



2021-2022 Band Handbook

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Philosophy of District 92 Bands

Band at Oak Prairie Junior High School is regarded as an academic subject for all who participate. Although Band is an elective class, Band members must adhere to all the requirements set forth in the District 92 Student Handbook.

Beginning Band at Ludwig School is regarded as a co-curricular activity. Because Band is a cumulative subject, Beginning Band members must adhere to the attendance, practice and assignment policies outlined in this handbook.

Band classes are designed to provide students with Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance and study of the elements of music. District 92 Bands intended purpose is to nurture and develop children in a community, centered around music-making. Our hope is that children develop an appreciation for the aesthetic of arts, that they understand the human experience, and that they develop skills and knowledge that will help them be successful in life.

Why Music?

I. Music is a Science. It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph that indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.



II. Music is Mathematical. It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

[Why Music Matters](#)

III. Music is a Foreign Language. Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that used symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

IV. Music is History. Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

V. Music is Physical Education. It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear, hears and the mind interprets.

VI. Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.

VII. Music is all these things, but most of all, Music is Art.

It allows a human being to take all these dry technically boring, (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

Curricular Band Classes

Ludwig Beginning Band



The Ludwig Band gives students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and is open to any 5th grade student. The focus of Beginning Band is on developing good fundamentals of playing on their instrument. Students will have one 20 minute pull out group lesson per week based on a rotating schedule, so that a student will not miss the same class more than once every four weeks. This has proven to be very effective at delivering and differentiating instruction in small groups.

Oak Prairie Beginning Band

The [Oak Prairie Beginning Band Curriculum](#) is designed for students new to the band program. Students have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and is open to any 6th grade student. Students will have one 20 minute pull out group lesson per week during band class. This has proven to be very effective at delivering and differentiating instruction in small groups. The 6th Grade Band develops skills appropriate, including learning and knowledge of major and minor scales, terminology, and performance skills.

Oak Prairie Intermediate Band

The Oak Prairie Intermediate Band is designed for students in their 2nd and 3rd year of playing a musical instrument. The [Curriculum for the Intermediate Band](#) is geared towards the advancing junior high school musician in developing ensemble skills. The Intermediate Band is open to any student in their second or third year of playing.

Oak Prairie Advanced Band

The Oak Prairie Advanced Band consists of the most advanced musicians in their 3rd or 4th years of playing. The [Curriculum for the Advanced Band](#) focuses on advanced performance skills and comprehensive musicianship.

Due to instrumentation and musicianship needs, the Intermediate and Advanced Bands may combine for some (or parts of some) performances.



Extra-Curricular Band Activities

Jazz Band (September - April)

The Oak Prairie Jazz Band is designed for students in the music department who wish to broaden their musical experiences in the style of a traditional big band. This year, the Jazz Band will be open to any students interested without audition. Jazz Band performs at various festivals throughout the year, including the Lincoln Way Central Jazz Festival, the Lockport Area Jazz Festival, the Prairie State Jazz Festival, among others. The Jazz Band also performs with local jazz bands at venues in the southwest suburbs.

United Sound (September - May)

United Sound is an opportunity for band students to work with New Members to remove barriers and foster social change. Our goal is to support musicians and educators to use music as a vehicle for transformative change. Working with peer mentors, teaching artists, specialists, therapists, educators, composers, performers, and industry professionals, United Sound provides training, support, organizational resources, and curriculum that leverage individual strengths to create equitable opportunities and outcomes for all.

Through our own experiences, we know that the joy of learning and performing music is life-changing. We believe that all children should have access to meaningful and authentic music education and musical experiences.

ILMEA Concert Band and ILMEA Jazz Band (September - November)

The Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) is the state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Aside from advocating on the state and national level, ILMEA sponsors district and state level contests designed to bring the best students from across the state together. **To audition for ILMEA Concert Band or the ILMEA Jazz Band students should have received the ILMEA music packet in May.**

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest (November - February)

Band students are given the opportunity to perform solos and/or ensembles for the District 92 Solo and Ensemble Festival and the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) contest in February.

Student Safety & Equipment



District 92 is very proud of the facilities that it offers to its students. It is everyone's responsibility to treat the facilities with the respect they deserve. It is important that each student play his/her part in keeping things orderly and functional. Items such as music, folders, instruments and personal belongings should be kept in their proper locations.

Students: Think and act responsibly whenever using the band room. No one has permission to touch sound equipment in the band room, except for the instructor. The equipment is very delicate and extremely costly to repair.

It is important that all students have identification on their instrument cases. If misplaced, lost or in for repair, the identification tag will make it much easier to identify. This will also eliminate problems of loss or mix-ups.

Band members may keep their instruments in the band room instrument storage areas during the school day. Oak Prairie students each have their own band lockers. Only instruments and music should be kept in the band lockers. Folders should not be kept inside instrument cases.

No gum, candy, food or drinks are allowed in the Band Room or practice rooms.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, District 92 will follow [these recommendations](#) based on scientific studies at University of Colorado. In accordance with guidelines set up by NAFME, NFHS, CBDNA, CDC and IDPH, the following precautions must be taken into consideration when in school:

- Please wear masks at all times. Masks can be modified if needed for instrument playing. This mask should be only used for band and kept with the instrument.
- Please use nylon bell covers. This reduces the aerosol disbursement from instruments
- Please maintain social distancing guidelines of 3-6ft
- Please refrain from talking, especially while others are playing or talking
- Absolutely no sharing of instruments, drumsticks or any equipment.

Recommended Instruments

It is very important to consider many factors when renting an instrument. Perhaps the most important is the service and support provided during the rental period so that your child has an instrument that works well and will be successful. Please only purchase a musical instrument from a musical instrument dealer. [Quinlan and Fabish](#) is a local musical instrument dealer that provides exceptional service and delivers materials to District 92 schools once a week. Their phone number is (800) 63-SOUSA or online at www.gandf.com Unfortunately, some cheaper “toy instruments” are marketed as band instruments and do not stand up to the rigors of playing daily for more than a short period of time, a frustrating and costly mistake we hope to avoid for students and parents alike.

These are the District 92 Required Instruments:

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Selmer, Trevor James

Oboe: Yamaha, Selmer, Buffet

Clarinet: Yamaha, Selmer, LeBlanc, Buffet, Vito, Backun

Clarinet Mouthpiece: Vandoren 5RV Lyre mouthpiece

Clarinet Ligature: Rovner

Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer, Keilwerth, Buffet-Crampton, Eastman

Saxophone Mouthpiece: Vandoren AL3

Saxophone Ligature: Rovner

Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba: Yamaha, Bach (Selmer), Getzen, Eastman, Jupiter

F Horn: Yamaha, Holton, Conn, Eastman

Baritone/Euphonium: Yamaha, Jupiter, Besson, Selmer (full size preferred)

Percussion: Xylophone Kit with Drum Pad: Yamaha, Pearl or Musser

See Supply List (page 10) for Specific Sticks and Mallets

School Owned Instruments



Instruments that are not of a practical nature to own are provided by the school for student use. The student is responsible for the care, maintenance and security of a school owned instrument. Any student issued a school owned instrument will be required, along with his/her parent or guardian, to sign a **School Owned Instrument Contract**.

There is a \$90/ school year maintenance fee for use of a school instrument. If a school owned instrument is damaged beyond the \$90

fee, destroyed or lost due to abuse or neglect, it is the responsibility of the person who has checked out that school owned instrument. If the instrument is returned with missing, damaged or excessively dirty parts, the student will be responsible for the repair, replacement or repair bills that ensue to return the instrument to its originally loaned condition (beyond \$90). This fee can be paid \$10/month for 9 months. If the fee is paid all at once at the beginning of the year, the fee is reduced to \$80.

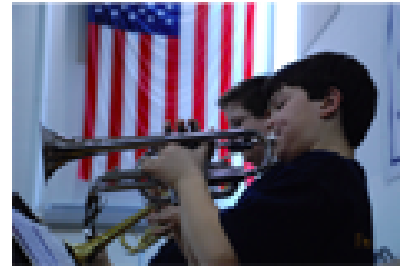
For students using instruments over the summer the fee will be \$30.

Care of Instruments

It is the responsibility of each student to keep his or her equipment in well maintained and working order. All students will be informed of how to maintain and clean their instruments properly.



Accessories such as reeds, valve oil, slide cream, slide grease are available from any music store or company. Be sure to keep a good supply on hand. Feel free to order these directly from [Quinlan and Fabish](#) for delivery to Oak Prairie and Ludwig Schools.



[Videos on Instrument Care](#)

Instrument Repair

Instrument repair is a highly specialized skill. It is very easy to damage an instrument in an attempt to repair it if you are not a trained professional. Please share any instrument problems with your director so we can assess the problem and make recommendations as to what sort of repair is necessary. This will help protect you and your instrument from costly repairs.

Music Uniforms

Oak Prairie Band students will have this uniform:

- Black d92 Music Polo with shirt tucked in
- Black pants – no jeans, shorts, or skirts
- Black dress shoes and socks – no gym shoes

Band Music

District 92 has an amazing library of band music. This can be attributed to the long history of bands in District 92 and respect for written music. These pieces are sometimes very old and are very difficult (not to mention costly) to replace.

- Sheet music is the textbook of the band class and should be treated with respect at all times.
- Always use **PENCIL** when making notes on your music and completely erase any pencil marks that you make in your music.



Supply List

All students **MUST** have:

- Pencil
- Music Stand for at home practice
- Band Method Books:
 - Ludwig Beginning Band & Oak Prairie 6th Grade Band
 - Tradition of Excellence Band Method Book 1
 - Oak Prairie 7th & 8th Grade Bands - Measures of Success Book 2

Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone)

- At least three good reeds at all times. **VanDoren**, **Legere** and **Emerald** are acceptable reeds.
Please only buy these brands.
- **Strength of 2.5 (6th Grade) or 3 (7th & 8th Grade) are acceptable.**
- Reed guard
- Cork grease
- Cleaning swab

Brass (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba)

- Valve oil (spray bottle for trombones)
- Slide grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- “Snake” internal slide cleaner made for brass instruments
- 7th and 8th Grade Mouthpiece Upgrade
 - Trumpet 3C
 - French Horn Holton Farkas MC
 - Trombone/Baritone 6 1/2 AL
 - Tuba Conn Helleberg 7B
- Mutes will be made available through school if required. Students can purchase individual mutes if they like, but please only purchase Denis Wick or Jo-Ral mutes.

Percussion

- Drum sticks – **Vic Firth American Custom SD1**
- Xylophone/bell mallets – Musser Two Step Med. Hard Rubber mallets
- Yarn mallets – Medium (any color)
- Stick bag – Please label all equipment and bags

Grading

Ludwig Beginning Band

Ludwig Beginning Band students will not receive a band grade on their report card.

Oak Prairie Bands

A grade is given each quarter at Oak Prairie because band is a part of the school curriculum. A major portion of the band grade is based on performance assessments given at home (using recording software) or during class. The grading process also considers rehearsal preparation, attendance, concerts, written assignments, home practice and daily effort.

50% - Formative Assessments – Includes having all class materials (instruments, music), daily informal assessments, practicing your parts at home, and being an active participant

50% - Summative Assessments - Skills that are demonstrated during class or through authentic performance assessments (Concert Performances, Google Classroom Assignments & In-Class Assessments)

Performances

All District 92 Band members perform throughout the year. These events are the culmination of daily rehearsals and give students the opportunity to share what they've learned. **Absences will only be excused if written notification is given by a Parent/Guardian to the Director at least 10 Business Days prior to the performance.** Family emergencies will be excused (illness, death in family, etc).

Any student who misses a performance will have the opportunity to complete a make-up assignment. Please mark your calendars carefully at the beginning of the year to avoid any conflicts with performances. Additional dates may be added, especially for extra-curricular ensembles. We will inform you of any changes as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for understanding.

Performance Dates

Additional dates may be added - [Please check the Band Website for the Most Up To Date Information](#)

August 26 - 27 - Instrument Try-Outs (Oak Prairie and Ludwig)

August 31 - Instrument Sign-up Night with Quinlan and Fabish@ OP Cafeteria

September 17-24 - Concert Clothing Drive - We will gladly accept any gently used black pants or black dress shoes in our d92 Concert Clothing Drive. Donation bins are available outside the Oak Prairie Main Office.

Due October 8th - [ILMEA Junior Level Auditions](#) (completed virtually, with online video submissions)

November 6 - ILMEA Junior Festival (Lincoln-Way Central HS)

November 12-13 - OP Fall Musical Production

November 13 - ILMEA Jazz Festival (Oak Lawn Community High School)

November 15 - Fall Band Concert @ Oak Prairie (6th Grade Band, 7th/8th Grade Bands, Jazz Band)

December 10 - Lockport Bands Step-Up Day (Lockport East HS)

December 17 - 7th&8th Grade Band/Choir Assembly @ Ludwig

January 20 - Ludwig Beginning Band Concert @ Ludwig (7pm)
Ludwig Band and OP Jazz Band

January 25 - Lockport Bands 8th Grade Information Night
Required for 8th Graders attending Lockport

February 12 - Jazz Band - Lincoln Way Jazz Festival @ Lincoln-Way Central (PM)

February - District 92 Solo and Ensemble Festival @ Oak Prairie 4 - 8pm - Select Students

February - IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest @ TBA - Select Students (AM)

March 1 - Lockport Middle School Band Festival @ LTHS East (7pm) - 8th Grade Band

March TBA - ILMEA Large Group Festival @ Wentz Hall, Naperville (Time TBA) -
7th & 8th Grade Bands

<http://band.d92.org>

March 10 - Music In Our Schools Month Concert (Times TBD) -
8th Grade Choir, 7th & 8th Grade Bands, Hi-C Choir, Jazz Band

March TBA - Naperville Big Band Festival @ Neuqua Valley High School (Time TBA)

March TBA - 6th Grade Band & Choir Performance at Ludwig (PM)

May 10 - Spring Band Concert @ Oak Prairie (Times TBA)
Ludwig Band, 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band

May 16 - Haunted Trails (tentative)

Google Classroom

Students will use **Google Classroom** accounts to assess their progress in band classes. To do this you will need the following:

Mobile Option

- **iPad**, Tablet, or SmartPhone with access to a Video Camera
- **Google Classroom, Docs & Sheets** apps
- **Individual Practice Studio (IPS) App** - Free, use the code in your Tradition of Excellence books to Login
- **Soundtrap App** - Provided by School with School Google Login
- **Tempo Lite** metronome - Free
- **Tempo SlowMo App** - Free
- **Zoom** - Free, Google Login Required

Computer-Based Option

A computer with a camera and microphone may also be used with the following website:

- www.metronome.com
- classroom.google.com

Home Practice

Home practice helps make it possible to play a musical instrument to the best of one's ability. All band members must practice regularly at home to insure progress. The benefits of home practice include building self-confidence and pride in one's performance. The recommended practice goal is 30 minutes a day, five days per week. However, **Quality of practice time is more important than quantity of practice time.** Although this is not part of the assignment completion grade, it does factor into class participation.



[Tips for Practicing](#)

Parents – please monitor your child's practice. Remember, only YOU can enforce it! Musicians cannot improve without a proper practice routine. We want your child to be the best possible musician they can be!

You may ask yourself, *"What can I do to help?"*

1. Show an interest in your child's musical progress, being careful not to make fun of the strange sounds you may hear from time to time.
2. Be interested in your child's growth and listen to your child. Parents don't have to have a musical background to recognize improvement.
3. Set a daily and weekly practice schedule in an environment that will be quiet and free of distractions.
4. Have your child perform on occasion for you or their family. They will become much more comfortable performing for others!
5. Show your support at performances and by chaperoning events and trips.

Applied Lessons

It is impossible to overemphasize the positive impact of applied lessons. Individual instruction is the best way to help students fulfill their potential. The main benefit of an applied lesson is weekly one-on-one instruction with a specialist on the same instrument. An instructor will immediately reinforce strengths and give specific suggestions for improvement. [Lockport Township High School](#) provides many applied instructors during the afternoon and evening hours. Please consult this list for up to date lists of applied instructors.



[Lockport Applied Staff](#)

Discipline

Needless to say, no large organization can function without well-disciplined participants. It is not required that any student take band. Therefore, it is assumed by the directors that all students are willing participants. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to all rules set forth by the directors as well as those set forth by the school district.

Proper behavior at all performances is extremely important and expected. The actions of one member reflect upon all members of our organization, school and community. **Inappropriate behavior while traveling to, from or at any performance will be cause for dismissal from the program and school discipline.**

Tips for Success in Band

1. Keep up with assignments!
 - Complete written assignments and turn them in on time!
 - Keep track of your scores in PowerSchool!
 - Use the tools on the Band Website & Google Classroom – recordings, assignments and documents are posted there!
2. Practice everyday - You can achieve anything if you set your mind to it!
3. Take applied lessons - You'll be amazed at the improvement and increased enjoyment!
4. Keep track of the calendar
 - Students need to be at performances. If a conflict is unavoidable, please follow our guidelines so we may excuse the absence. The website calendar is constantly updated. Click *Calendar* on the top of any band page.
5. Sign-up for the band email list at <http://band.d92.org> (by completing the Registration Form)
 - It's a great way to get announcements and reminders.
6. Stay organized!
 - Use your band folder for band materials ONLY - Keep your assignment sheets, band music and handouts together.



[Tips for Success](#)

[OakPrairieBand](#)



[@WCSD92music](#)

