

# Litchfield 8th Grade Band Handbook 2022-2023



[www.litchfieldband.com](http://www.litchfieldband.com)

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### Welcome Dragons!

Hello and welcome to the Litchfield 8th Grade Band Program. My name is Bailey Benoit and I will be your/your child's teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. I am beyond excited to get to know you all and make music with you throughout the year. I have compiled a list of important information that you or your child should know for this year. If you have any questions regarding anything that you read in this handbook, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email. Let's get ready to have a great year and Go Dragons!

#### PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Please see the final page of this handbook to sign and turn back into me. These will be due by Monday, September 12, 2022.

Director: Bailey Benoit  
[bbenoit@isd465.org](mailto:bbenoit@isd465.org)  
320-693-2424 ext. 4415

# **Band Courses and Performance Groups**

## **8th Grade Band**

The 8th Grade Band is for all students with an interest in Instrumental music. Music chosen for the 8th Grade band will include classical, popular and contemporary styles for middle school and high school band. This band performs in three concerts during the school year, November 17th, March 21st, and May 8th. 8th grade band meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour and rotates days with Choir.

## **Jazz Ensemble - Grades 6-8**

The Jazz Ensemble is a select group and will be open to members who either audition or are invited by the instructor. Instrumentation includes: alto, tenor and baritone saxophones; trumpets; trombones; bass guitar; guitar; piano; auxiliary percussion; and drum set. This group may participate in concerts throughout the year. They will also host the Litchfield Jazz Festival at Cornerstone Church on April 24th. The Jazz Ensemble will rehearse one morning a week. (TBD)

## **Marching Band**

The Marching Dragons has an excellent tradition at Litchfield High School. Students in the 8th grade band are eligible to participate in the Litchfield Marching Dragons the summer before their 9th grade year. This band has consistently been a number one contender for many decades. Information about this year's theme, music and schedule will be available later in the year.

# **Conduct Expectations**

Whenever and wherever the band appears in public, we are representatives of the entire music program at Litchfield Schools, the school itself, and the community. Wherever we are, members of the Litchfield 8th Grade Band must always conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner. While in class, you are expected to follow a few simple expectations. These revolve around the concepts of respectfulness, responsibility, and accountability. Please keep the following in mind:

1. Take care of your instruments by properly using, cleaning, and storing them.
2. Be aware of other instruments and care for them accordingly.
3. Be attentive during classroom instruction. This is YOUR TIME to thrive.
4. Be prepared for all classes. You are expected to be in your seats with instruments ready to go 2 minutes after the scheduled time.
5. Always have your music, instrument, and a pencil.
6. Take care of the space around you, including picking up any garbage and keeping the chairs and music stands in order.
7. Practice your instrument at least 15 minutes a day. Consistency is key for a musician. Talk to Ms. Benoit if you don't know what to practice!

# **Grading Criteria for Litchfield 8th Grade Band**

Each quarter will consist of 500 total points. Grading will be broken down into three categories consisting of daily participation, performances, and lesson attendance. Litchfield High School students who participate in band class, concerts, and lessons will receive full academic credit each quarter.

## **Daily Participation: 50% of Total Grade (250 points)**

Attendance in class is mandatory based on the Litchfield Middle School Handbook. Excused absences cleared through the school will be understood and accommodated as needed. Missed assignments can be done

as made up and turned in with a planned schedule decided by Ms. Benoit. Unexcused absences can not be made up. Your daily participation will include:

1. Preparedness for class, arriving on time, and participating fully in all class activities.
2. Demonstration of effort (correct posture, care of instrument, equipment, and materials.)
3. Completion of required assignments, in class activities, and daily 15 minutes of practice.

**Performances: 25% of Total Grade (125 points)**

Performances will include scheduled concerts for each ensemble. Based on the requirements of each quarter, the amount of points per event will be weighted accordingly.

1. Concerts:
  - a. Participation and preparedness for all concerts based on the fine arts schedule. (Please see the “Attendance at Concerts” section of this handbook.)

**Lessons: 25% of Total Grade (125 points)**

All students will be required to attend four to five 20 minute lessons per quarter based on a schedule. Lessons and individual preparation are important for a developing musician. Assignments may be given at each lesson to aid the advancement of skills. Any student, regardless of ability, may earn an “A” if they are prepared.

A list of students’ lesson times will be distributed to the other school teachers. Be prompt in returning to your classroom in order to receive credit for your class. If there are any conflicts regarding your lesson time, please communicate with Ms. Benoit to either change lesson times with another student or make up the lesson time. Missed lessons can be made within two weeks of a missed lesson by completing 30 minutes of practice time in the band room before or after school while Ms. Benoit or Mr. Taylor are in the room.

## LMS Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percent
A	93% - 100%
A-	90% - 92.9%
B+	87% - 89.9%
B	83% - 86.9%
B-	80% - 82.9%
C+	77% - 79.9%
C	73% - 76.9%
C-	70% - 72.9%
D+	67% - 69.9%
D	63% - 66.9%
D-	60% - 62.9%
F	0% - 59.9%

## Attendance at Concerts

Attendance at concerts/performances is required and is part of the grading criteria in band classes. This is a fundamental and integral part of your membership in the band. Each performer in the ensemble is dependent on each band member being present and prepared to perform their specific part.

The only excused absences from a concert performance are illness the day of the performance with an absence from school or a family emergency. In both cases, please call Ms. Benoit at the Band Office, 320-693-2424 ext. 4415 to report your absence.

Performance schedules will be given to you well in advance of the actual performance. Read and share this information with your parents, employer, coaches, etc. and check for possible conflicts. In the event of a conflict, communication is key! Talk to Ms. Benoit or Mr. Taylor. We are here to support you! Every attempt will be made to be fair and understanding in the event of unusual circumstances.

## Concert Schedule of Events

(Jazz events required for students involved in that ensemble.)

Event	Group	Date/Time
MS Band Concert	Grades 7 and 8	November 17th @ 7:00 PM
Band Concert	Grades 6-8	March 21st @ 5:30 PM
Band Concert	Grades 6-8	May 8th @ 7:00 PM
Concert in the Park	Varsity Band and Wind Ensemble	May 12th @ 7:00 PM
Jazz Band on Lake Ripley	Jazz Ensemble	May 19th @ 7:00 PM

## Instrument Storage

Students will be assigned a storage locker in the rehearsal room for their instruments. These storage units are provided for use during the school day. Because daily practice is required, these lockers should be empty every Friday, as well as throughout the week (if before/after school practice is not happening within the classroom.)

All cases should be in their designated places of storage after each rehearsal. Do not leave them on the floor. Percussion instruments must be put away and all mallets, music and auxiliary equipment back in the proper place in their storage space. The storage of instruments in school is the liability of the owner, not the school. All instruments should be listed with the make, model, serial # and purchase price. If you suspect theft, contact Ms. Benoit or Mr. Taylor immediately as we need to file a police report right away.

## Music and Band Folders

Paper band folders will be distributed at the beginning of the year for the storage of music. Please store all folders in your locker. Do not keep concert, jazz or pep folders in your instrument cases when you are not using them. This can damage the instrument. If any music is lost, please see Ms. Benoit outside of class time to get another copy.

## School Owned Instruments & Equipment

School owned instruments must receive care and maintenance as if it was your own personal instrument. All school instruments will be in the same condition as it was when it was checked out to you at the beginning of the year. Normal repair problems will be paid for by the school, however, any damages due to carelessness or lack of responsibility will be assessed to the student, including dents. The instrument is the liability of the student and replacement cost is your responsibility in the case of theft or total damage. Students who are issued a school owned instrument will be asked to fill out an instrument contract. The cost for a school owned instrument is \$25 per quarter.

### All Instrument Repair

If you have a problem with your instrument, see Ms. Benoit immediately. Most repairs can be done very quickly. If I cannot fix it, it will be sent to an instrument repair shop. I do have a few loaner instruments if you need one.

## Concert Attire

Public performances are considered times of appropriate attire. Students will be notified as to what the dress code for the event will be. In general, the band dress code will be as follows:

- 8th Grade Band and Jazz Ensembles formal attire:
  - Concert Black
    - Black pants/long skirts/dresses. (All skirts or dresses must be longer than knee length and nylon or leggings will be required underneath)
    - Black dress shirts
    - Black shoes

\*\* If there are any questions or concerns regarding concert attire, please contact Ms. Benoit.

## Supplies

Being prepared with the proper materials and supplies needed to perform is essential for every rehearsal and performance. Please let Ms. Benoit know if there are any questions about the proper supplies needed for class. The following list is required for all band members: Instrument, Music, Pencil.

Here is the list of individual needs based on your instrument:

- Single Reed (Clarinet/Saxophone)
  - Reeds
    - Each student should have at least three reeds available at all times. I recommend purchasing the Royal by D'Addario or Vandoren brands.
    - Reeds are available for purchase from Ms. Benoit for \$3.50/reed.
  - Cork Grease
    - This can be purchased from Ms. Benoit for \$1.
- Double Reed (Oboe/Bassoon)
  - Reeds
    - You should have two working reeds available at a time. This can not be purchased from the school.
  - Water case
- Brass
  - Valve oil is necessary for all brass instruments. This can be purchased for \$5/bottle.
  - Please see Ms. Benoit with any other supply needs.



# Litchfield 8th Grade Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

**Return to Ms. Benoit by Monday, September 12, 2022**

Student Name: (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this, I have acknowledged that I have read and understand the contents of this handbook, including the Litchfield Middle School grading scale, the Litchfield Bands grading criteria and supply requirements.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians/Students:

If you have any questions regarding this handbook, you may write them below and I will be sure to send you an email or give you a phone call to discuss them further. You can also email me or call me at the band office. Thank you!