

**LEON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**BAND HANDBOOK**  
**2011-2012**



David Thornton  
*Director*

Rocky Hanna  
*Principal*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Band Program is open to all interested students who demonstrate the desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Students desiring membership must audition for membership and must have permission from the director.

Students will be placed at the discretion of the director. It should be understood that everyone will have an equal and fair opportunity for band participation. However, from time to time, it may become necessary to exclude or dismiss those students who fail to meet the band's standards. All students enrolled in band are expected to participate in both marching and concert band unless extraordinary circumstances exist that prevent such participation.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE**

The greatest single factor that will determine that success of any individual or organization is attitude. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice daily on fundamentals in concentrated and routine practice. The "right attitude" must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the factor which makes the difference between a quality organization and a mediocre group. You who are in band are a favored few. This organization can do much for you. Make the most of it every rehearsal and performance.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE**

Because of the nature of the organization, discipline must, of necessity, be strict. Students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principle, and rules of the organization. Because band members are constantly on public display, each member must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on the band and school and may well undo the good work of many students. Any student who casts discredit on the band by their conduct or actions, either at school or on a trip, shall be subject to dismissal from the band in addition to other disciplinary action by the school.

Participation in band is a privilege, not a right.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS**

The Leon High School Band has sought discipline through individual responsibility and student leadership. This is a high ideal, and works with the top programs in the country. With individual attention to attitude, discipline and some basic rules, we will continue to mature and develop our band program.

- The reputation of the Leon Band Program will be built on quality of character and musicianship. We expect your best!!!
- All students are expected to behave properly at all times. You are representing Leon High School and Tallahassee, Florida. Anyone guilty of gross misbehavior may be dismissed from the program.
- Absolutely no hazing or initiation of any person in any form will be tolerated.
- Students are required to bring their instrument, music and materials to class every single day. If a student's instrument is in the shop for repair, the student **must** contact Mr. Thornton first thing in the morning to secure another instrument that they can use during class.
- All school rules will be enforced. The Performing Arts Department and school authorities will deal with any infraction of the rules.
- Most importantly, HAVE FUN!



## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

*Attendance can affect your grade!! Be sure to read the following carefully.*

In order to perform our best, we must have every student at every rehearsal and every performance and every event. Absences not only prevent you from learning, it holds back the entire band. Every member is critical to our maximum achievement. With proper planning, conflicts with other events (SGA, Pierian, Sports, Clubs etc.) CAN be avoided and need to be resolved in advance.

Band is a co-curricular activity that is part of the elective fine arts curriculum—rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day are part of that curriculum and therefore a part of your grade. Appointments, work, and vacations should be scheduled around band rehearsals, performances, and activities. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur, therefore **this system is subject to modification by the director.**

**THE ONLY EXCUSABLE ABSENCES FROM BAND PRACTICE OR PERFORMANCES ARE THOSE RECOGNIZED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR NORMAL ATTENDANCE PURPOSES (SEVERE ILLNESS, DEATH IN IMMEDIATE FAMILY, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, etc.)**

### **MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS**

Students who miss a practice during the week of a performance will forfeit their spot on the field for that week's performance. After one performance is missed because of student attendance, the next performance missed will result in a loss of "product" points. (See grading policy below) Exceptions will be made for student illness or family emergency. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur.

### **CONCERT BAND REHEARSALS**

Students who miss after-school rehearsals or sectionals (excused or unexcused) will forfeit points from their grade until the time is made up after school. The make up time will need to be made up after school within one week of the missed rehearsal. Failure to do so will have the students "process" grade lowered as if it were an unexcused absence. See grading policy below.

In order to obtain an excused absence, the following must be met by student/parent:

1. Director must be notified in **advance** (one week in normal situations) via letter or email. Sudden illness does not apply. Request must be approved by director.
2. If a student is in school, he/she is expected at rehearsal that day.
3. **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR BEING TARDY OR ABSENT FROM A REHEARSAL.**
4. All follow-up for the absence is the responsibility of the student and parent.
5. The mere request of excused absence doesn't guarantee it be excused.

### **SPORTS/OTHER ACTIVITIES**

It is my belief that high school is a time where you should be allowed to pursue all things that interest you. However, it is also a time to learn that if you spread yourself too thin, you might not have enough time or energy to achieve any of those things to your full potential. No student will be denied membership in the band program because of interest in other activities, as long as the student meets all requirements of the band program. By being a part of the Leon High School Band you are committing yourself to its FULL involvement.

If you are interested in playing any sports, you **MUST talk with the band director AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR**. Most conflicts can be resolved and worked out ahead of time with careful/responsible planning. It is the responsibility of the student, NOT the director, to resolve conflicts/scheduling issues.

## **VARSITY LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

Band members have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter during their first year, and a service pin each additional year of participation. The criteria are as follows:

1. The student must participate in marching band and a concert band (concert or symphonic) during the entire year.
2. The student must attend ALL scheduled rehearsals and performances unless the absence is excused. Students will be allowed one (1) unexcused absence from rehearsal during the year without. This will help those students who have an unavoidable conflict.
3. The student must adhere to all rules and regulations of the band. Flagrant violations will result in immediate loss of the opportunity to letter.

**\*\*\*NO SUBSTITUTIONS FOR MISSED PERFORMANCES\*\*\***

**ALL LETTER POLICIES ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BAND DIRECTOR AND MAY BE MODIFIED AT ANYTIME**

## **SCHOOL REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

### **MARCHING REDCOATS SCHEDULE**

(August through November)

<u><b>Monday</b></u>	<u><b>Tuesday</b></u> and	<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	<u><b>Friday</b></u>
	Full Band 6:00-8:30pm	<i>Possible sectionals</i>  <b>When we have a game on Thursday, we may practice 6:00-8:30 on Wednesday.</b>	Full Band 6:00-8:30pm  Some games are on Thursdays.	Game Days, you will need to report between 4:00 and 6:00, depending on where the game is.

**\*\*Note: ending times for rehearsals are the time that the rehearsal will be finished, but it may take students up to an additional 15 minutes for announcements and to walk back up to the band room after the practice is over. Therefore, when a rehearsal ends at 8:30, it may be 8:45 or 9:00 by the time they actually leave the band room.**

### **CONCERT SEASON AFTER-SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

*This will be from November through May, and it may change.*

<u><b>Monday</b></u>	<u><b>Tuesday</b></u>	<u><b>Wednesday</b></u>	<u><b>Thursday</b></u>	<u><b>Friday</b></u>
Some weeks in the Spring Semester, this will be Concert Band Rehearsals	Symphonic Band 6:30-8:30pm	Some weeks in the Spring Semester, this will be Concert Band Rehearsals	Symphonic Band 6:30-8:30pm	

Mr. Thornton is usually always available after sectionals for individual help. Please take advantage of this, especially if you are preparing an All-State audition, Solo or Ensemble, or college scholarship auditions.

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE BAND WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR SPECIFIC DATES AND TIMES! THE CALENDAR IS UPDATED ALMOST ON A DAILY BASIS.**

**WWW.LEONBAND.COM**

## **GRADING POLICY**

The philosophy of our band program is based on the statement “the process is just as important as the product.” In this regard, student’s grades will be assigned with 50% weight being on performances and playing evaluations (“the product”). A grade will be assigned for every performance event including concerts, competitions, and football games. The grade given will reflect the quality of the performance and will take into account individual responsibilities (punctuality, uniform, preparedness, etc.) Additionally, in-class playing evaluations for a grade will occur frequently during the year. The content of these evaluations will always be announced in advance. Major rehearsals with a performance component (i.e Rehearse-a-thons) may also count for a performance grade. The average of all of these performance grades will carry 50% of the weight in the student’s final grade for the nine weeks.

The other 50% of the student’s grade will consist of their rehearsal grade (“the process”). Students receive a single grade of 100 points per nine weeks. Each student begins the grading period with 100 points, and penalties to the grade will be assessed as follows:

Unexcused missed rehearsal/sectional	10-
Excused absence not made up with in a week	10-
3 unexcused tardies to rehearsals or class periods	3-
Missing Instrument/field equipment from rehearsal	5-
Missing other required items for rehearsal	3-
Not dressed appropriately for rehearsal	5-
Poor attitude/lack of effort in rehearsal	2 to 10-

Students can earn a maximum of 10 bonus points per grading that will be added on to their rehearsal grade. Some of the possible opportunities to earn bonus points included:

### **Each Grading Period**

Private Lesson (at least six per grading period)	5+
Participation in outside dance company/class	10+

### **First Grading Period**

Attending a summer band (of at least one week)	10+
Audition for All-State Band/Orchestra	5+

### **Second Grading Period**

Acceptance in Tri-State, Festival of Winds, etc	5+
Audition for All-District Band	5+
Participation in TSYO/Tallahassee Winds – Fall Semester (in addition to marching band)	5+

### **Third Grading Period**

Participation in All-State Band/Orchestra	10+
Participation in All-District Band	5+
District Solo & Ensemble	5+
District Solo & Ensemble Superior ratings on at least two events	5+

### **Fourth Grading Period**

State Solo & Ensemble Participation	10+
Participation in TSYO/Tallahassee Winds – Spring Semester	5+

**\*\*\*Students whose rehearsal or “process” grade drops below a 70, will forfeit their opportunity to perform at the next opportunity.\*\*\***

# **BAND FINANCIAL ITEMS**

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

You will have an account, and for every fundraiser you participate in, the money you earn goes into your account. When expenses are due, they will come out of your account leaving all the extra money there for the next expense. Ample fundraising opportunities will be provided by the band booster organization, but if you prefer **not** to fundraise, you may, again, write a check to the “Leon Band” in the amount of the fundraising requirement(s). Any extra fundraising will carry over to the next month, and to the next year.

Your account information can be accessed at ANYTIME via the Charms System - [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)

Parent/Student Login: leonhsb

ID: Your Personal ID Number or Password

Fee Payments can be made through the lockbox in the Band Room.

## **FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

<b><u>FEE</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>	<b><u>DUE DATE</u></b>
<b>ALL BAND MEMBER FEES</b>		
Marching Band Fee	\$160	August 2
New Band Member Fee	\$85	August 2
Uniform Cleaning (not colorguard)	\$100	September 1
Assessment	\$20	November 1
<b>ITEMIZED NEEDS (if needed)</b>		
Polo Shirt	\$15	August 2
Cooler	\$12	August 2
Marching Shoes	\$30	August 2
Gloves	\$5	August 2
Towel	\$2	September 1
Uniform Shirts	\$10	August 2
Shorts	\$15	August 2
Tuxedo (Boys)	\$115	September 1
Concert Dress (Girls)	\$85	September 1
Instrument Rental Fee (yearly)	\$60	August 23
Symphonic Band Fee	\$25	December 1
<b>COLORGUARD SPECIFIC FEES</b>		
Uniform	\$120	May 27
Shoes	\$30	May 27
Warm-ups	\$65	September 1
Show Bag	\$30	August 1
Flag Bag	\$20	September 1
Earrings/Makeup/Hair	\$30	September 1

## **FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

Below is a list of **SOME** of the fundraisers that the band will be participating in. Fundraisers are a very important part of our band program! They help the band program offset some of costs throughout the school year IN ADDITION to providing opportunities for students (YOU) to offset some of their band fees! Some of the fundraisers directly help the band, some directly help the student and some are split between the band and the student. Please be aware that some fundraisers will be required for **ALL STUDENTS**. It is important that we all pitch and help one another and support the continuation of our program!

**Football Concession Stand** – profits will be divided among the parents that work and credited to the students’ accounts.

**Magazine Sales**—all profit goes directly to your account to offset the fees

**Poinsettias**—50% of profits go into your account

**Cookie Dough:** All profits (approximately 40% of each item you sell) will go toward your fundraising fair share.

## **THE BAND ROOM**

We have an outstanding facility at Leon. Take **PRIDE** in this! The band room's appearance will reflect the pride and spirit that the students have in the band. Students have the responsibility to keep the appearance of the room neat and orderly whenever possible. The equipment officers will help to ensure this. Our working environment is reflected in our work, and it also reflects the students' attitudes towards music. A little bit of effort can go along way in preserving our space.

The band room serves as a second home for many of the band students as the music suite serves as the home for many various music students. **ONLY BAND STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM.** Please be respectful of this rule.

Please **DO NOT** eat, drink, or chew gum in the band room, hallways, or practice rooms. **NO FOOD IS ALLOWED IN BAND ROOM, THE BUILDING, OPEN OR UNOPENED, WHETHER YOU ARE EATING IT OR NOT.**

The Band Room is **NOT** a locker. Please, only band related items should be kept in the band room. Do not make it your personal space!

Any violations of the above rules, or any acts of vandalism, may result in a disciplinary referral. Report any act of vandalism immediately, no matter how small. It is never a problem to plan a trip or activity if we show we can take care of our room and equipment.

Please do not enter the Director's office unless he is present. If the door is shut, please knock first. Use good judgment and do not interrupt. Please remember that this is a work space.

### **PRACTICE ROOMS**

Practice rooms are for practicing only... not for hanging out and talking. It should go without saying that writing on the walls, or other forms of vandalism, will not be tolerated. If you are caught misbehaving in a practice room, you will not be allowed in them anymore, and you may be removed from the band program.

### **TELEPHONES**

Do not bring your cell phone to rehearsal. It should not be on your person, in your case, on your stand. **THERE WILL BE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON THIS ISSUE.** All phones will be collected and turned into the Student Affairs Office. Only a parent or guardian can retrieve it from the Student Affairs office.

## **INSTRUMENT LOCKERS**

At the beginning of the year, you will be assigned an instrument locker in the band room. Please make sure that your instrument and all your belongings are securely put away in your locker, with the door closed and **LOCKED** at the end of each rehearsal and each class. During class and rehearsal, all your personal belongings must fit completely in your locker. Anything left around the band room that is not in your locker may be thrown away. Keep your band related items in your locker at all times. **ONLY BAND MATERIALS SHOULD BE KEPT IN YOUR BAND LOCKER.**

**Locks:** A lock will be provided to you as a part of being in band. You must use the lock that is given to you! **NO PERSONAL LOCKS.** If you have a personal lock on your locker it will be cut off and thrown out. Should you lose your lock during the school year, please let Mr. Thornton know and he will provide you with another. **THERE IS A \$10 REPLACEMENT FEE FOR A NEW LOCK.** Please be organized and take care of your personal belongings.

## **FOOTBALL GAMES**

The marching band is the most visible ensemble in the band program at Leon High School. It can also be the most fun. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind to maintain the respect traditionally sought for any marching band.

### **INSPECTION**

All band members will stand inspection before we travel to each game. Your punctuality, bearing, instruments, and personal grooming will be checked carefully. You must be completely prepared for the game performance, including instrument, extra reeds, music flip-folder, all uniform parts clean and worn correctly, etc... If you are not prepared your grade will be reduced for the performance.

- When preparing for inspection before the game:
  - Do not polish your shoes in the band room or in the building—go outside or do it at home
  - Do not polish your horn in the band room—do it outside or at home
- Be on time for “SPOT TIME.” (Report time for inspection) Those not in place, prepared ready to go will lose points toward your grade and you will give up your third quarter break!
- When the band is at “Attention,” there should be no moving, or talking. Show Pride. Show Intensity!
- Any time the band is marching as a group, you are to act in a professional manner. This includes no talking or waving at friends, your shoulders should be back, eyes always forward, and concentrate on your job. **WE ARE PERFORMING!**
- When the entire band is playing, play. When the entire band is not playing, don’t play. Percussion only play when the entire drumline is playing.
- Sit in your assigned seat and do not move around during the game
- Do not do anything that will bring attention to yourself or the band in a negative way.
- When quiet is requested, please respond immediately
- No eating while in uniform! You will be provided dinner before the game. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter you will be given water/soda. Please follow this rule so we can keep our uniforms looking clean!
- During the third quarter break:
  - Pick up your complementary soda or water
  - Stay together near the gathering area or in the band section of the stands
  - Do NOT go into the general seating area of the stands... you are not allowed to go sit with other friends or family. If you want to hang out with your friends or family during the break, have them meet you away from the seating area. Do not sit in the stands with them. (This is a security measure)
  - Officers/Chaperones will be reminding you when it is time to head back to get your instrument and get to the stands. Do not argue with them, and do not give them any “attitude.”
- You must be in your seat, ready to play, **two** minutes before the end of the third quarter.
- Only uniformed people are allowed in the band section—no friends and no parents who aren’t chaperones.
- Be completely and properly uniformed at all times when in public. Keep the uniform jacket zipped up at all times.
- Have fun and show a lot of *school spirit!* That is what it is all about.

### **CHAPERONES**

All students should be polite to all chaperones, and thank them for the help that they give us each game. We couldn’t do the games without all the chaperone help.

Parents who are interested in chaperoning need to call or e-mail the chaperone chairperson. We are **limited to 6 or 8 chaperones** per game. If the chaperone chairperson does not call you and say “yes, we need you to chaperone” please do not plan on riding with us to the game.

1. Bus rides should be fun, but not dangerous. No excessively loud noise, (screaming at the top of their lungs). No profanity; no abuse of uniforms or equipment. Stay seated when the bus is moving.
2. Please assist in checking roll each time we board the bus.
3. Please circulate on the bus to make sure students are behaving properly at all times.
4. Please assist with uniform checks in warm-up area, after students are in warm-up arcs.
5. Please make sure the band seating area is clear.
6. Please assist with plumes during warm-up, prior to performance.
7. Please clean up band seating area, check for lost items.
8. Please clean up and check bus for lost items after arrival at Leon.
9. Please wear your Leon Band Polo

## **CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES**

One of the reasons most students become involved in music is the opportunity to share their artistry with an audience. Part of the learning experience in band is to develop proper stage presence in a performance situation. You will have the opportunity to perform for many different types of audiences including parents, friends, community members, bands from other schools, and football fans.

Although only part of the student's grade is based on performance, ALL students must attend the performances for these reasons:

- It is part of the learning experience as well as a responsibility to you and the other members of your band
- There is no other way to gain the experience of performing under pressure for an audience
- It's fun! The performance is a reward you have earned by practicing and rehearsing.

For the performances to be stress-free and professional, it is important to follow these guidelines:

- Be early
- No pushing, shoving, or horseplay (instruments are expensive)
- No gum, candy, etc.
- Absolute quiet when other groups are playing
- **NO ENTERING OR EXITING WHILE A GROUP IS PLAYING!**
- Uniforms are worn correctly.

## **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE**

This is the most important festival of the year because the students learn individual musicianship, and they get to play individually for a professional player who will help them. Many important things are learned through preparation of a solo or small ensemble that cannot be taught in the full band.

One of the requirements of the band class, as per the "Sunshine State Standards" is to prepare and perform a solo or an ensemble. The piece of music you choose must be on the FBA music list (available from Mr. Thornton or on our website), and it must be at least a grade 3 difficulty level. There will be several tests in class and you will need to have two after school sessions with Mr. Thornton in preparation for the event. Solo and Ensemble festival is an important part of this performance requirement, as it gives you the opportunity to receive feedback from a judge, and get rewarded for all your hard work you did to prepare for the festival. **Solo and Ensemble Festival is strongly encouraged for Concert Band members, and required for Symphonic Band members.**

Students are encouraged to perform either solo's or form ensemble groups. Those students wishing to participate in Solo and Ensemble should let Mr. Thornton know at the beginning of December.

If you choose to do an ensemble, make sure the other members of your ensemble are reliable, academically eligible, and *in the same band class as you*. Ensembles must rehearse together several times before festival. If you choose to do a solo, make sure you are able to pay your accompanist his/her fee (probably around \$30). If you cannot afford this extra cost, do an ensemble or do extra fundraising to cover it. There are three pianists that will be available to come to school to rehearse your solos with you. You will need to sign up for a time as soon as the sign-up sheets are posted.

# **UNIFORMS**

## **MARCHING BAND UNIFORM**

1. They Never Touch the Floor—they are either on their hanger and in the garment bag or on your body.
2. **BE UNIFORM!** When you are in uniform, you are to be in **FULL** uniform--jackets on, zipped up, etc. **NEVER** walk around with your jacket unzipped, or a part of your uniform missing.
3. **PDA**—Public Display of Affection (holding hands, kissing, arms around each other, etc.) in uniform is disrespectful and unprofessional. You are not to touch another student while you are in uniform.
4. Anything that is not a part of your uniform should not be worn when in uniform. This includes hats, watches, bracelets, and long-hanging earrings (small stud earrings are ok). This applies to women and men.
5. Shoes should be clean and shiny.
6. Clean your shako (uniform hat) with a damp rag or paper towel.
7. Hair must be tucked into the hat. If all your hair won't fit under your hat, make it fit or get it cut.
8. Do not attach or wear anything on your uniform that is not part of your uniform. (Pins, metals, etc.--Save them for your band jacket)
9. No food or drink (except water – or provided refreshments) while in uniform.

### **The Marching Uniform Consists of:**

- Band T-Shirt/Band Shorts
- Red Coat
- White Pants
- White “Dinkles” brand marching shoes
- White socks (long athletic socks, not just ankle socks)
- Shako (hat)
- White Towel

### **Prior To the Game:**

1. Line up outside of the uniform room door that's near the outside door.
2. Look up your number and tell the uniform parent volunteer your number so she can get your garment bag
3. Go to the respective dressing room (girls: biology room boys: chorus room)
4. Put on your uniform
  - a. Hat visor should be low—only 2 fingers should fit between your nose and the hat
  - b. Cross belt should cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> button from the bottom. There should be 2 buttons showing above the breastplate and 2 buttons showing below the breastplate.
  - c. Pants should touch the top of your shoes. If they don't, lower your suspenders.
5. Place both hangers inside your garment bag. Put the garment bag either in your locker or somewhere where you can find it after the game
6. **DO NOT TAKE LAUNDRY TAGS OUT OF YOUR COAT OR PANTS. THEY TELL THE DRYCLEANERS WHICH GARMENTS GO BACK TOGETHER.**

### **After The Game:**

1. Put your instrument back in your locker and immediately go to the dressing room to take your uniform off.
2. Hang coat on large plastic hanger and pants on the wire hanger. **FOLD** your pants neatly along the crease before hanging them on the hanger.
3. Put them in the garment bag. (Make sure it is **YOUR** garment bag with **YOUR** number)
4. Make sure the hooks on both hangers face to the right.
5. Put your hat in your hat box.
6. Turn your uniform into the Uniform Managers.
7. Take your shoes, gloves, towel, and socks home and clean them.

## CONCERT UNIFORMS

Concert uniforms can be purchased or rented. They must be uniform: you must wear the tuxedo or dress that is purchased or rented through the band. They are worn for all formal concerts and all festival performances, including Concert, Jazz, and Solo/Ensemble festival.

**Men: The following is included when you rent or buy your uniform from us. It must be complete for every performance:**

- Black Tuxedo Pants with the Satin Stripe
- White Tuxedo Shirt.  
*regular white dress shirts are NOT acceptable—it must have the wing-tip collar and pleats, If you need a replacement shirt, please order one through the band.*
- Black Bow Tie and Cummerbund
- Black Studs and Cuff-links.
- Black Tuxedo Jacket with notch collar

You must also purchase the following:

- Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes, no skating shoes, no Dinkles, and no Doc Martin/Sketcher-type shoes. Dress shoes only.)
- Black Socks

**Women: the Leon Concert Dress**

- All ladies in the symphonic band wear the same style dress, purchased or rented from the band.

You must also purchase the following:

- Black FLAT Dress Shoes.
- Tan/Natural colored Hose are preferred.

## HOME PRACTICE

Home practice plays an important part in the musical growth of any musician. Further, educational research has proven that a student's ability to perform on a musical instrument will improve at a rate directly proportional to the quantity of time and effort expended in practice. However, the **QUALITY** of practice is also important. Practice doesn't make perfect, **PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT**. Only **PERFECT** practice makes perfect (practicing the right things), so don't practice bad habits, and don't play something sloppy over and over, because it will just get sloppier. Practice slow and perfect, gradually increasing the tempo but keeping everything else perfect. If that doesn't work, practice one note at a time, then gradually put them together. One note at a time, then one count at a time, then one measure at a time, then one phrase at a time, then one section at a time, etc. **Anything worth doing, is worth doing SLOW!**

**Home practice is EXPECTED everyday... GET BETTER EVERYDAY!**

## PRIVATE LESSONS

It is highly recommended that all Leon Band members take private lessons. Nothing can replace expert individual attention on your specific instrument. It will be especially beneficial for auditions for things such as all-state and music scholarships. Even if you are not planning on majoring in music, several universities offer music scholarships to non-music majors. Studying privately is extremely important for your musical development at Leon High School. If you cannot afford private lessons, see Mr. Thornton for some extra fundraising opportunities or other ways to cover the cost.

## TRIPS

School regulations are in effect for the duration of all school sponsored activities. All students will ride the band busses to and from all events. Anyone who needs to do otherwise must have prior permission from the director. Students will only be released to parents or guardians, and must present a note in advance.

Most trips require extra fundraising. If you are in a band class that takes a trip that requires extra fundraising, you are expected to follow through with this commitment and do that fundraising or pay the balance. If money is a problem, talk to me and we can find solutions as long as you are making an effort in regards to fundraising and your musicianship (practicing regularly and making great improvements). For example, there are some alumni who might be willing to help out a student who works very hard but cannot afford to pay the entire amount for the trip.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

The student leaders are the best students that Leon High School has. They go through a training process and put a lot of time, effort, and heart into the band at Leon High School. Therefore, all student leaders should be the most respected members of the band. All leaders are also expected to set a good example musically, by working the hardest on their musicality, taking private lessons, auditioning for All-State and All-District, and doing everything they can to become the best musician possible. Leaders are expected to put the best interest of the band ahead of their own ego, just as all members of the band should.

*All leaders should be the first ones at rehearsals and the last ones to leave. There is a lot of extra time involved in being a good leader, but also a lot of extra reward and respect.*

**Band Captain:** This student works with the Drum Major as the Section Leaders' Leader to help make sure everything is going as it should be. The band captain is responsible for keeping a positive and productive atmosphere in the band. Other duties include running council/officer meetings and awarding weekly awards before football games.

**Drum Major:** In addition to conducting the music and calling all commands in the field show, the drum major assists the Band Captain with any band matters. He or she is the Section Leaders' Section Leader and is responsible for ensuring that rehearsals begin and end of time and all band members are ready to go.

**Colorguard Captain:** The guard captain is chosen based on his or her proven leadership abilities and is expected to act as a leader during rehearsals and performances. They should be able to assist any guard members with issues concerning the routines or marching. The guard captain also ensures that the closet is organized and maintained.

**Secretary:** Assists the director with any office administration matters. They are to keep an organized notebook with all the attendance & rehearsal grades for marching band events., record minutes at all council/officer meetings. If a meeting time is needed the Secretary is to coordinate with the Band Captain to assure that everyone is informed of a time and place.

**Librarians:** they maintain and organize the music library. They copy parts for all the music we play. There are certain times when the librarians need to be in the band room a lot longer than other band members. They will need to come in over the summer to copy stands music, and they often stay after school or after rehearsal to copy or file music. They also catalog and enter into the computer, with the assistance of the director, any new music we purchase.

**Equipment Managers:** Handle everything to do with the band's equipment. They assist with the inventory process. They arrive early and help load and unload equipment on the truck or busses for trips. They make sure all equipment gets to the field before rehearsal (podium, Long Ranger, paint, etc.). They help keep the band room clean by straightening out the chairs and stands after every rehearsal, and throwing away anything that people leave on the floor of the band room instead of their lockers. They confiscate any instruments that are left out of lockers, and turn them into the band director, and confiscate any music folders left out and turn them into the librarians.

**Uniform Managers:** Handle all aspects of working with the band's uniforms. These individuals help band parents maintain the schools uniform inventory. They are responsible for helping with any preseason uniform/apparel distribution and assisting with uniform issues during the school year. Following band events, these students help ensure that all uniforms a hung up properly before being stored for the week.

**Section Leaders:** These leaders are responsible for their specific instrument section. They learn everyone's part, call sectionals regularly, and help everyone with their music and technique. During rehearsals, they correct problems in a quiet and non-disruptive way. They constantly check the members of their section for proper posture, playing position, technique, horn angle, tone quality, intonation, and blend, and make corrections in a positive and polite way. They make sure every drill formation is perfect, every transition is perfect, and that everyone in their section is executing everything correctly. They also take attendance at the beginning of each rehearsal and report tardiness and absences to the attendance secretary. They maintain discipline in every rehearsal (in a positive and polite way), and report any problems to the drum major or band director for disciplinary action.

**Squad Leaders:** Their primary responsibility is to help fundamentally train our new members. They must be outstanding marchers and musicians, always prepared for rehearsal, and consistently setting an example on and off the field. They should be willing and able to assist any other members of the band who may need individual help.

## **LEON BAND PARENT ORGANIZATION**

The LBPO are the support organization of the band. The primary purpose is to help the band through fundraising, chaperoning trips, and building and maintaining equipment, issuing and repairing uniforms, and anything else they can do to help support and maintain an enthusiastic interest in band-related activities to the school's music program. Remember, if you are a parent or guardian of a student participating in the Leon High School Band, you are a member of the 'band parent organization'. Membership is also open to anyone who wants to help the Leon High School Band in any way they can. Getting involved with the booster organization will help the program continue be successful, and will show your child that you support and care about what he or she is doing.

For more information about how you can help, please visit our web site at [www.leonband.com](http://www.leonband.com). Our booster president is Melanie Goodson and she will be happy to talk with you about the band and how you can help. She can be reached at [melanieg@hgslaw.com](mailto:melanieg@hgslaw.com).

## **BAND WEBSITE**

Our website is the best way to stay informed about the band. It contains the calendar, announcements, pictures, music, an alumni forum, e-mail lists of the boosters, minutes of the booster meetings, etc. Some of the features of the website are password protected for the privacy of our members and students, or for copyright reasons. Here is the login information:

Login: **leonband**

Password: **redcoats1940**

When you are Logged In, a "Members Only" menu item will appear.

# **BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CONTRACT**

I/we hereby proclaim that I/we have read, and understand everything in the “Leon High School 2011-2012 Band Information Handbook.” This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. All Rules, regulations, and policies
2. Ensemble Requirements
3. Solo and Ensemble Festival Requirement
4. Private Lessons Suggestion and Information
5. Expectations and Responsibilities
6. Grading, Attendance, and Tardiness Policies
7. Uniform Policies
8. Procedures and Rules for Football Games
9. Fundraising requirements and financial information
10. Calendar, understanding that it is subject to change and additions
11. Rehearsal Schedule, and understand that it is subject to change.

I/We understand that not adhering to the regulations and policies of the Leon High School Band might result in disciplinary action, removal of performance privileges, or removal from the band program.

Signed:

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

(Band Member)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Guardian)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Guardian)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_