



Laguna Hills High School Instrumental Music Rehearsal and Musical Expectations

Welcome to the Hawk Music family! The main emphasis of the band and orchestra program is on musicianship and pride of accomplishment, followed closely by citizenship, morale, spirit, and loyalty. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices we make for the group worthwhile. It is possible, by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to have a highly successful band career and still maintain high scholastic standing. LHHS alumni are currently attending some of the leading universities in the country. The success of the organization will lead to success of the individual and vice versa.

As band members, you have earned various rights and titles through effective performance and musical contributions to the community. You must temper these rights and privileges with several areas of responsibility.

Responsibility to ourselves: We owe ourselves the benefit of proper equipment and proper lessons. Whenever possible, you should avail yourselves of the best possible quality instrument you can afford and endeavor to take private lessons. Group lessons at school only teach at a moderate level. YOU have the primary responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group. A list of recommended instructors can be obtained from the director. If you are unable to afford private lessons, the director and assistants may be able to provide individual instruction before and after rehearsals subject to availability.

Responsibility to the school: The school district provides the necessary setting and facilities for our performances and some of the larger, more expensive equipment. The LHHS Boosters are largely responsible for most of the other large purchases. We then have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area. This means that you agree to give up some of your free time on holidays and vacations for the entertainment of others. It also means that if the school owns your instrument, you are willing to take proper care of it (including repair or replacement if necessary). Follow the "campsite rule," with your instrument – leave it in the same or better condition than you found it in.

Responsibility to music as an art form: The performing arts have always been a vital part of humanity. You possess a very special talent. You now have the obligation and responsibility to use **and develop through practice** that talent for the betterment of your community.

Responsibility to each other: Getting along with each other in our complex society is indeed a difficult task all by itself. You have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of others. Antisocial behavior will breed the same from others. Excessive talking, rumors and bad manners are all examples of antisocial behavior. Both in and out of uniform – treat others as you wish to be treated.

Responsibility for promptness and commitment to the program: These are two essential facts vital to the success of any organization. You must arrange your schedule so you are able to honor your commitment to the performing groups to which you belong. If an unavoidable conflict should exist, it is your responsibility to resolve it in advance with the affected group leader or director. Remember, to be early is to be on time – to be on time is to be late – to be late is unthinkable.

Responsibility for Attendance: Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances is required for membership in the program. This includes band camp and pre-camp before the start of the school year, competitions, concerts and other events at the discretion of the director. Excused absences are only allowed for the following reasons: Weddings, Funerals, and Illness that requires a Doctor's care. Students who miss rehearsals or performances for reasons other than these may not be excused. Missing a performance for an unexcused absence will result in an automatic loss of 1 letter grade from the student's final grade (e.g. A-1=B). This policy applies to all performance ensembles, including Marching Band, Orchestra, Concert Groups, Colorguard, Drumline and Jazz Ensembles. All absences should be presented in writing at least two weeks in advance. Failure to appear at a scheduled practice or performance will result in a reduction of grade for that grading period and possible suspension of performance privileges. It is impossible to "make up" a performance, and the other members carry an extra burden of someone else's inconsideration.

As a student member of the Laguna Hills High School Hawk Band, understand that the performance culminates everything we work so hard at during the year. It is therefore essential to your fine arts education that you experience the performance of your art.