

# Combined Band

Mr. John Becker

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## Course Welcome/Intro

Band is designed to provide students with playing experience a unique opportunity to enjoy the process of becoming better musicians within a traditional concert band setting. Every student is required to fully engage with fellow musicians and the director in making music at the highest level possible.

## Required Course Materials

- Chromebook: Charged Chromebooks are to be brought to class on a daily basis and used appropriately according to U-46 policies.
- Instrument in good working order; case should be clearly labeled with student name
- Instrument specific supplies (reeds, oil, grease)
- Music stand (for home use)
- Pencil
- Text: Measures of Success Book 1
- Text: Band Technique Step-By-Step

## Classroom Expectations

- |             |                           |                           |              |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| •Integrity  | •Failure Leads to Success | •Speaks With Good Purpose | •This is It! |
| •Commitment | •Ownership                | •Flexibility              | •Balance     |

Please also refer to “Larsen Concert Band Expectations 2019-20” following this page.

## Reassessment Policy

Students may reassess prior to the next Summative Assessment after completing a Request for Reassessment Form and scheduling the time for reassessment outside of regular class time. Please note: The reassessment score will always replace the original assessment score, whether higher or lower.

## Other Classroom Policies

Only Summative Assessment scores will count toward an overall grade calculation. Regular home practice is expected and will affect personal growth and performance.

## Additional Support

Students must make prior arrangements with me for additional support. I am often available at lunch times or after school.

## Larsen Concert Band Expectations 2019-20

The director and students will strive to live by the Eight Keys of Excellence.

Director responsibilities: The director will instruct, communicate, assess, and encourage in a professional manner. Every student will be given daily opportunities to learn and grow in a safe environment.

Rehearsal/Sectional procedures: Students will do their best in rehearsals and sectionals to collaborate with other musicians to create the best music possible through active participation and respectful behavior.

Weekly group lesson (“Sectional”) participation: Students will take responsibility for attending every sectional, which are scheduled on a rotating, pullout (from other classes) basis. They will discuss any potential attendance conflicts with the director beforehand if possible. Unexcused absences will be addressed according to the guidelines in Larsen’s Student Code of Conduct. Student learning is directly dependent on regular Sectional participation.

At-home practice: Students and parents will establish and maintain a regular home practice schedule. The ideal schedule will include at least four days per week of practice in a distraction-free place and at a pre-determined time. Each student will develop a personal practice plan within the first two weeks of school. Student home practice times will include a warm-up routine, substantial work on assigned music, and a goal of mastery of all Level 3 curriculum standards, plus concert music, except where indicated. An ideal practice session typically will last at least 20-30 minutes.

Performances: Parents and students will work together to ensure participation at all scheduled performances (unless the event is marked as optional). The School District U-46 Concert Attendance Acknowledgment Form applies. Students will give their best effort at performance events, including performance and behavior. In the case of a missed performance, excused or unexcused, the student will be expected to perform their concert parts for the director as their concert grade.

Concert attire: Students are expected to be dressed neatly and professionally for concert events. Concert attire: Boys: plain white collared dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black shoes. Girls: plain white blouse or sweater, black dress pants OR long black skirt, black socks/hose, black shoes. Parents will ensure that concert attire is clean and neat for concert events.

Instrument and instrument supplies: Students will be responsible for bringing a high-quality instrument (snare sticks for percussion) in good working condition and all supplies to class every day unless told otherwise. Supplies include at least three working reeds (clarinet/saxophone), oil/slide cream (brass), and a small cleaning rag (except percussion). The director will offer supplies at discount prices.

Instrument care: Students will care for their instrument to minimize wear and tear and maximize function. This includes regular cleaning and lubrication where necessary. When adjustments or repairs are necessary, parents and students are responsible for obtaining professional service, and are also responsible for securing a “loaner” instrument. Music & Arts Center (630-285-1485) is recommended by the director, and a store

representative visits Larsen on Thursday afternoons for pick-ups and drop-offs. The student should notify the parent and the director IMMEDIATELY if their instrument needs adjustment or repair.

Instrument Identification: Students and parents should clearly mark the student's instrument on the outside with the student's name, and on the inside with the student's name and phone number. A luggage-style tag on the outside is preferred.

School-owned instruments/rentals: The director will offer school-owned instrument rentals where needed, including all necessary percussion equipment, according to District U-46 policy. Students and parents should treat these instruments with similar respect as if they were owned by the family.

School music/books: Students will care for school-owned sheet music and books by storing them in their band folder. School-owned items must be returned by year's end unless directed otherwise.

Purchases through the director: Any payment made to the director must be in the form of a check made payable to "Larsen Middle School," with the purpose noted on the memo line. If paying with cash, it MUST be in a sealed envelope marked with the student's name, amount, and the purpose of the payment. Please use exact change to expedite transactions. Loose cash will generally not be accepted.

Concert attendance: A Performance Calendar and Concert Attendance Expectations form are provided to families.

**Larsen Middle School • 2019-2020**

Parent Signature Form

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Please share with your parents or guardians and have this signed and returned by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Students:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the syllabus and agree to bring my best attitude and effort to class every day.

**Parents/Guardians:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the syllabus.

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian preferred language: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to be contacted? (You may select multiple methods)

\_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email

1. What is the best time of day to reach you by phone?
2. Is there any additional information you would like to share about your child?