

# **Cross Lutheran School**



## **Band Program Handbook**

## **FORWARD**

This handbook was designed to aid students and their parents to better understand the policies, organizational structure and general functioning of the Cross Lutheran Band Program.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

It is the desire of the Cross Lutheran Band Program to always represent itself well through excellence in performance. This excellence can only be attained through discipline, hard work, sacrifice, dedication and pride. Our success as a group and as individuals is based upon our willingness and determination to be the best. It is the hope of your director that, among other values, a sense of responsibility will be realized. This responsibility should not only be concerned with every note or symbol on a page of music, but should also be concerned with a feeling of loyalty and obligation to every member. This loyalty can best be evidenced, in an external way, by presence, punctuality and wholehearted participation in whatever capacity is deemed important by either the student government or the director. Let us remember that each of us is dependent upon the other.

The goals of the Cross Lutheran Band Program are to honor and glorify God through providing students with excellent instruction and exposure to a variety of musical experiences so that they can :

1. discover and value the inherent beauty of music
2. become independent musicians by learning the fundamentals of music
3. play with the proper technique, posture, hand position and embouchure
4. experience the teamwork of playing music with others
5. develop a life-long love of music

### **Expectations:**

1. attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances
2. come prepared to each rehearsal with all music, a pencil, instrument, folding music stand, and reeds/valve oil as needed
3. be on time
4. practice 30 minutes each day

It is my sincere wish that we will have a successful and rewarding year. Please read this handbook in its entirety and keep it in a handy place for future reference. Discuss it with your parents. Detach the form found on Page 7 and return it completed by your parents to Mrs. Lietz.

## OVERVIEW OF THE CROSS LUTHERAN BAND PROGRAM

**BEGINNING BAND** is the organization that lays the foundation for the entire Instrumental Music Program. The Beginning Band rehearses two mornings a week for approximately 50 minutes each morning and participates in a Winter Demonstration concert and the Spring Concert. Recruitment is held annually in August to enlist for membership students with no previous instrumental musical experience. General requirements merely include a desire to excel musically and a willingness to conform to Music Department guidelines.

**CONCERT BAND** is a more musically advanced group consisting of members who have had some previous instrumental musical experience (usually Beginning Band) and who have successfully displayed a degree of proficiency required by the directors. This group meets two mornings a week for a period of 50 minutes each morning, and participates in the Winter and Spring concerts. Members also participate in State Solo and Ensemble Contests.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Students who desire to be in Concert Band must meet three conditions:

1. Must have completed 1 year of beginning band and be able to meet certain musical standards determined by the director.
2. Demonstrate a good attitude and are willing to work toward successfully conforming to the Music Department philosophy.

Many students show a keen desire to musically excel above the course of daily activities. To this end, we offer extracurricular opportunities for extended growth in musicianship:

- **SOLOS AND ENSEMBLES** provide a tremendous opportunity to develop and display individual ability and a knowledge of repertoire. Students are strongly encouraged to participate.
- **FESTIVALS** are an exciting opportunity for auditioned students to be a part of a massed ensemble under the direction of some of the finest guest clinicians in the state.

## **THE CHALLENGE SYSTEM**

The student determines what chair and band they will perform in through try-outs and challenges. The challenge involves two students and the director. The director determines what will be performed and grades each player. The student with the higher score wins the challenge.

## **GENERAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS**

1. Each action by any band student is a reflection of the entire Band Department. Conduct yourself in a manner worthy of membership.
2. Do not waste time or talk during rehearsals, study your part when another section is being rehearsed.
3. Have a pencil with you at all times.
4. When performing or involved in band activities, your grooming and attire will be consistent with the wishes of the directors.
5. **ALWAYS** wear your uniform in its entirety unless exceptions are made by the directors.
6. No food or gum is allowed at any time during rehearsals or performances.
7. Maintain good posture as prescribed by your directors.

8. All students shall be responsible for maintaining and bringing all music to every rehearsal.
9. Instruments must be taken home each day and not left in school. They must have a nametag or label with student's name, address and phone.
10. All band music should be numbered before the rehearsal following its distribution.
11. Instruments are to be maintained in good playing condition at all times.
12. Participation in private lessons is strongly advised. (See pg. 10).

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

All band members will be given a progress report to be reviewed by a parent or guardian. Reports will be issued in the following sequence:

Beginners	December, April
Concert	November, April

These reports are designed to help the students and parents by providing recommendations by the director. The Instrumental Music Department feels parent-teacher communication is vital. Parents may call the band director whenever they feel it is necessary. The number to call is 830-387-4770

### **PERFORMANCES AND EXTRA REHEARSALS**

From time to time there will be extra rehearsals. Some of these rehearsals will be with the full ensemble and others will include sections from a particular ensemble according to the discretion of the directors. Generally, the full ensemble rehearsals will be held in the evening.

Performances are scheduled throughout the school year and are usually publicized well in advance so that all members of the department may know their involvement.

Public performances and extra rehearsals are considered examinations and students will receive extra points for them. Therefore, unexcused absences will result in a student receiving double demerits based on the same scale as award points.

## AWARDS

1st Year Award	Completion of Beginning Band - Certificate
2nd Year Award	Band Letter
3rd Year Award	Band Pin
4th Year Award	Plaque

Awards may be earned by accumulating points through your efforts in different aspects of the Instrumental Music Program. See the chart below. Students whose point totals for the year are above the 80% mark (based on maximum points actually earned by the student in band) will be eligible for an award.

## POINT SYSTEM

Morning rehearsals _____	4 points
Extra rehearsal _____	20
Performance _____	50
Individual help _____	1
Solo/Ensemble - one event _____	20
Solo/Ensemble - more than one event _____	40
Approved concert/clinic* _____	4
Private lesson (recommended teacher) _____	4 each
Approved outside music camp _____	50

\* Program and report required.

Demerits (loss of points) may be applied in various amounts at the discretion of the directors for infractions or undesirable conduct.

Points for awards will be earned beginning the day after the Spring Award Presentation and continuing through to the next spring.

## UNIFORMS

Each of the performing groups in the Instrumental Department has its own specific code of dress during performances. Some items are supplied by the school others are the concern of the individual students and parents.

**BEGINNING BAND** - these items are supplied by the parents:

- Girls - white blouse, black or dark navy skirt or dress pants, black dress shoes
- Boys - white shirt, black or dark navy slacks, black socks, black belt (if necessary), black dress shoes (no t-shirts)

**CONCERT BAND** - - these items are supplied by the parents:

- Girls –black blouse, black skirt or dress pants, black dress shoes
- Boys - black shirt, black slacks, black socks, black belt (if necessary), black dress shoes (no t-shirts)

<h2 style="margin: 0;"><b>STUDENT GOVERNMENT</b></h2>
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Officers for each of the performing groups aid and assist the directors and act as a link of communication between the organization and the director. All candidates must have the approval of the directors. Offices that are available include the following:

**PRESIDENT** - The president acts as student director and helps in organizing a set up crew for all concerts. The president also helps with organizing special projects when needed.

**VICE-PRESIDENT** -The vice-president assists the president and acts in place of the president in his/her absence. The vice-president is also in charge of organizing a set-up crew for all rehearsals.

**SECRETARY** - The secretary handles all official communications, takes care of publicity and records attendance and points for awards.

<b>PRIVATE LESSON POLICY</b>
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Private lessons are necessary for any musician to insure growth in the proper direction. Anyone interested in taking lessons should call the band director to be scheduled with a recommended teacher . Each private lesson will be worth 4 points.

Detach this form and return it, completed by your parents, to the Band Director. This form must be on file in the music office.

(cut along dotted line)

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 I have read this handbook in its entirety and understand the philosophy and policies of the Cross Lutheran Band Program.

Parent's signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date of signature\_\_\_\_\_

Child's name\_\_\_\_\_

Instrument\_\_\_\_\_

My child is in the  Beginning  Band or  Concert Band  
 (circle one)