

Grand Haven Bands

Lakeshore Middle School

2021-2022 Handbook



Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Lakeshore Middle School band program! As you know, this year is going to look and feel different. But the one thing I know for sure is we will make music! We plan to be outside, as much as possible. And when the weather is not cooperating, we will still be able to play inside. In this handbook, I try to address as many aspects of the program that I can, as well as answer some questions about this upcoming year. If you have any questions concerning something within this handbook, or I did not address your question here, please contact me. I am available by email (preferred) or phone.

I am excited to get this year started and be able to make music once again.

Sincerely,

Brian Ambrose
Director of Middle School Bands
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616-850-6682

GHAPS BANDS ONLINE

All bands 5-12 are online! To receive important information, see upcoming dates, browse pictures/recordings, please check out:

www.grandhavenbands.org

Use the tabs on the right side to navigate the website. Our middle school band information will be under "Lakeshore MS." Please stay tuned for updates.

The Grand Have Bands are also on facebook, so please like us there!

What should I expect in Band this year?

First, TO HAVE FUN!!!

Second, weather permitting, we will play and rehearse outside students should dress appropriately for the weather EVERYDAY

- Masks will be able to be removed for any and all outdoor rehearsals.

What if the weather is rainy, stormy, or too cold to be outside?

If an outdoor setting is not an option (bad weather), we will rehearse inside, with masks on. We will also work on music skills in the band room through audio looping projects through BandLab (a super sweet digital audio workstation available on the Chromebook), songwriting workshops, or other creative musicianship projects

Will there be any concerts this year?

YES!!! Please see the attached performance calendar. Please note, dates and times are subject to change. I will do my best to inform you of any changes ASAP.

Will we be using SmartMusic?

Yes. Our boosters have once again paid for a year-long subscription for all 6-12 band students. Not only will they utilize this program for assessments, middle school band students will have a Premium subscription that allows them to explore and utilize all aspects of the platform. SmartMusic may also be used to help facilitate virtual performances.

What if I ride the bus, how do I take my instrument back and forth?

For students who ride the bus, if your instrument can fit on your lap, you should be allowed to take it on the bus. If transport is a concern, please talk with me and let's see if we can find you a school instrument that you can leave at school.

Will there be Jazz Band?

Yes. Jazz Band will start at the end of October and run through the end of the school year. We meet on Monday's, from 3-4:30. More information will be coming at a later date.

HOME PRACTICE—DON'T FEAR YOUR INSTRUMENT!MAKE YOUR INSTRUMENT FEAR YOU!



NOW GO HOME AND PRACTICE!

Consistent practice time at home is the single greatest factor in a student's success. Like with any new skill, focused and consistent practice will be the way to improve on your instrument. Suggestions for home practice:

- Use a folding music stand (purchase from local music store or Amazon)
- Have a tuner and metronome handy (approx. \$25 each or download an app...I suggest **Tonal Energy**)
- Set aside a regular time in your schedule (**20 mins. or so**)
- Have a place away from distractions
- Make a game/challenge of what you are practicing
- **Practice with friends!**
- Perform for family members, friends or stuffed animals!
- Always strive to improve your playing

PRACTICE TIME TIPS AND TRICKS

To improve on your instrument, you must first know how to go about practicing...

- Know your ABCs? Can you count to 4? Can you keep a steady beat? Know the difference between on and off? Then you should be able to do this!
- The answer for a fingering is always in the back of the book!
- What comes first, rhythm or melody? (Know the rhythm and then apply the pitches)
- Everything is alphabetical! (Scales, the clefs, how the staff is set up—CKT, etc.)
- CKT—What's the Clef? What's the Key? What's the Time signature?
- The first thing in every measure is always beat 1 regardless of whether it is a rest or a note!
- When in doubt of a rhythm, find every “big” beat in the measure—divide and conquer.
- The name of the note always corresponds to how many are (or how much space each takes up) in a measure of 4/4 time. (e.g. a quarter note means that there are four of these notes and each takes up a quarter of the measure in 4/4 time).
- BEADGCF--BEAD and Greatest Common Factor gives you your order of flats. In reverse, it gives you your order of sharps.
- Having trouble with flats and sharps? Ask yourself, “Do I know this key's scale?”

HOW TO PRACTICE—TO BEGIN, USE A PENCIL!

Daily Practice Plan: (have one of these—try to set aside 20 mins 5-6 days a week)

- **(3-5 mins) Warm-Up**
Long tones, scales, chordal exercises used in class.
- **(5-15 mins) Band Music/Private Lesson Music**
Play the music you know and figure out the stuff you don't! Hold yourself accountable for what needs to be learned for the next rehearsal, playing test, concert, etc.
- **(5-10 mins) Some music for fun!**
Get a duet out of the book and play with a friend. Go over some of the coolest stuff you remember playing. Try to figure out the solfege and notes to a favorite song by ear! Know the theme to the Simpsons? Know the theme to the Flintstones? Know the theme to Jeopardy?
- **(3-5 mins) Warm down**
Right back to where you started—play long tones and buzz on your mthpc. When done, wipe down your instrument and carefully put it away.

PRACTICE TIME TROUBLE SHOOTING

- Play—Buzz—Play—Buzz—Play—Buzz—Play OR Sing—Buzz—Play—Sing—Buzz—Play
- Play from beginning to end and then go back to work on problem areas. REPEAT PROCESS!
- Add one note/rhythm/measure at a time.
- Play in different styles (staccato, legato, marcato, etc.)
- Can't figure out a "tied" rhythm or slurred figure? Drop the ties and slurs and add them later
- Silent finger and practice—great for brass players and clarinets!
- Air and tongue before playing
- Percussionists—can't figure out a roll? Figure out how many 16th notes are in the rolled note, multiply that by 2 and add 1.
- Say letter names/say positions/say fingerings
- Count out (and write down!) rhythms.
- Slow it down! Use a metronome and tuner
- Listen to recordings of your instrument or a recording of the piece you are working on

ONLINE MUSIC RESOURCES

For instrument maintenance, music theory, interactive quizzes, listening, games, etc.

Instrument Maintenance

- **ehow.com**—will show you how to maintain your instrument.

Quizzes, music theory

- **musicracer.com**—will quiz you on note names, fingerings, etc.
- **teoria.com**—great music theory resource
- **musictheory.net**—one of the easiest to use online theory resources
- **emusictheory.com**—another great theory site
- **musictechteacher.com**—great music quiz database



Listening

- **youtube.com**—type in your instrument and watch the millions of videos that pop up

Flute

- flute.com
- fluteinfo.com

Oboe

- fredonia.edu/music/oboe/pages/resources.html

Clarinet

- clarinet.org

Woodwinds

- woodwind.org

Bassoon

- bassoonresource.org/

Saxophone

- saxophone.org/links.html

Trumpet

- trumpetguild.org/

French Horn

- thefrenchhorn.net/

Trombone

- trombone.org
- ita-web.org/

Euphonium

- euphonium.net

Tuba

- tubachristmas.com/
- tubapeter.com

Percussion

- vicfirth.com
- pas.org

On youtube.com, search the following:

- beatboxing flute player
- flight of the bumblebee—sir james galway
- flight delayed (contrabass flute)
- oboe band goes funky
- mercy, mercy, mercy jazz clarinet
- Super Mario brothers theme clarinet quartet
- K-state clarinet choir
- the Bb eppelsheim contrabass clarinet
- creep (bass clarinet quartet)
- super Mario bassoon quartet advance
- sorcerers apprentice HSU.MP4 (bassoon)
- nuclear whales saxophone orchestra
- sax inc: mission impossible
- really big blues (contrabass sax)
- grimethorp colliery brass band
- canon-phantom regiment (2009)
- Cherokee..Arturo Sandoval Chuck Findley and more
- Vienna Horns Back to the Future
- the London trombone sound
- Bonerama - 'Crosstown Traffic' - 2005-04
- David Childs - Flight of the Bumble Bee
- "Power"--Equinox Tuba Quartet at ECU
- tuba beatboxing (Sousaphone really)
- MSU Drumline X 2009
- Fluffy ruffles (xylo rag)
- Head talk
- Stomp- Stomp Out Loud

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Classroom Expectations

- Do nothing to hinder teaching or learning.
- Come to class prepared everyday—bring a pencil!
- Respect the teacher, other students, the facility, and all personal property
- No gum in class

Classroom Procedures

- Have your instrument IN CASE (if applicable) with you at your assigned seat, at the beginning of class.
- If you are not in your seat after two minutes of the start of class, you are tardy.
- No food or beverage is permitted in the band room except water. Exceptions will be discussed.
- When the director is on the podium, the band will be silent and ready to rehearse.

End of Class

- Push stands down completely, if using a school stand.
- Pick up any mess left in the room.
- Carefully place your instrument in your case and place your instrument in a **locked** locker. The school is not held responsible for any personal instruments/items not secured in lockers.
- Sanitize chairs, stands, and percussion equipment used.
- You must remain standing at your chair until class is dismissed.

GRADING POLICY

All band members will be assessed daily. Grading is based upon each student performing up to his or her **own** potential.

Grades will fall into the following categories:

Participation

Students begin each day with **5 points**. To keep all points, a student must:

- Play their assigned music to their best potential
- Follow established class rules
- Give best effort
- Be respectful and courteous
- Have band folder and all music
- Have all required materials—THREE playable reeds, oil, grease, slide cream, sticks/mallets needed, and a sharpened pencil
- Punctuality

Students will lose points if the above guidelines are not followed.

Assignments

Classwork

Assessments

Playing Tests (will be administered using SmartMusic, Screencastify, or FlipGrid)

Performances (until further notice, all will happen virtually)

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons from a teacher who is an excellent performer on their instrument.

The Grand Haven Band Booster Association (GHBBA) provides private lesson rebates to students to help with the cost of private lessons. Students must enroll in the program to receive credit. Once enrolled, the lesson teacher will sign the form after a successfully prepared lesson. Students turn the completed form into the director. Due to limited annual funds to this program, it is in your best interest to **turn forms in immediately**. Do not accumulate forms—you may not be reimbursed.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Summer music camps are one of the best ways for students to further their musical growth.

The GHBBA has a scholarship fund set up to aid students in attending a music camp such as Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. The amount of the scholarship will depend on the funds available and the number of students requesting scholarships. Applications will be available in the band room.

STUDENT OWNED INSTRUMENTS

You get what you pay for.

Quality instruments can be rented or purchased from a number of music dealers. It is recommended that you NOT purchase an instrument from a general retailer and that you NOT purchase a no-name brand instrument from the internet. These instruments may look cool in several colors and may have some “extras” but are guaranteed to be more difficult to play, fall apart more easily, and are impossible to fix due to their cheap construction. **PLEASE CHECK THE MANUFACTURER NAME AGAINST THE LIST BELOW.**

- Quality names in instrument manufacture are: Selmer, Bach, Getzen, Conn, Vic Firth, Pearl, Yamaha, Armstrong, Fox, Loree, Yanagisawa, Holton, Gemeinhardt, Buffet Crampon, LeBlanc, Schilke, Meinl Weston, Tama, Gretsch.
- **Several brands are very instrument specific. Please consult with the director before purchasing.**

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

If you perform on a...

Students performing on the following instruments will have a school instrument supplied to them: Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba. As these are all “color” instruments, it is the director’s discretion whether or not a student will perform on these instruments. Given class numbers, interest/aptitude for an instrument, school instruments can be in short supply and

will be assigned in order of grade and aptitude. Students who use a school-owned instrument are held fully responsible for its proper care and storage. If the instrument needs to be fixed due to normal wear and tear, the band will pay for it. If the instrument or equipment is damaged as a result of neglect or intentional harm, the student responsible will be financially responsible as well as being subject to disciplinary action.

- **Students using school instruments will need to purchase their own mouthpiece and reeds.**

SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS

Try something new!

Switching from one instrument to another is possible only with the director's approval. The general rule is "you can only switch to an instrument that is bigger than the one you are currently playing, but not percussion." Although this is just a generality, possibilities include switching to: oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horn, euphonium, trombone, and tuba. Students interested in playing one of these instruments should see the director. **Due to maintaining the "balance" of the band, students will only be allowed to switch instruments with appropriate director approval. Students may be auditioned**

As with learning anything new, when a student switches instruments, things can get difficult. In addition to having the desire to switch, you must have a proven record of being a responsible student performer.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

Several simple instrument repairs/adjustments can be made by the director while at school. If the repair cannot be made by the director, it will be sent to Marshall Music to be repaired. The instrument will be sent out and parents will be notified via telephone with an estimate for repair charges from Marshall Music directly. A Marshall Music representative comes to the school once a week, so try to take good care of your instrument!

- Instruments may also be brought directly to Marshall Music or any music store with a reputable repair shop. School instruments must be brought to the director for approval before they are repaired.
- Parents—Unless you are an instrument repair technician, please do not attempt to fix your child's instrument. Despite the best of intentions, musical instruments are quite delicate/temperamental and usually require specialized skills and knowledge to repair. Many well-meaning parents have caused repairs to become more expensive in the end. Please let the director or a repairperson look at it!

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Students are assigned a specific space/locker within the band area. The only items allowed in lockers are items pertaining to band—music, instrument, pencil, and accessories. No food, drink, clothes, etc. in lockers.

INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE

Students are expected to take good care of their instrument.

Like a car, your instrument requires regular maintenance and cleaning. This should take place at home on a regular basis. Please refer to the “online music resources” section to find ways of how to take care of your instrument. Band class is not time for maintenance that detracts from you playing during rehearsal. If you have questions regarding how to go about maintaining your instrument, please ask the director.

PERCUSSION SECTION

All percussionists are expected to...

- Continue to build the mallet bag you started in 5th grade. Mallets are not provided for percussion instruments and must be supplied by the student.
- Make sure equipment you use is put back where it belongs, at the end of class.
- Know their part assignments and follow the assigned rotation for warm-up and sight reading.
- Stand up through the entire rehearsal. This includes the entire time we are in class. The only time a percussionist may sit down is when they are not playing for an extended period of time; this is standard practice for all percussionists beginner through professional level.
- Take their mallet bags and music home to practice. Do not leave them in the percussion cabinets. Label mallets with your initials or name.

SCHOOL OWNED MUSIC POLICY

- Sheet music that is issued to students is to be kept in the provided folder, and treated with respect at all times.
- Students will only use a pencil to mark their music. No folding, crinkling, mutilating, tearing, etc of music is allowed.
- Lost music is the student’s responsibility to replace—students may have to pay to replace their music.
- **DON’T LOSE YOUR MUSIC!**

GRAND HAVEN BAND BOOSTER ASSOCIATION (GHBBA) 501c3 NON-PROFIT

Attend monthly booster meetings!

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to provide support through funding and volunteerism for those music projects which are related to the operation and enhancement of the Grand Haven Band Program.

The funds raised and the volunteers involved benefit the entire band program 5-12. Meeting dates will be posted in the band room and are generally held in the HS band room on the first Tuesday of every month.

The GHBBA exists to enhance your band student's musical education. The boosters provide support through funding and volunteerism for those music projects which are related to the operation and enhancement of the Grand Haven Band Program.

By attending these meetings and participating in the direction of the program, you are demonstrating to your child the validity and importance that you place on this program. Your input is always welcome at these meetings, and as director, I would love to see our middle school numbers grow. Various projects include (in addition to purchasing and updating additional instruments, uniforms, technology, and other areas of need):

Scrip Program

Orchestra sponsored. Scrip is a way for your student to raise money for their personal account and for the orchestra to raise money for the entire program. You can purchase "scrip" for many retailers/markets including Meijer, Walmart, etc. and a portion of every purchase will be split equally between the orchestra fundraising account and your student's account. While the program does not benefit the band, it does benefit your student. It is a way to defray the costs of trips, solo and ensemble, and any other program related costs.

Scholarships

GHBBA sponsored. The GHBBA provides scholarship money for all band students who apply and qualify to attend summer music camps. Applications are located in the band room. Students are encouraged to participate. Please note that funds may fluctuate year-to-year as finances and applicant numbers can vary.

Private Lesson Rebates

GHBBA sponsored. Explained in detail under "private lessons" in this booklet.

How can I help?

There are many volunteer opportunities within the GHBBA. The primary fundraisers for the group are Bingo at Roberts Hall in Muskegon and outside fall concessions. Broken down by middle school and GHBBA specific needs, the band needs help in the following areas:

FUNDRAISING!!!

More on this later

Lakeshore MS Bands 2021-2022 Calendar

Put this on the fridge!

*All required performances are **bolded**

**Events are subject to change. Any changes will be made in writing a minimum of 2 weeks in advance.

***Students must give at least 2 weeks notice to be excused from an event. Only unavoidable conflicts, such as weddings in the immediate family, a sudden illness or death in the family will constitute as an excused absence. Work or babysitting is NOT an excuse. Failure to provide such notice will result in the students' grade being lowered at the end of the marking period.

Lakeshore Bands 2021-2022 Schedule

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	TIME
*September 10	MS Band Night - GH FB Game	GHHS	6:00pm
November 9	LMS Bands Veterans Day Concert	LMS Auditorium	7:00pm
*December 4	S&E Festival	Coopersville MS	all day
^January 5, 2022	District 7 Honors Band	TBA	all day
February 8	GH Bands Pre-Festival Concert	PAC - GHHS	7:00pm
February 24	MSBOA District B&O Festival (8th Only)	PAC - GHHS	TBA
March ???	7th Grade Band Clinic and Trip	TBA	all day
April 27-29	MSBOA State B&O Festival (8th only)	TBA	TBA
May 6	8th Grade Band Chicago Trip	Chicago	all day
^^May 12	Tulip Time Kinderparade (8 th)	Holland, MI	2:00pm
May 25	7th Grade Collage Concert	PAC - GHHS	6:00pm
	8th Grade Collage Concert	PAC - GHHS	8:00pm
May 26	7th Grade Collage Concert	PAC - GHHS	6:00pm
	8th Grade Collage Concert	PAC - GHHS	8:00pm

* Optional Performance

^ Selected students

^^ Tentative event

Tickets MUST be purchased for these events

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO NOTIFY YOU OF ANY CHANGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Please click on the link below to complete the form.

[Handbook Agreement form](#)