Laurens Central School
Instrumental Music Handbook

2026-2027

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD ……. 3
STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY …… 3
PARTICIPATION RULES …… 4
CONCERT BAND …… 4
REHEARSAL ..…… 5
ATTENDANCE …… 6
SCHEDULES …… 8
GRADING AND TESTING (Concert Band Only) ……... 8
LESSON REQUIREMENTS …… 9
TREASURER ……... 10
USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS …… 10
MARCHING ENSEMBLE …… 11
Summer Color Guard …… 11
Marching Band …….. 11
Transportation (Out of Town Trip) ……. 14
FUND RAISING ……... 15
JAZZ ENSEMBLE …… 15
CHAPERONES …… 16
Responsibilities ……. 17
UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT RECORD ……. 18
GENERAL INFORMATION …….. 18
AWARDS …… 19
Band Jacket Award …….. 19
Jazz Ensemble …….. 19
Other Awards …… 19
Music Department Certificates ……. 20
Outstanding Achievement Certificates …… 20
Concert Dates and Calendar of Events …… 21 & 22
APPENDIX A – Parental Permission/Medical Treatment Form …….. 23 & 24

BAND HANDBOOK
LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL
Instrumental Music Department
FOREWORD

To foster and maintain a high standard of excellence by our Laurens Central School Band, it is necessary that newcomers, and older members, acquaint themselves with the regulations, procedures and traditions of the organization. We believe that this Handbook will be a help to you. Whenever a question arises, first look here, then consult an officer. If you still are unable to receive an answer, see your band director. Your diligence, keen interest in music, adherence to all rules, and loyalty to one another are necessary for your band to have a successful year.

The goals of the Laurens Central School Band program are as follows:

1. To develop musicianship and appreciation of music.

2. To instill qualities of responsibility, leadership and character in all participants.

3. To provide the opportunity for students to promote cultural enjoyment for the school and community.

4. To provide entertainment and functional music wherever practical, without interfering with the educational goals of the organization.

5. The lend color and atmosphere to certain community events while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the school through traditional band performances.

6. To develop competent performers who can use their instrument to help the development of music appreciation.

7. To offer those who are considering music as a vocation an opportunity to develop their talents to the utmost to better prepare them for this vocation.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The role and place of Music Education in the school curriculum may be justified on these tenets of philosophy about Music Education.

1. Art is the result of man’s need to transform his experience symbolically.

2. Aesthetic experience is the source of man’s highest satisfaction in living.

3. The importance of music is not fixed; it is subjective, personal and creative.

4. Every person has the need to transform experience symbolically and music satisfies that need.

5. Every child has a right to develop his aesthetic potential to its highest possible level.

6. While no type of music can be ignored in the Instrumental Music Program, major attention should be given to providing musical experience that is educative and leads to an aesthetic experience.

7. Through the Instrumental Music Program, the qualities of citizenship, character and responsibility can be developed through group interaction.

I. PARTICIPATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Music Program at Laurens Central School is a privilege and not a right and therefore participants must maintain this privilege in order to continue in the music program. All members of the band program are subject to all rules, regulations, and policies outlined in both the Student Handbook and the Instrumental Music Handbook.

CONCERT BAND

Students in Grades 9-12 who have qualified and have chosen Band will receive one-half unit of credit upon completion of the following requirements:

1. Adhere and conform to the rules and regulations set forth in the following categories:

A.	Rehearsals	D.	Tests(written and/or performance based assessments)
B.	Concerts	E.	Lessons
C.	Grades	F.	Attendance

2. The marching season can start as early as March 15th depending on the weather and other circumstances. There will be from 20 to 25 regularly scheduled rehearsals that students are required to attend after school hours. The rehearsal will generally be two hours in length from the time that everyone is actually ready to perform. Each student will be allowed three absences from these rehearsals.

3. Concert Band members are not allowed to march in the Color Guard during the Spring marching season. Only under very rare occasions may this rule be changed and only with the Director's approval. If the Director feels it is not in the best interest of the overall organization, the student will march in the band proper, and he/she will prepare all music and routines to the best of his/her ability. After the completion of the Sherburne Band Pageant a student may wish to march in the front groups. The Director and Color Guard instructor will discuss this and make the final decision.

4. The school policy for withdrawal of classes is in effect for Concert Band:

    a. Any student who is considering dropping a class must do so in the first week (5 school days) of classes. If a student reaches the 6th day of class without withdrawing, that student must stay enrolled in the class for the remainder of the course.

b. Any Laurens Central School student wishing to take part in any of the Concert Band related activities must be enrolled for credit. The only exception would be students attending a full day BOCES program, i.e. New Visions. These extra-curricular activities include:

Jazz Ensemble	Small Ensemble
Area All-State (Conference All-State)	Solo with Concert Band
All County	Conducting a Concert Band
Marching Band	selection
NYSSMA Solo Festival	

c. Any Laurens Central School student in grades 7-12 can choose to march in Summer Marching Band.

II. REHEARSALS (Marching Band, Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble)

A successful rehearsal is the foundation of a good performance and every moment of rehearsal time must be used for actual rehearsal purposes. If you delay the group by one minute, you have wasted thirty minutes of the band's time, because each member of the band has been forced to waste a minute. The following regulations will be followed:

1. Secure your music and instrument from storage areas and get seated as quickly as possible.

2. Warm up instruments and embouchures by softly running over scales and warm-up exercises. Drummers will confine their pre-rehearsal activities to practice drum pads, assembling equipment and organizing music. Playing on drums will not be allowed except when playing with the whole organization. This rule is intended to reduce the confusion and noise while the band warms up.

3. When the conductor steps in front of the Conductor's stand, all talking and warming up must stop at once. Your full attention should be given to the conductor, and nothing should be allowed to distract you. Inattentive students will be dismissed from the rehearsal.

4. At no time during the rehearsal will students play as individuals, unless playing with the entire group or unless instructed to play by the conductor.

5. Members should bring the following items to rehearsals:

   A. instrument and case
   B. accessories (mutes, oil, extra reeds)
   C. all music
   D. soft lead pencil (kept in folder or case)

6. Gum chewing or eating food is never allowed in the band room. These items harm instruments and cause a sloppy room. This rule applies to all rehearsals and performances, inside or outside, and all members of the various organizations involved.

7. The band room is to be kept clean and orderly. Keep storage areas, tables, and shelves free from trash, waste papers, books and personal items. Percussionists must put their equipment away after each rehearsal.

8. When dismissed from rehearsals, all instruments and equipment will be returned to storage areas and folders should be placed in the slotted, numbered cabinet.

9. All instrument cases must be closed when stored.

10. Concentration, complete attention and responsibility are expected of all rehearsing band members.

III. ATTENDANCE

A. Concert Band

Concert Band members are required to be present at all performances, weekly lessons and rehearsals as scheduled. In fairness to those who are regular and prompt in attendance, it is necessary to base a percentage of the student's grade on attendance. Any absence or lateness hinders the efficiency of the entire group, thereby affecting the musical experiences of each individual member as well as the success of the band.

Promptness and regularity of attendance are two of the most important factors in maintaining high morale. Promotion within the band, report card grades, and credit awarded depends (to some extent) on the student's attendance habits.

Students should not forget that even an excused absence or lateness is irreparable since it detracts from the effectiveness of the rehearsal or performance. Regardless of their validity, excuses do not produce a good sounding band.

It is expected that excused absences will be minimal, except for the most urgent reasons.

Absences from Concert Band will treated as follows: Any student not excused from a Concert Band Dress Rehearsal could lose fifteen (15) points from the ten week report card grade for each occurrence. Any student not excused from a Concert Band Performance could lose thirty (30) points from the ten week report card grade for each occurrence.

B. Marching Band and Jazz Ensemble

If you choose to participate in Marching Band and/or Jazz Ensemble, absences will be treated in the following manner:

1. Attendance: at all rehearsals, performances and competitions is mandatory.

2. Excused Absences: Absences which are permitted as legal absences from regular school will be accepted as an excused absence from rehearsals, performances and contests, including those due to a school sponsored event (i.e. LCS sponsored sports and color guard).

Examples:
-Doctor and Dentist appointments – Written note from the provider is required.

-Any and all absences which are permitted as legal absences from regular school. Having a written excuse signed by a parent or legal guardian does not automatically qualify as a legal excuse from a rehearsal or performance.

-Extenuating circumstances – at the discretion of the Director.

3. Unexcused Absences

   a. First unexcused absence: The student will be counseled by the Director and will be allowed to return to the organization (unless it is a dress rehearsal or a practice just prior to the next performance).

   b. Second unexcused absence: The student will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled performance.

   c. Third unexcused absence: The student will be suspended from the group. The length of the suspension will be determined by the Band Director.

   Examples of unexcused absences:
   -work, sporting events outside of those sponsored by LCS, prom decorating, hair appointments, etc.

   -Certain events can be excused at the discretion of the band director (i.e. weddings, funerals, graduation ceremonies). These events must be brought to the attention of the Director with a note from a parent.

   It is expected that students participating in school sponsored events (i.e. baseball game) will arrive at Marching Band/Jazz Ensemble rehearsal as soon as possible at the conclusion of the first event.

4. Attendance – Day of a Performance: In order to participate in a regularly scheduled performance, students must be in attendance on that particular day.

   a. Students will meet this requirement if they sign in to school by 8:12 AM on the day of a performance.

   b. If the student signs in after that time, they can not attend or play in a performance that day, unless the child has a legal absence from school. Any/all exceptions must be approved by the administration.

IV. SCHEDULES

All rehearsal (Concert, Parade, etc.) schedules will be posted on the bulletin board in the band room, published in the school newsletter, and handed to the students throughout the school year.

V. GRADING AND TESTING (Concert Band Only)

1. Written and/or Performance Based Assessments
2. Attendance Record
    a. Performances
    b. Weekly lessons
    c. Sectional rehearsals
    d. Extra rehearsals including dress rehearsals

3. Attention, attitude and deportment at rehearsals and performances.

4. Preparation and ability to play assigned music.

5. Care of assigned music, uniform and school instrument.

6. The following system will be used in calculating your grades:

    It is acknowledged that there is subjectivity involved in grading as a band director. In an effort to provide as much clarity as possible regarding grades earned in the instrumental music program, each student will be given a separate grading policy and rubric outlining expectations. Everyone's own musical talent and potential will be weighted individually when assigning grades. If the Director feels that a particular student is very talented but not performing at his/her level, he/she may receive a grade that reflects that. Similarly, if the Director feels a student does not have exceptional musical talent but the student is working very hard to meet every bit of their potential, the grade will reflect that as well. There are many factors that can enter into the assigning of grades. In addition to the separate grading policy and rubrics, the following list should give a general idea of what is expected to receive a particular grade.

To receive a 99 in band, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Score well on written and/or Performance Based Assessments.
2. Excellent attendance at rehearsals.
3. Perform in all concerts and performances.
4. Attend every lesson during a marking period.

    a. Student shows initiative to check the lesson schedule and communicate with the band director about makeup lessons.
    b. Student does not have to be summoned from class by the Director or other student. He or she shows up on their own initiative.
    c. Student is prepared for the lesson by having instrument, music and by having appropriate music prepared.

5. Student must be practicing his/her instrument either at home or school or both and making a serious effort to improve playing abilities.

6. Student has a positive attitude to rehearsals and the band program in general.

    a. Student quickly finds seat in rehearsal.
    b. Student does not talk or play out of turn.
    c. Student's attention is focused on the music and band director.
    d. Student always has instrument, music and pencil.

7. Student is meeting potential and making a large contribution to the music program (i.e. a strong performance on his/her instrument.)

* It is important to note that in most cases, a student cannot receive the highest band grade if they have missed 1 or more lessons or if they repeatedly show lack of responsibility to lessons and makeup lessons.

The following scale will be in place for assigning band grades:

99

96

93

90

87

Below 87 the grade will be assigned as the teacher deems appropriate.

All areas of the criteria will be weighed when a student is assigned a grade.

VI. REGULAR LESSONS

Weekly class lessons are the foundation of the entire instrumental music program. Students must attend one class lesson per cycle. These lessons will be scheduled during study hall, whenever possible. Each cycle schedule will be posted in the band room. It is the student's responsibility to check the schedule and verify his/her own lesson time weekly.

A. Lesson Requirements

1. Students missing their regular lesson will receive a "zero" for that weekly lesson grade (not ten week average).

2. Students forgetting books, instruments, or any equipment required for the lesson and/or rehearsal will lose five (5) points for each infraction from their weekly lesson grade (not ten week average).

3. When the student's academic schedule absolutely requires attendance at a particular class, (tests, special projects, guest lectures, etc.) the students must make up the missed instrumental lesson by attending another lesson of like instruments, or by coming to the band room from study hall to practice for one period.

4. Students who miss a lesson due to absence from school are required to make up the missed lesson and are required to cover the work assigned to the other members of their group.

5. Regular lessons will be graded according to the following:

   A. Preparation of assigned lesson
   B. Attitude and attentiveness
   C. Proper use of lesson time
   D. Attendance

VII. BAND TREASURER

The Band Treasurer will be appointed by the Director annually.

Treasurer Responsibilities:

1. Makes out vouchers to pay all bills, makes all deposits and keeps accurate records of the Band Fund Account and the Marching Band Account.
2. Reports on financial matters to the band and Band Director.
3. Takes charge of financial matters in all band fund-raising activities.

VIII. USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A. The parent is ultimately responsible for any and all damage or loss of a school instrument when it is signed out to a student. This means any and all repairs due to damage or loss are the responsibility of the parents, not the school, and will be billed accordingly. The purchase of method books, reeds, mouthpieces, etc. will be the responsibility of the student. Following is procedure for repair:

   1. Band Director will send instrument to company for estimate.
   2. Estimate will be sent to parents.
   3. Parent must pay the school before the instrument company will make repairs.
   4. If payment for repairs is not made within two weeks, the student will not be allowed to play a school owned instrument.
   5. Extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the Band Director.

B. Rough handling, not putting instruments away, or putting it in a place where it will be stolen or damaged, will result in recalling the instrument.

C. Any school instrument may be recalled at any time by the Band Director if he has reason to believe the instrument is not being used to the fullest extent or not being cared for properly.

IX. MARCHING ENSEMBLE

A. Summer Color Guard

All students interested in participating in the Summer Color Guard are expected to sign up in the Spring with either the Band Director or the Summer Color Guard Instructor. The Summer Color Guard will include all members for the banner line, weapon line and American Flag section.

1. The Summer Color Guard involves students in Grades 4-12; occasionally 3rd graders may participate.
2. The practice schedule is set up in advance by the Band Director, in cooperation with the Color Guard Instructor.
   (a) Color Guard Instructor may request additional practices for the guard.

   (b) The Color Guard Instructor may hold tryouts for Color Guard (March-April).

B. Marching Band

Since the regulations for Marching Band are somewhat different from other phases of the program, this section is created to help clarify what is expected of Marching Band Members.

1. Membership

   (a) Drum Major – Together with the Band Director, the Drum Major is a drill instructor for the Marching Band. In addition, he or she has complete command of the band during a performance. The Drum Major should be an example to the other band members in both appearance and action. Among the qualities he/she should possess are:

   Leadership, Showmanship, Efficiency in Drill, Musicality

   (c) Drum Major Selection – Persons interested in becoming Drum Major should make their desires known to the Band Director prior to the start of the Spring season. He/she will be advised that musical training, experience in front of a group, and leadership ability are most helpful in this position. Also, past history of attendance, deportment, dedication, work ethic, and relationship with band proper are extremely important. Candidates for Drum Major must meet the following criteria:

   To be considered, they must have several years (3 or more) of Summer Marching Band experience in the band or front groups. They are expected to be at every practice and parade throughout the Spring and Summer. Only under extenuating circumstances will they be excused from these

duties and only with advance notice. The Drum Majors are responsible to the Director for the actions of Marching Band while in rehearsal or parade.

Auditions may be held to select a new Drum Major. Each candidate will be given equal time to perform their routines, signal turns, march, etc. on the street in front of the band. This will occur during the first few rehearsals in the Spring. Each candidate should record the marching tunes far enough in advance to allow ample time for rehearsal.

In the event there are not interested, qualified persons for drum major/majorette with three (3) years experience of summer experience, the Band Director will then look to other individuals with less experience but having the necessary qualifications, i.e., two years of experience or a transfer from another district who shows potential for leadership.

2. Maintaining Membership in Marching Band

   (a) Members must attend all practices and performances unless excused by the Director in advance. (See excused and unexcused absences and rehearsals.) pages 6 & 7

   (b) Members must conform to the rules and regulations of the Instrumental Music Handbook and the school as outlined in the Student and Extracurricular Handbook.

   (c) Members must be prompt, willing to do his/her best and act in a responsible manner at all times.

   (d) Any members violating the Student Discipline Code, found in the Student Handbook, will be disciplined accordingly.

   (e) Students in Marching Band are subject to all rules and penalties pertaining to participation in extracurricular activities.

3. Rules and Regulations at Parades

   (a) Always be prompt when reporting to performing sites and departure sites.
   (b) Under NO circumstances, are you to allow others to “try” your instrument.
   (c) Be completely and neatly uniformed at all times.
   (d) The band will be dismissed if weather is inclement, at the Band Director’s discretion. Hats are to be worn at all times.

(e) No chewing gum.

(f) There should be no talking or "doodling" on your instruments while in rank and at attention.

(g) When in uniform, long hair will be tied back in a pony tail and tucked up inside the hat.

(h) When in uniform, no jewelry or other ornamentation, not a part of the uniform, should be worn.

(i) All band members may be allowed one (1) hour to participate in carnival rides and events upon completion of the parade. This only applies to summer parades. Failure to return to the bus by the designated time will result in a suspension of one parade.

(j) When the Drum Major or Band Director blows the whistle two short times, you are to stop all talking, playing, etc. and assume your assigned street marching position at attention. Members who disregard this rule will be dismissed from the parade or rehearsal.

(k) Members are not to leave a parade site unless you have permission from the Band Director. This includes running down the street to "chat" with a friend or relative.

Students who fail to observe the above rules and regulations at a parade will be put on the bus with a chaperone during the activities, or may be suspended from the group.

4. Uniforms and Appearances

(a) Any part of the uniform that is lost must be paid for before a band member will receive an award for band. The band member will not be permitted to march until the lost equipment is found or paid for.

(b) The LCS issued T-Shirt, with sleeves (not tank top), and shorts MUST be worn under the band uniform. Shoes must be black and kept clean and polished.

(c) Hats should be kept dry and returned to the hat box after each parade. (Wet hats and plumes must be air dried prior to storage)

(d) Jackets and pants should be hung on a wooden or plastic type hanger to eliminate hanger wrinkles.

(e) After a performance, uniforms may be wet or damp. Do not put jackets in dryer. Hang them on wooden or plastic hangers and allow to dry over night.

(f) Maintenance instructions will be handed out to students at the same time the uniforms are assigned.

(g) Uniforms must be kept in a garment bag provided by the Marching Band. Remember, the way your uniform looks is only a reflection of how well you take care of it.

(h) Each individual is responsible for buying black socks and black gloves from the Marching Band.

C. Transportation

Groups of the instrumental music department, including Concert and Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and smaller groups annually attend a number of out-of-town trips in a manner which is complimentary to the band organization, its members and our school.

(1) Boisterous or disruptive conduct on buses or remarks to passing pedestrians or cars will not be tolerated.

(2) If a chaperone or Band Director wishes to speak to bus riders, silence will be observed.

(3) When the bus stops, do not leave your seat until you have received instructions from your Band Director.

(4) Loading details will be assigned. Please assist these people in any way possible.

(5) Buses will always leave promptly at the designated time. Be at the appointed places at the appointed times. Since we will be on and off the buses many times, it is extremely important that each band member is on time.

(6) All Board of Education policies and administration procedures and Rules and Regulations listed in the Laurens Central School Students Handbook are and will be in effect at all times.

(7) All school bus rules apply on every trip.

(8) Friends and relatives will not be allowed to travel with the band on buses. Exceptions must be pre-approved by school administration.

(9) All band members must go and return on the bus. The only exception to this would be students returning after a parade/contest.

i. This exception will be permitted if the following process is adhered to:

(a) The student, prior to the parade/contest must present to the Band Director or Color Guard Instructor a

written request from his/her parent or guardian and signed by that person.

(b) After the parade/contest, the student can only be released by the Band Director or Color Guard Instructor to the parent or guardian (and who signed the parental request form).

(c) The Band Director or Color Guard Instructor must actually witness the student being released to the person in parental relationship.

(d) The parent must also sign the official sign-out sheet.

(e) Any exceptions to the above must be in writing and pre-approved by the school administration.

(f) Students who fail to observe the above guidelines will be put on the bus with a chaperone during the activities. A total of five points will be deducted from an individual's point accumulation for each infraction.

X. FUND RAISING

It is the policy of the Laurens Central School Band that:

A. Fund raising shall be kept to an absolute minimum; due to the great number of fund raising drives operated by other organizations and community groups.

B. Fund raising projects will be initiated when deemed necessary by the Band Director and band members.

C. Fund raising projects will be operated only for the benefit of the band and/or its members.

XI. JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The Laurens Central School Jazz Ensemble will consist of top Concert Band musicians selected by the Band Director. Participation in the ensemble will be the student's decision, but all members who accept the appointment will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances and to be a responsible member in all respect. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from the group. Members of the Jazz Ensemble are subject to all rules and regulations of the Instrumental Music Handbook and the Student and Extracurricular Handbook.

The goals of the Jazz Ensemble are:

A. To familiarize members with various styles of popular music and to develop an appreciation of music in the jazz and jazz/rock idioms.

B. To study specialized performance techniques applicable to jazz and jazz/rock styles including improvisation and ensemble playing using jazz concept.

C. To provide entertainment and functional music wherever practical, without interfering with the educational goals of the organization.

D. Maintaining Membership

(1) Members are expected to spend ample time at home preparing their parts, since music in this style is often highly technical and difficult to perform.

(2) Members must adhere to rehearsal and attendance regulations previously stated, as well as rules governing the band members in general.

E. No Credit - Jazz Ensemble is considered an extracurricular activity. Therefore, no grade is recorded. However, all participants are subject to (F) below.

F. Any person participating in Jazz Ensemble must be enrolled in Concert Band for credit, and subject to all Concert Band requirements. Exceptions must be approved by the Band Director.

G. Students in Jazz Ensemble are subject to all rules and penalties pertaining to participation in extracurricular activities.

H. All Jazz Ensemble members are expected to help set up the band at performances. This includes: chairs and stands, music (clothespins for outside), sound system, drums, etc.

I. All members must ride to each performance and back to the school on the bus. Your parents may pick you up at school.

This policy was started to insure that there is ample help to unpack the bus after performances. In the past, as many as twelve or fifteen jazz ensemble members have ridden home with parents, thereby leaving only five or six people to do all of the unpacking.

I. Only under extenuating circumstances may a student drive to a performance and back in his/her own vehicle. Written parental permission for this request must be handed in to the Band Director and requires prior approval by the school administration.

XII. CHAPERONES

All chaperones are urged to use the following rules and description of responsibilities to help guide the music program in a successful and educational manner.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Chaperones are asked to be at the school at least 30 minutes before the bus departure.

B. Chaperones will be expected to take attendance on the bus before it leaves the school grounds and before it leaves the parade site.

C. Chaperones will be expected to maintain orderly conduct in and among the marching unit:
   1. No standing while the bus is in motion
   2. No shouting, yelling, whistling or playing of instruments on the bus.

D. All school bus rules stated in the LCS Student Handbook will apply on all bus trips.

E. Chaperones are asked to help keep uniforms and equipment as neat and clean as possible at all times. We ask that you help in handing them out and collecting them.

F. The items mentioned henceforth will be supplied by the Band Director in a small kit that should be on one's possession at all times during a parade.

G. Chaperones are asked to march or walk with the marching unit at all times during the parades in case of emergencies and/or special request by any of the members: i.e., towels, water, band aides, shoe laces, etc.

H. Chaperones are asked to pick up and return any dropped equipment. Members of the marching unit are not allowed to stop and pickup dropped equipment.

I. Chaperones are asked NOT to walk with the band through the judging areas. We ask that you go around and meet the unit as it leaves the judging area. Please encourage and commend the unit as they exit. Should someone drop a piece of equipment in the judging area, you will be allowed to pick it up after the band has finished going through the judging area. **Note: For some parades you will be required to follow the band through the judging area.**

J. Chaperones are asked to carry our first aid kit throughout the entire parade in case of small emergencies.

K. Ice water will be supplied by the Band Director (and cups) for band members immediately following a parade. The chaperones will be expected to prepare the ice water.

L. At some parades, there may be time for members to partake of festival or carnival events. They will be allowed one hour after the completion of the parade to do so.

M. Please be sure to empty squirt bottles and ice water containers after EACH parade.

N. Parents (chaperones) are asked not to bring young children to parades via buses, unless it has been approved by the Superintendent and the Band Director.

O. A chaperone (if the need arises) will be expected to stay on the bus with a sick or disciplined student.

P. Chaperones must be alert at all times!!

XIII. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT RECORD

A record of all uniforms and equipment issued will be kept by the Band Director. The individual and his/her parent/guardian will be ultimately responsible for that equipment signed out by the student or individual. The student will be required to sign a Uniform and/or Equipment Agreement form before issuance of any equipment.

XIV. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Members are expected to be able to play all music in the folders, either marching or concert and all lesson assignments. If you are not able to do so, more home practice is expected.

B. Absence and tardiness will be handled according to the established band rules and regulations. The Band Director must be notified in advance of any anticipated absence or tardiness.

C. Information concerning all rehearsals, appearances, activities and trips will be posted in advance. It is each student's responsibility to obtain this information.

D. Whenever a group appears in public, it not only represents its members, it also represents the member's families and school to the general public. Always conduct yourself in such a way that you will reflect only credit to yourself, your organization, your school and your community.

E. The bulletin boards located inside/outside of the Band Room will be used for informational purposes. It is the responsibility of the student to check these boards for information, changes in schedules, etc.

F. Elementary Band and Jazz Ensemble members are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in the Instrument Music Handbook regarding:

1. Attendance
2. Rehearsals
3. Schedules
4. Lesson requirements
5. Absences
6. Use of school-owned instruments
7. Maintaining membership
8. Permission slips

XV. AWARDS

Awards are earned by students who serve and meet the various requirements of the program. Awards are not given in Concert Band because Concert Band is a school subject in which a grade and credit can be earned. The same holds true for physical education (i.e. no awards are given for gym class because it is a school subject in which one can earn a grade and credit). On the other hand, extra-curricular activities such as Summer Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Soccer, Baseball, etc. meet on a voluntary basis after school hours. Because of this, an award system has been established to acknowledge those who dedicate their time, efforts and energy to a specific organization.

Once a student agrees to participate in an extra-curricular activity, such as Summer Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, and other activities, along with related events, the student accepts the criteria established by the Music Department in order to earn an award.

The following is a list of established criteria indicating what a student must do to earn a patch, school letter in music, and a band jacket for their participation.

Band Jacket Award

To earn a band jacket, a student must successfully complete four summers of marching unit, whether it be in the band or any of the front groups. The student will start earning credit toward a jacket starting with the summer following completion of 6th grade. The student must march in enough parades and practices during the summer to earn credit for that summer.

- If four or fewer summer parades are scheduled, students may not miss any.
- If five or six parades are scheduled, student may miss one, and still earn credit.
- If seven or more parades are scheduled, students may miss two, and still earn credit.
- Extenuating circumstances will be at the discretion of the Marching Band Director.

The amount will be determined by the Band Director before the season starts. The band jacket will be awarded at the Awards Banquet no sooner than the Sophomore year, if he/she has completed four full seasons. A jacket can also be awarded during the Junior/Senior year or following the completion of four full seasons.

Jazz Ensemble

Each year a student may earn credit toward an award for participation in the Jazz Ensemble. To earn this credit, the student must not miss more than three required rehearsals. Also, if the student misses any performances for an unexcused reason, he/she will not receive Jazz Ensemble credit. To miss a performance, the student must submit in writing, well in advance, an excuse from a parent or guardian explaining why the student must miss the concert. This may or may not be excused by the Band Director. The Director will use his discretion on deciding whether or not to excuse the student from the performance. Since the Jazz Ensemble is a year-round ensemble, playing concerts during the summer as well as during the school year, the above policy applies for the full year.

Other Awards

Any student who participates in any of the following events will receive credit for each event each year he/she participates in the event. These events are:

All County Band
All County Jazz Ensemble
Area-All State or (All-State)
NYSSMA Solos/Small Ensemble Festival
Brass Quintet (or other small ensemble)
Performance of a solo work (Concert Band only)
Conducting a Concert Band Work in Performance

Music Department Certificates
The Music Department Certificate is an award that is given to those students who display great dedication to the Music Department. A student must participate in three of the following nine categories in one year's time.

Marching Unit
Jazz Ensemble
All County Band
All County Jazz Ensemble
Area All-State or (All-State)
NYSSMA Solo/Small Ensemble Festival
Brass Quintet (or other small ensemble)
Performance of a solo work (Concert Band only)
Conducting a Concert Band Work in Performance

Outstanding Achievement Certificate
This award is given to honor individuals with extraordinary dedication. It is given to individuals who participate in five or more of the activities listed above.

Other awards will be awarded at the Band Director's discretion. Some of these include Outstanding Musician for Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble, Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Service and Dedication, Who's Who in Music, John Philip Sousa Award, etc. All of the above mentioned awards are not necessarily awarded each and every year but when the Band Director feels particular students are worthy of said awards.

Please post this on your refrigerator!!!

2026-2027 LCS CONCERT DATES

Fall Concert	**Thursday, October 15**	**6:30 PM**
Winter Concert	**Tuesday, December 8**	**7:00 PM**
Musical/Cabaret	**Fri. & Sat., April 16/17**	**7:00 PM**
Final Concert	**Tuesday, May 11**	**7:00 PM**

All concerts will be held in the L.C.S. Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise informed.
Warm-up in the band/chorus rooms 1/2 hour before concert

Appropriate Concert Attire:

Dress Code – Students are required to adhere to the School Dress Code:

- Gentlemen are to wear slacks and a tucked-in, button-down shirt. Dress shoes and socks are to be worn – no sneakers are allowed. Ties and/or sports jackets are encouraged but not required.
- Ladies are to wear a dress shirt and slacks OR a knee-length skirt or dress. Flip-flops or sandals are prohibited and heels must be a reasonable height.
- For both gentlemen and ladies, sneakers, sweat pants, jeans and T-shirts are prohibited.
- Students are asked to dress as nicely as possible but should remember that they will be representing themselves, their school, and the music department during the performances and should be tasteful in all their fashion choices. Cover-ups or shawls may be appropriate accessories when wearing dresses. **The school policy regarding dress code must be followed and at the teacher's discretion, students may be asked to return home to change or may be provided with used clothing to borrow for the concert. If the dress code is not followed, a student may be asked not to perform and will be required to complete a written make-up assignment.**

All students must complete the permission form found at the end of the handbook. This information is needed for any extra-curricular activities the band may perform in throughout the year. If there are any questions, please contact Instrumental Music Instructor.

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026-2027

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
*Thur., October 15	LCS FALL CONCERT – (Grades 7-12)	MPR	6:30 PM
Saturday, October 24	All-County Auditions	Schenevus	TBD
Fri. & Sat. Nov. 20 & 21	Area All-State (select HS students)	Cooperstown	TBD
*Tues., December 8	LCS Winter Concert – (Grades 7-12)	MPR	7:00 PM
Thurs. & Sat. 2/4 & 2/6	All-County Festival 1 (Jr. Band, Senior Choir, Jazz Band)	Laurens	3:00 PM
Thur. & Sat. 3/4 & 3/6	All-County Festival 2 (Elem. Band, Elem. Choir/Jr. Choir., Sr. Band)	CV-SP	3:00/2:30 PM
Fri. & Sat., April 16 & 17	Annual LCS Cabaret or Musical	MPR	7 pm
Fri. & Sat., Ma7 7 & 8	NYSSMA Solo Festival	TBD	TBD
Friday, May 7	Grandparents' Day	MPR	1:00 PM
*Tuesday, May 11	LCS Final Concert – (Grades 7-12)	MPR	7:00 PM
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day Parade	Laurens	10:00 AM
Thur./Sat., 6/3 & 6/5	Sherburne Pageant of Bands	Sherburne	3 pm/TBD
Friday, June 25	LCS Graduation	LCS Gym	7:00 PM

*Required events for course credit for both Concert Band and Concert Chorus

APPENDIX A

Laurens Central School
Laurens, NY

PARENTAL PERMISSION/MEDICAL TREATMENT FORM

In order for a student to participate in the Music Department Instrumental Program at Laurens Central School it is important that all parents and students agree with each of the following:

1. Music Department Instrumental Department Handbook

- Students are required to follow all of the rules and regulations outlined in both this handbook and the Student Handbook to participate.
- All students will be subject to the consequences associated with any violations of the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and/or the Student Handbook.

2. Emergency Medical Attention

- It is important that all students and parents understand that medical emergencies may arise through participation. The school district staff will make every effort to contact parents in order to obtain specific authorization before any treatment or hospitalization is undertaken. By signing this form parents grant permission to a physician or other hospital personnel designated by the Laurens Central School to attend to their son or daughter in the event of an emergency requiring medical attention.

3. Medication Permission Form

- There are times when a student is required to take prescribed medications while traveling, competing, performing, or acting in other roles as a member of the choral program of Laurens Central School. By signing this form parents acknowledge that they have:

    - Supplied their child with the appropriate medications
    - Listed the specific drug and dosage on this form
    - Absolved the school district and school staff of any responsibility for assurance that the medication was self administered
    - Understand that the staff of the Laurens Central School will attest that said drugs were self administered.

_____ _____

Student Name (Print) Student Signature

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ _____

Date Student's Date of Birth (Mo/Day/Yr)

Parent/Guardian's Home Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Work Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Cell Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship to Participant _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Cell Phone:_____

Home Address: _____

_____

List of Medications:

_____

_____

Dosage:

_____

Prescribed by:

_____

Allergies to Medications:

_____

Other medical conditions that a doctor or emergency room personnel need to be aware of:

_____