons. For both concerts, the students are to wear "church-like" clothes – no flip flops/slides/sandals or jeans with holes.

6th Grade Band

Every 6th grader is a member of the 6th grade band. Students will be required to attend the Christmas concert in the Fall unless the student has certain religious beliefs and cannot participate. If they cannot participate they will be graded by a special assignment. This concert will count as their test grade. If they do not attend this concert, they will more than likely not have a passing grade for that six weeks. During the spring, they are also to perform in the spring concert. This will also count as their semester grade. Not attending the concert will result in a non-passing grade. Absence due to lack of transportation is not an excused absence; please make plans in advance. An absence from a concert will be excused only in the following cases: A. the student's illness (must have a doctor's note); B. family emergency (such as a death in the family); C. special arrangements made with the band directors at least two weeks in advance of the concert; D. religious reasons. For both concerts, the students are to wear "church-like" clothes – no flip flops/slides/sandals or jeans with holes.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD IMPROVE

There are several ways that you can help, even if you are not a musician yourself. Please take an active role by encouraging your child. Just as children must be reminded to brush their teeth and do their homework, they must be reminded and encouraged to practice. For 5th grade, the first few months are extremely important to ensure a successful start. (Hang in there! Those strange sounds will soon be music!) What can you do? The following items will aid your child greatly:

1. Be interested in their daily progress. We encourage that students practice at least 90 minutes a week. However you choose to divide up the 90 minutes is up to each family's individual schedules.
2. Develop a schedule for daily practice and encourage your child to practice! Each day they will be learning a new line or two in the book (5th grade) or a new song.
3. Select a practice area that is as private as possible. Do not permit interruptions. Have good lighting and a good place to prop up the practice book.

4. Help your child remember their instrument every day for band. All equipment is needed in class if the lesson is to be successful. This consists of the instrument, music book, any sheet music given, and pencil. Students are given a grade based on their preparedness and if they have remembered all their equipment. If students are habitually forgetting their instruments (first time is a 'warning'), they will receive lunch detention.

Parents can also help by attending concerts, by encouraging home performances, and by helping the student understand that the more he or she practices, the more success and enjoyment will be experienced.

REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

If a student is unable to play for the day, they must bring a note from the doctor. It is very important for students to play each day so they do not get behind.

Since many instrument cases look alike, all instruments must have the student's name clearly labeled on the case. All students will be financially responsible for the proper care of their instruments and equipment checked out to them.

For 5th grade, band textbooks will be checked out at school or the student can purchase their own band book. The students will be held financially responsible for the loss or damage to any music and books checked out to them.

Each band student will be issued an instrument locker with their name on the front. For the protection of the instruments, we recommend the students keep their instruments in their band lockers or classroom during the school day, not in their regular school lockers. The student will be held financially responsible for any damage to his or her locker or instrument due to misuse.

The 5th and 6th Grade band trip is a reward trip for band students for all their hard work and efforts throughout the school year. This trip is not mandatory. If a student is a severe discipline problem in the classroom or refuses to comply with our rules and expectations, that student may not be allowed to attend.

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Band Members are expected to maintain respectful and appropriate language, photos and postings on any forms of social media outlets especially in consideration of the Leverett's Chapel 5th and 6th grade band. Any offensive language, photos, or videos that are considered negative, profane, foul and/or threatening will be subject to administrative, director, and parental conference with consequences. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting on other students' webpages and/or band related websites. Any such incident will result in review by the LCJH/LC Elementary Administration.

CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

During any rehearsals or performances, cell phones and electronic devices are prohibited from use unless permitted by directors. If a director confiscates a cell phone, the student will receive the phone at the conclusion of class/rehearsal. Multiple offenses will result in office referrals and administrative action. No cell phones/electronic devices should be visible.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at all performances. An excused absence from any band function must follow the same format as an excused absence from school; that is, personal illness or a family emergency.

ABSENCES WILL BE EXCUSED ONLY BY AN EMAIL OR NOTE FROM PARENT RECEIVED PREFERABLY PRIOR TO THE ABSENCE OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ABSENCE.

Any time missed due to an excused absence will not affect the students' grade. Unexcused absences and/or habitual tardiness from rehearsals will affect the students' grade and may result in chair reassignment along with a lower grade. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a grade of "0".

ATTENDANCE PROCESS

ROLL CHECK - Roll will be checked and documented PROMPTLY at the start of rehearsal.

TARDINESS - Students not in their designated area with their instrument and music ready at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. Those students will report to a Band Director if tardy.

ABSENCE - Any student not present at the appropriate time will be marked absent.

EXCUSED ABSENCES - Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. **Illnesses with written documentation from a parent and/or doctor (email and/or notes), death in family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by the directors) may be considered for an excused status.** Students whose physical status prevents prolonged contributions MUST BE have documentation from a parent AND doctor's note.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES - Students who have unexcused absences may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors.

TRANSPORTATION

School transportation is provided for the band trip. Parents will be asked to complete the Travel Form which will suffice for permission throughout the school year. All normal bus rules apply to bus trips. There will be consequences to any student who does not abide by these rules. Students will make sure to leave the bus better than they found it. No belongings or trash shall be left behind. Be early for any trip the band might take. When the bus arrives at a particular location, stay seated and wait for a band director, bus driver, or adult sponsor to give you instructions before getting off the bus. If for any reason the students are not back until after school is over, please be on time to pick up your child from school after band activities. Students should be picked up in a timely manner. They will not be permitted to "hang out" after school hours. This is for the safety of the students.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

In determining your band grade, the following areas will be considered:

- Performing progress on your instrument, including improvement and maintenance of music skills.
- Attendance at rehearsals and performances.
- Responsibility for individual musical part and equipment.
- General musical knowledge and aptitude.
- Play-off assignments/Chair tests and exams.
- Attitude and effort.

Contrary to popular belief, band is not an “easy A.” Grades are distributed according to the above criteria, are kept on record, and available to you at any time to keep track of your progress. The “A” student will:

- Be PUNCTUAL and be PREPARED for rehearsals.
- Have parts prepared as assigned.
- Have all equipment (instrument, folder, music, pencil, etc.) in order.
- Meet or exceed director’s expectations in the areas outlined above.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Practice is ALWAYS NECESSARY! Your playing improves only by experience gained on your instrument. One gains experience by the amount of time spent with “horn to face” or “sticks on drums.” The best way to make practice more enjoyable is to have a set routine that you will follow every day. Your goal should be to practice AT LEAST six days a week for one hour.

Always look for improvement and focus on strengthening your weaknesses. Practice the more difficult passages and refrain from going over the parts you do know over and over again. Concentrate on getting a GOOD CHARACTERISTIC SOUND at all times. It makes no difference how loud, high, or fast you can play if the tone is not enjoyable to listen to. Never sacrifice accuracy for speed. When your playing improves, then all the time spent practicing will have been worthwhile.

Daily home practice is expected and recommended. Instruments and music folders left at school overnight, especially on weekends, will affect the band as a whole! Your goal as a musician is to add to the band’s sound, not detract from it. Practice to be perfect.

INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES

Each student will be issued a school-owned instrument. In most cases, students will have their own instrument. The following instruments will likely share: baritone and percussion. Since students are using school-owned instruments, they are required to take care of their instruments. Many school-owned instruments are in new or exceptional condition. These instruments need to last us well beyond your years of use, therefore, treat them like gold! If by accident something is wrong with the horn, the school will pay for it to go to the shop and be repaired. If it is clearly the students fault (careless actions or negligence) or is an ongoing problem, the school will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) to pay for the repair.

If a student takes the instrument home to practice (which we encourage them to do!), they must bring it back the next school day. Failure to do so will result in lunch detention that day.

If a student shares an instrument (baritones or percussion – practice pads and sticks), they must first check out the instrument with a band director first before taking it home.

Students must keep up with their instrument, pencil, music, and concert folder. If it becomes lost, they will be required to pay. Most problems with missing instruments can be avoided if the student will leave their instrument in the band hall during the day and not carry the instrument with them from class to class or leave it in their locker. Students should have all instruments and folders labeled with their name.

The school will provide reeds for those who play an instrument that requires a reed. If a student does not take care of his/her reeds and needs more than one a week, they will have to pay \$3.00 to get another one.

If a student wants to take their instrument home over the summer, they must check it out with a band director first. If a student moves, they must bring the instrument back to the school before they withdraw.

If you want to purchase your child his/her own instrument, please talk to the Band Directors first!

FACILITIES

Each band member should do his/her best to keep the band hall in the best shape possible. With over 125 band students using the band hall each day, there are some guidelines that students must follow

- All students will be issued a folder and music for which they are responsible for and will also need to have a pencil in their folder at all times - **DO NOT** leave anything laying around. An instrument locker will be issued to you and will be used for storage of your instrument and music. These spaces are to be kept neat and clean at all times. Other school books and backpacks are not to be kept in these spaces. If your storage space is not kept clean, you will lose your privilege to use it.
- Place all cases in lockers before, during, and after classes and rehearsals.
- Gum, candy, food, or drinks are not permitted in the band hall. Culprits will serve lunch detention.
- Do not write on the white board, music stands, walls, or any other surface.
- Do not move chairs and stands without specific instructions to do so.
- Do not touch, move, or use any equipment that does not belong to you or is not checked out to you (this goes for percussion instruments as well!!!!).

BAND GRADING POLICY

Students will be given daily grades during the school week. Grades will be based on participation, playing tests, written tests, and pencil/book/music checks. At least every three weeks, there will be a chair test which will count for more than a daily grade. All band students are required to perform in the Christmas and Spring concerts. These will be semester test grades. Failure to attend will result in a failing grade.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Any student needing extra help on music will need to come in the mornings before band to get help from a band director. They will not be able to get one on one help during band.

BAND/DRUMLINE T-SHIRTS

If a student would like to purchase a band shirt, they are approximately \$14. The 7th-12th grade drumline has a special 'Drumline' shirt that they have ordered. If a percussionist would like to purchase a t-shirt, those will be \$20 (also includes their name and graduation year on the back). The band and drumline t-shirts are not required.

SPRING BAND TRIP

Each year the 5th and 6th grade band is privileged to attend a band trip. This is an OPTIONAL reward for our band students. Attending students will reserve a spot on the trip through a detailed information sheet with parent and student signature. Two weeks prior to the trip, the money is NON-REFUNDABLE.

Here are the eligibility requirements for the Spring Band Trip:

- Must be current with ZERO balance with band fees (otherwise any deposits made towards the trip will be directed towards any outstanding band fees)
- Performed at the Christmas and Spring band concerts
- History of exemplary citizenship

The Band Directors have right to dismiss a student from the band trip if a student violates any district and/or school CODE OF CONDUCT Guidelines.

If a student has been a constant discipline problem during the school year, they will not be allowed to go on the band trip. If a student goes to DAEP any time during the school year, they will not be allowed to go on the band trip.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

The students will have many opportunities to help the band pay for expenses throughout the year. We will do Fresh Country twice (once in the fall and once in the spring) along with possibly one or two other fundraisers. We will have more information on the types of fundraisers the band will participate in as the school year begins. The fundraiser is not required for 5th and 6th graders, but will help the band out tremendously with future band trips, etc. The more money we raise, the more we can do!

COMMUNICATION

The best way to keep up-to-date with the latest news from the Leverett's Chapel Band is by visiting our Facebook page. The page is updated with new information, band updates, etc. when needed. <https://www.facebook.com/LCLionBand> If you would like to see certain information on the Facebook page that is not provided, please let us know.

We hope this handout provided you with enough information to assist you. We are here to help you through this process and to make the best possible experience for your child. Since we are not in every building every day, it is best to reach us via e-mail. We are able to respond quicker to e-mail than a phone call to the school.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

This form must be signed and returned to Mrs. Johnson or Mr. Devereux by Monday, Sept. 10th.
Please initial each line.

Student Parent

I realize that band is mandatory. I also realize that I should do everything I can to be here on time and ready to play. However, conflicts may arise from time to time. When they occur, I agree to explore options and pursue all other possibilities (such as carpooling) for transportation. Most importantly, I will communicate with the band directors and let one of them know in advance when I have a conflict.

I understand that the Christmas and Spring concerts are mandatory and that no credit will be awarded for unexcused absences.

I understand that one of the most important contributions I can make to the band is being a cooperative and positive member. I will take this expectation very seriously.

I have read this Handbook in its entirety and am aware of the policies and procedures of the LC Band Program. I am also aware of the required supplies and dress code for concerts.

Student's Name (Printed)

Parent's Name (Printed)

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

PHOTOGRAPHY

Throughout the year, the music department takes pictures of students for press releases, newsletters, personal music Facebook page, etc. It is your choice whether or not you would like your child photographed. Your choice will have no impact on your child's grade or participation in band. Please check one of the following:

I grant consent for my child to be photographed, understanding that photographs are used only for public relations purposes.

Circle one:

With name

Without name

I do not give consent for my child to be photographed.