

LMS Band Handbook

2025-2026 School Year

Dear LMS Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new and exciting year of music at Liberty Middle School. The Liberty Band Program consists of four large ensembles: the Beginner Band, the Intermediate Band, the Concert Band, and the Symphonic Band. Our program also includes the Pep Band, a Percussion Ensemble, and a Jazz Band. Our bands perform at a variety of civic and scholastic events and compete at district, state and national competitions. Our main goal at Liberty is to provide the band students with meaningful and challenging instruction that will lead to fun, exciting and rewarding musical experiences.

All performing ensembles will have at least three concerts during the school year: our Winter Concert before the holiday break, our Dessert Concert in the early Spring, and our final concert in May before the end of the school year. These dates and venues will be available as soon as possible. The LMS Pep Band, made up of all students with at least one year of playing experience, will perform at multiple LMS football games during the Fall. This is a fun opportunity to play some non-traditional band music and to experience what band is like in high school. The Concert Band and the Symphonic Band will also perform at our state Music Performance Assessment in early Spring. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble and District and All State auditions. We will have more information about the dates, places and the requirements of these festivals as they become available.

This Spring, the Intermediate, Concert, and Symphonic Bands will have the opportunity to travel out of state for a competition. More information regarding the trip will be available soon.

We are always interested in meeting the parents of our students. The LMS Band Boosters is a parent organization that supports the band by providing fundraising, chaperoning, and logistical assistance. The Boosters meet once each 9-weeks in the LMS Band Room. Parents of students in all ensembles are encouraged to attend. The dates for these meetings are published on the yearly event calendar. If you would like a private meeting or conference, please call or e-mail and make an appointment.

Again, welcome to the Liberty Middle School Band! We are looking forward to meeting everyone and making great music together.

Your Liberty Middle School Band Directors,

Mrs. Kayla Sims
ksims@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Mr. Evan Curtis
wecurtis@madisoncity.k12.al.us

The Ensembles

Beginner Band

The Beginner Band is composed of students who have no previous experience in band. The beginner band will have three concert performances this year. There are three beginner band classes: woodwind class, brass class, and percussion class.

Intermediate Band

The Intermediate Band is composed of 7th and 8th grade students who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. The Intermediate Band will have at least four performances this year. Students in this band are invited to go on our annual Spring Trip.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is composed of 7th and 8th grade students who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. The Concert Band will have at least four performances this year. Students in this band are invited to go on our annual Spring Trip.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is composed of mostly 8th grade students; membership is determined by audition only. The Symphonic Band will have at least four performances this year. Students in this band are invited to go on our annual Spring Trip.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble will be made up of percussionists from the Intermediate, Concert, and Symphonic Bands. This group will have opportunities to perform at concerts and at Solo and Ensemble. The Percussion Ensemble is being instructed by Mr. Anderson from JCHS. The rehearsals are held on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 pm in the LMS Band Room and are mandatory for all (Intermediate/Concert/Symphonic Band) percussionists.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is a club that meets before and/or after school. It is open to members of the Intermediate, Concert, and Symphonic Bands. Jazz Band takes place during the Spring Semester only. The Jazz Band may perform at concerts, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Fine Arts Night, or other events as deemed appropriate by the directors.

2025-2026 LMS Band Fees

Band Fee

Each band member will pay a class fee of \$100.00 per year. Band fees go into a special school account and are used to pay for music, local busing, contest entrance fees, purchasing large instruments, and other band-related expenses.

School Owned Instrument Fees

For the 2025-2026 school year an instrument usage fee of \$125.00 will be assessed for all wind players using an LMS owned instrument. School owned instruments include: Tuba, Baritone/Euphonium, French Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Bass and Contra-Alto Clarinet, and Tenor and Bari Saxophones. A \$25.00 yearly cleaning fee is due on May 1st. This fee may be paid with the rental fee for a total of \$150.00 if you so choose.

These monies will be used for routine maintenance, minor repairs, and (when necessary) replacement for school owned equipment. Any damage or major repair caused by student negligence will be the financial responsibility of the student to which the equipment is assigned.

Students using school owned instruments are encouraged to purchase a personal mouthpiece.

Percussion Usage Fee

For the 2025-2026 school year, a percussion usage fee of \$50 will be assessed for all Intermediate Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band percussion students. These monies will be used for routine maintenance, minor repairs, and (when necessary) replacement of school owned equipment.

The LMS Band Handbook

1. Student Responsibilities

- All Students must bring their required supplies to class everyday.
- All students must take their instrument home everyday.
- All students must practice everyday. Practice should include warm-up, scales, assigned lines from the book and any additional music.
- All students must attend before or after school rehearsals when required. **
- All Beginner Band students are required to prepare a solo for Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Intermediate and Concert Band students must **either** prepare a solo for Solo and Ensemble Festival, **or** audition for Honor Band/All-State.
- All Symphonic Band students are required to audition for Honor Band/All-State.
- All students are required to attend **all** scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and contests.

***Before and after school rehearsals will be necessary as we prepare for contests and concerts. Dates and times will be posted at least two weeks in advance. ***

2. Band Room Rules

- Bring required equipment everyday.
- Be respectful of your directors and peers instructional time.
- Do not touch other student's instruments, do not play other students instruments, and do not trade instruments.
- No eating or drinking (except water) in the Band Room. No gum is allowed during rehearsals.
- Non-band students are not allowed in the band room.
- Do the right thing.

3. Consequences

- Verbal Reprimand
- Private conference with director
- Call home to parents
- Detention
- Office Referral

4. Conduct and Behavior Standards for Events and Trips

It is a privilege to travel with the Band Program at Liberty Middle School. Band members are bound by a strict moral and behavioral code. This applies to behavior both in and out of school.

- Band members will conduct themselves in a manner that honorably represents their school, family, community, and themselves. Any behavior or infraction on the part of a band student that goes against the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct, or the LMS Band Handbook, is subject to discipline from school administration as well as the band directors.
- Guidelines may be established by the directors for event/competition attire. The band student must follow all established rules as outlined by the directors. Madison City Schools dress code applies to all events.
- When provided, a band student will ride to and from the band's events via school transportation/or chartered bus transportation. The student may be released only to his/her own parent/guardian. The exception to this is when written documentation from a band student's parent/guardian is provided, in advance, to the band directors giving permission for that student to be released into another parent/guardian's care.
- Unexcused absences from mandatory after school rehearsals will result in last chair or possible removal from the upcoming performance. *Unexcused absences from performances result in a **zero** in the gradebook. (See section 7 for additional details.)
- Drop-off and Pick-up times will be communicated to students and parents through CutTime and/or ParentSquare. All students should be picked up by a parent or guardian within 15 minutes of the posted time. Any student who is not picked up by 30 minutes past the posted pick-up time may be removed from the next band event.
- A band student who receives multiple (>2) assignments of ISS, an assignment of Out-of-School suspension, or assignment to Alternative School may not be allowed to participate in further band events/travel outside the school building and/or outside of regular school hours.

5. Required Equipment

- **All Students:** Instrument, Instrument Accessories, Cleaning Supplies, and Pencil
- **Required Method Books:**
 - Beginning Band (including percussion): *Tradition of Excellence, Book 1, Red*
 - Intermediate Band (including percussion): *Essential Elements, Book 1, Gold*
 - Concert Band (including percussion): *Tradition of Excellence, Book 2, Blue*
 - Symphonic Band (including percussion): *Tuned In, A Comprehensive Approach to Band Intonation, and the All State Required Method Book*
- **Percussion Students only:** ALL percussionists must purchase a pair of standard snare drum sticks (Vic Firth Generals SD1), a set of medium yarn mallets, and a stick bag
- **Pep Band Students:** Flip folder and Lyre (specific to instrument)
- **Recommended for all:** A folding stand for at home practice

6. Uniforms

All students must adhere to the district dress code during school hours and on field trips.

- **Beginner Band Uniform:**

Men: Orange Band Polo, black dress pants, tall black socks, and black dress shoes.

(No Jeans or Tennis Shoes!)

Ladies: Orange Band Polo, black dress pants or long skirt, tall black socks or stockings, and black dress shoes. (No Jeans or Tennis Shoes!)

- **Intermediate and Concert Band Uniform:**

Men: Black Band Polo, black dress pants, tall black socks, and black dress shoes.

(No Jeans or Tennis Shoes!)

Ladies: Black Band Polo, black dress pants or long skirt, tall black socks or stockings, and black dress shoes. (No Jeans or Tennis Shoes!)

- **Symphonic Band Uniform:**

Men: Black uniform dress shirt, orange tie (provided), black dress pants, tall black socks and black dress shoes (No Jeans or Tennis Shoes)

Ladies: Black uniform blouse, black dress pants or long skirt, tall black socks or stockings, and black dress shoes (No Jeans or Tennis Shoes)

- **Solo and Ensemble Dress:**

Nice Dress Attire (“Sunday Best”)

- **Pep Band:**

All Members will wear their Orange “Lions” Shirt, jeans, socks and closed-toe sneakers

7. Performances

Performances are activities in which the Liberty Middle School Programs are visible to the public. Each performance is a reflection on the students’ abilities, and is also a reflection on our school. Every effort will be made to ensure a high quality performance. Each performance will be graded as a participatory test grade. Each student is responsible for bringing his/her own instrument, music and any other materials necessary for each performance. Students must wear the assigned and complete performance attire for each performance.

All students are expected to participate in each scheduled performance for his/her band class. Absences will be excused on a case by case basis. Please inform Mrs. Sims and Mr. Curtis as soon as possible if a student must miss a scheduled performance. If an absence is excused, an alternate assignment will make up the grade for the missed performance. **Unexcused absences from performances will result in a test grade of “0”**

Students who participate with other Liberty organizations may (upon approval) be excused for conflicting games, trips, or performances only. Practices, meetings, and rehearsals are not excuses for missed band performances.

8. Grading and Assessment

Daily Grades (40% of overall grade)

- Weekly Fundamental grade
 - Evidence of nightly practice
 - Instrument and supplies
- Weekly quizzes
 - Playing assignments
 - Schoology assigned work
 - Written worksheets

Test Grades (60% of overall grade)

- Playing Tests
 - Scales
 - Assigned lines from the book
 - Assigned excerpts from music
 - Separate audition material
- Written Tests
- Performances

Makeup work

- Missed assignments and/or playing tests due to excused absences may be made up by appointment, either before or after school.
- All in-person chair placement tests will be given on select Thursdays and results will be announced the following Monday. If a chair-placement test is missed, the student must make up that chair test the day he or she returns to school in order to be eligible for receiving a chair placement. Grades for chair placement tests can be made up within three days of returning to school; however, to receive a chair placement, the assignment must be made up the day of the student's return. If a student chooses to wait to perform their chair test, then the student will sit last chair until our next chair test. All chair tests must be made up by before school on the following Monday to receive chair placement; otherwise, the student will sit last chair until the next chair test.
- In the case of a missed performance, an alternate assignment may be completed only for an excused absence.
- All missed assignments or performances due to unexcused absences result in a zero in the gradebook (Madison City Schools Policy).

Chair Placement

Chair placement may be determined by:

1. Weekly Playing tests
2. Equipment Check
3. Behavior