



**La Crosse Central High School
Band Department
Syllabus**

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Dear Central High School Members and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome! We are thrilled to have you and your student as part of the Central High School Band Department. This program has had a long history of excellence, and by being involved in band YOU are now part of that legacy!

The Central High School Band Department strives to bring a comprehensive musical education to each and every student. We achieve this through our various ensembles, solo/ensemble participation, individual lessons, honor bands, and other unique musical experiences that take place in and outside of the classroom.

This syllabus will provide a great deal of information regarding policies, grading, performance opportunities, and a wealth of necessary information for you and your student to be successful members of the Central High School Band.

Please review this information with your students and keep this syllabus nearby throughout the year. Many questions that may pop up can be answered in these pages. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to either director, whose contact information is listed below.

Thank you for taking the time to review this syllabus and we look forward to having a spectacular year of music, hard work, and memory making!

Sincerely,

Jacob Klingbeil
Director of Bands
(608) 789-3129
jklingbe@lacrossesd.org

Josh Beron
Assistant Director of Bands
(608) 789-3095
jberon@lacrossesd.org

Band Member Expectations

The School District of La Crosse and Central High School is concerned with the ethical and moral dimensions of a young person's life, not only their academic performance. With that idea in mind, we all (staff and students) abide by these Core Values: Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Perseverance, and Giving.

We believe that members of the Central Music Department are some of the best students that Central High School has to offer. The Core Values will take shape in a variety of different ways throughout the year and we expect members of the band to hold themselves to the highest standards in and out of our band class.

The following are just a **few** ways that members of the band are expected to embody the Core Values:

- Treat everyone with kindness and respect. Staff and **other students**.
- Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
- Communicate any absences (in writing from your parent(s)/guardian(s)) well in advance.
- Arrive on time.
- Take proper care of your instrument, school facilities, music, etc.
- Be **positive** and **try your best**, in music and academics!
- Positively contribute to community engagements, assemblies, or concerts with grace and class.

You are ambassadors for the band department, young people of Central High School, and most importantly, **yourselves**.

Have **integrity** in all you do.

Every time a choice is made, a belief is applied.

-Bennett Reimer

Grading

Students who participate in band will work to develop the following musical concepts: tone, intonation, balance, technique, interpretation, and other “soft skills” such as discipline, perseverance, active listening, and collaboration with others.

When assessed, students are assigned points, and grades are determined using the following scale:

93% and above = A
92-90% = A-
89-88% = B+
87-83% = B
82-80% = B-
79-78% = C+
77-73% = C
72-70% = C-
69-68% = D+
67-62% = D
61-60% = D-
59% and below = F

Students will be assessed throughout the year through a variety of different tools including, but not limited to: performance excellence, preparedness, writing excerpts, director observations, participation, proper attire, etc. The following are examples of the formative and summative assessments and what to expect:

Formative (~30%)

Formative assessment refers to a wide variety of methods that teachers use to conduct in-process evaluations of student comprehension, learning needs, and academic progress during a lesson, unit, or course. Formative assessments help teachers identify concepts that students are struggling to understand, skills they are having difficulty acquiring, or learning standards they have not yet achieved so that adjustments can be made to lessons, instructional techniques, and academic support.

The general goal of formative assessment is to collect detailed information that can be used to improve instruction and student learning while it's happening. What makes an assessment “formative” is not the design of a test, technique, or self-evaluation, per se, but the way it is used—i.e., to inform in-process teaching and learning modifications.

Daily Points: Daily points are earned during every class period. Points are earned through following directions/procedures, having required equipment/instrument, having required music, etc. Points may be lost due to talking at inappropriate times, cell phone usage, gum/food consumption, or other inappropriate actions. More detailed classroom expectations will be provided by the individual ensemble director. If you miss a class period(s) you may earn back the points. More on re-learning policies later.

Written Assignments: Written assignments will be assigned a few times per quarter. These assignments may involve reflection on a listening or a rehearsal during the week.

Summative (~70%)

Summative assessments are used to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of a defined instructional period—typically at the end of a project, unit, course, semester, program, or school year. Generally speaking, summative assessments are defined by these major criteria:

- The tests, assignments, or projects are used to determine whether students have learned what they were expected to learn. In other words, what makes an assessment “summative” is not the design of the test, assignment, or self-evaluation, per se, but the way it is used—i.e., to determine whether and to what degree students have learned the material they have been taught.
- Summative assessments are given at the conclusion of a specific instructional period, and therefore they are generally evaluative, rather than diagnostic—i.e., they are more appropriately used to determine learning progress and achievement, evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs, measure progress toward improvement goals, or make course-placement decisions, among other possible applications.

Performances: Performance points are earned during each performance of the band. Points are earned through satisfactory participation, timeliness, proper attire, and cooperation. **Proper footwear and appropriate length socks are required!** It is expected that students stay for the entire performance. Supporting your fellow bandmates demonstrates the Core Values of respect, and hearing other ensembles is critical to the students’ musical development.

Individual Lessons: We are very fortunate to have a program that can offer individual, instrument specific lessons. Students are assigned a lesson time during their study hall, resource/MLT, or before/after school. Passes are given out the class period before for students to come to their lesson. **Students are responsible for knowing**

when their lesson is, even if a pass is misplaced. The lesson schedule is always posted outside the band classroom. If a student is unable to attend their lesson time, **talk with or email** the lesson teacher, and an alternate time will be scheduled.

Relearning Policy

Lessons: A student may make up any missed lessons by scheduling an additional lesson with their teacher (either Mr. Klingbeil or Mr. Beron). Even if the absence was for a school related reason the lesson is still expected to be made up. **Make up lessons will only apply to lessons within that grading period.** For example, a lesson made up in Quarter 2 CANNOT count for a missed lesson in Quarter 1.

Daily Points: Daily Points can be made up in one of two ways, by scheduling a time to come to the band room and practice assigned material, or through written assignments given by the director. A make-up slip must be filled out and confirmed with the ensemble director before beginning the assignment. This slip is then returned to the director. **There is a two week window for the daily points to be completed.**

Performances: Due to the collaborative nature of live performance, the experience can never be fully recreated without the entire band present. If a performance is missed without prior approval, the student will receive a 0 until a make-up assignment is completed. **Full credit cannot be given. The MAX amount of points that can be earned is a 66% of the overall points.**

CHS Co-Curricular Ensembles

Jazz Band

If you are interested in being a member of the CHS Jazz Ensemble, there will be a “Jazz Camp” on Tuesday, August 9 through Thursday, August 11 from 9-11am. The performance and rehearsal schedule are included on a separate document. If you are interested in the Jazz Band, please contact Mr. Beron (jberon@lacrossesd.org).

Pep Band

The CHS Pep Band is a spirited group of band volunteers that performs music at selected boys’ and girls’ basketball games throughout the year. The schedule for pep band will be announced in the early fall. We encourage all students to participate in the pep band as these events are a lot of fun and are appreciated by the school community!

Many times the basketball team(s) participate in the state tournament. This is a fun chance for select pep band members to travel and perform in Madison! To be

eligible, students must participate in at least **FIVE (5)** pep band performances during the year.

Grand Central Station (GCS) Show Band

This ensemble accompanies our show choir, the Grand Central Station. Mr. Schultz directs the show choir, and another teacher directs the show band. This is a competitive ensemble that rehearses from August to March. Space in the ensemble is limited based on need and audition process, when necessary. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Mr. Schultz (ischultz@lacrossesd.org) as soon as possible. Schedule for the year will be released in late July/early August.

General Information

Instrument Rental

If your child requires use of a school-owned instrument of any kind, be it large instruments (tuba, euphonium, baritone/tenor saxophone, **percussion**, trombone) or secondary instruments for jazz band, there is a fee associated with the use of these instruments. This helps to cover the cost of routine maintenance required to keep these instruments in working order. **The cost is \$45 per student, per year.** This fee must be paid in full by October 1st each year. Failure to pay this fee could result in delayed graduation or a suspension of official transcripts. If your student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, please contact Mr. Klingbeil. Checks can be made payable to "Central High School Band".

Supplies

All Students

- **Flip Folder and Screen Protectors** for marching/pep band (this can be purchased from Leitholds, SSE, or wwbw.com). *There are specific types for each instrument. Please read the description before purchasing.*
- **Lyre** (this can also be purchased from Leitholds, SSE, or wwbw.com) *There are specific types for each instrument. Please read the description before purchasing.*
- **Long (calf-length at minimum) Black Socks.** These are for use during the marching band season.
- **Band TShirt/Black Shorts** This will be worn underneath the band uniform. This will allow for a unified look if we have to vary the uniform due to weather.

- **Marching Shoes:** Uniformity of look is an important aspect of the marching band. The uniform will take care of 90% of that look, but the harder and more variable part can be the shoes. The CHS Band uses the black “Drillmaster” marching shoe from Band Shoppe. If your student does not have these shoes from previous years, an order will be made before the first show. **The cost of new shoes is \$30 and must be a separate check from rental.** If your student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, please contact Mr. Klingbeil.
- **Concert Dress:** As performers we do not want the “visual” to distract from the music. To address this we have a “uniform” that we ask students to wear during concerts and various other performances throughout the year. We call this “concert black”. For those that will wear dresses, the fabric must go below the knees *when sitting*. Tops must cover shoulders, backs, and midribs, and be black. For those wearing pants and shirt/blouse, both must be black *with sleeves*. A belt should be used with pants and shoes should be black with long black socks. Failure to follow these parameters could result in a lower assessment.

Woodwinds

- **Reeds** These can be purchased from Leitholds, SSE, or wwbw.com. *One box SHOULD NOT last your student the whole year.* A functional reed is crucial to the success of your student on their instrument.
- **Cork Grease**
- **Cleaning Materials**

Brass

- **Valve Oil**
- **Tuning Slide Grease**
- **Cleaning Materials**

Percussion

- **1 set of snare drum sticks** (recommended Vic Firth SD2 “Bolero” or Innovative Percussion SD1 Concert Snare Drum Stick). **These should be labeled with student initials.**
- **2 sets of mallets (1 yarn, 1 plastic)**

Communication and Schedules

The band is like a machine and every student a cog in that machine. For our machine to work at the highest level, every cog must be working properly and must be present. *We cannot stress enough the importance of every band students' attendance at required events.* Every student is an important part of the band and we function at our highest level when all are present. We do ask that all vacations, college visits, work, etc. to be planned around the music calendar. Please make sure the calendar of events is placed into your family calendar.

Work is not an acceptable excuse to miss a band event. We work very hard in the music department to avoid conflicts with athletics, however, they still tend to crop up now and again. If/When a conflict does arise, please contact the band teachers and an arrangement will be worked out with the coach of the given organization.

Despite best efforts we do understand that unavoidable conflicts do occur from time to time. Should this happen, please submit a *written statement from the parent/guardian to the band teachers at least 24 hours prior to the event.* When in doubt, the following words are best to live by ... "communicate, communicate, communicate".

Ensemble Placement

In order to best meet the needs of your student, each member of the band is placed into either Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble. To find out where your student will be most successful, an audition is held at the end of the marching season to place the students appropriately for the remainder of the year. The components of the audition include the following: scales, an etude/excerpt, sight reading, and tone quality. All of these components are covered in class and during lessons. The audition is required and graded the same as a lesson. There is no need to change schedules after the audition as both ensembles meet during the same period. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the band teachers.

Riverhawk Marching Band

Camp

The Riverhawk Marching Band Camp will occur **August 15-19 from 9am-3pm** (lunch break included). This is an intense time of preparation as we rehearse music, parade, and drill for the upcoming season. Due to the nature of marching band, it is crucial that all students are in attendance for the full marching camp. Music and drill will be provided at the beginning of the camp.

Uniforms

Uniforms will be sized and supplied during the marching band camp. Your student is responsible for the care of the uniform while it is in their possession. The students will be instructed on proper care/hanging of uniforms and hat during the camp. If a uniform is lost/severely damaged the student is responsible for the cost associated with the damage (anywhere from \$50-\$400).

LINK Crew/Registration

August seems to be crammed with LOTS of events for students to prepare for the year. With that being said there are two events that seem to always fall exactly when marching band does and here are some ways to approach these:

- **Link Crew:** If your student is involved in LINK Crew these events typically take place during the marching band camp. Go to the LINK Crew the day you are volunteering/participating and when you are finished come back to marching band. Learning the schedule/manage your responsibilities is an important skill to master.
- **Registration:** Every student has to register for classes for the upcoming school year during marching camp. However, registration itself goes well into the evening on the day it occurs and usually only takes 10-15min. Students **SHOULD NOT** miss marching band camp to register for classes. Please take care of this during lunch, a break, or after the camp day.

Oktoberfest/Maple Leaf Parade

Each year, the Riverhawk Marching Band participates in the Maple Leaf Parade as part of La Crosse's annual Oktoberfest celebration. This occurs on Saturday, October 1 this year. More details will be provided as we approach the date. We are always in need of volunteers for water distribution and chaperones. If you are interested, please contact the band teachers!

Game Day

The Riverhawk Marching Band performs at all home football games once the academic year has started. That tends to be anywhere between 2-5 games. We provide pregame entertainment, a halftime show, and music during the first half of the game. Football games typically start at 7:00pm and we start performing around 6:45pm. Members of the band are to meet at **Emerson Elementary** at 6:00pm, unless indicated otherwise. All percussionists, tubas, and larger instruments are on "Load Crew" that meets at **Central High School at 5:30pm** to load before heading over the Emerson via bus. At the conclusion of halftime, students are dismissed after the equipment is loaded and the Emerson gym is cleaned. Students that brought equipment via the bus are expected to return with the bus to Central to unload.

During games we ask that no "non-band member" sit within the band section. As to not miss any important information, trips to the bathroom/concessions must be quick. Additionally, all cheers/chants/etc. should be school appropriate. **Anything and everything we do must be above reproach.** We are there to do a job and support the team.

Memorial Day

Every year, the Riverhawk Marching Band performs in the annual La Crosse Memorial Day Parade. This is a great opportunity to share with the community the wonderful things our students do every day. Times are determined based on order in the parade. Regardless of time, the band meets at Central, we bus to the parade start, perform, and head back to Central. At the conclusion of the parade, uniforms will be collected. Be sure that your student has clothes to change into after the performance and that all pieces of the uniform are ready to turn in at this time.

Every other year the band performs for the Memorial Day Service at Oak Grove Cemetery near the UWL campus. We trade every other year with Logan High School and perform 3-4 patriotic tunes.

Forms

Field Trip

For each home football game, parades, and any other trips throughout the year, students will need to submit a "Field Trip Permission Form". This form covers the authorization to consent to treatment of the students. If a form is not received prior to the event, the student will not be allowed to participate which could result in loss of points/lower grade.

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Opportunities

Meetings

Our band program is fortunate enough to be supported by parents/guardians! By being a Central band parent/guardian, you are welcome to assist and volunteer!

Every parent/guardian that wishes to be more involved with the band program is invited to our band parent/guardian meetings. These are TBA but usually occur around the 3rd Thursday of each month. Meetings last no longer than an hour and we invite everyone to attend at least one time throughout the year. We are always looking for ways to improve and utilize the talents of everyone in the band program!

Please contact Mr. Klingbeil if you wish to be more involved or have any further questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Most are very fun, short in terms of time commitment, and support the band immensely. These include the Oktoberfest and Memorial Day Parades, MoonTunes parking lots, Central Boosters Can Collection, after concert receptions and more. We are ALWAYS looking for new help and will always find a job for you if you are willing to work. We will be utilizing the SignUp Genius more to gather volunteers. Please keep an eye on your email for volunteer opportunities as the year marches along.

PLEASE RETURN FORM BY SEPTEMBER 2ND

In conclusion...

As stated above, please read and keep the attached pages regarding the Central High School Band program 2022-2023 school year. Please complete the bottom portion of this page and return to Mr. Klingbeil and Mr. Beron by **September 2nd, 2022**. The signature provides consent for your child to participate in the CHS Band events, both on and off campus. If you have any special request to make concerning your student's participation, please convey your request in writing to Mr. Klingbeil and/or Mr. Beron.

Students in the CHS Band program are governed by the Student Code of Conduct and must abide by the directions given by the instructors and chaperones at all times.

It is also the policy of the School District of La Crosse that requires students to ride the bus to school sponsored events when busing arrangements are made. If you wish to transport your student instead, please complete the "Transportation Decline Form" prior to that transportation. These forms can be obtained from either director.

Please complete and return by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd.

I, the undersigned parent/guardian of _____
do hereby give permission and consent for my student to participate in the performances/activities of the CHS Band during the 2022-2023 school year. And furthermore, have reviewed and will abide by the policies set forth in this syllabus/handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

CURRENT Email Address: _____