

Central Linn Band Department

Cobra Bands

Beginning Band

Where it all begins!

WHO: All interested 5th & 6th graders are invited to participate in beginning band.

WHAT: Opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument.

WHEN: 3:40pm - 4:15pm every day that regular school is in session (cancellations via Remind)

WHERE: Music room @ CLHS

WHY: Studies have shown consistently that learning a musical instrument has significant, long-lasting positive effects on the brain, including increased capacity for abstract reasoning, better synaptic connections (for in-brain communication), and improved problem solving skills. Also, it provides an outlet for creative productivity, as well as develops unity with other bandmates.

- Traditional band instruments (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, & percussion) will be provided by Central Linn School District at no cost to the learner or parents. Most maintenance and supplies will also be provided, but clarinet & saxophone reeds are the responsibility of the player (or their guardian), and any damage caused by neglect, carelessness, or abuse will be required to be covered by the learner's family.
- Performances are generally in December and April, as well as Graduation in June, where every band member in the district (grades 5-11) performs together.

Intermediate Band

The next step of musical development!

WHO: Generally the members of beginning band move to Intermediate Band when they enter 7th grade, but any JH or HS learner who isn't ready for the demands of Concert Band plays in Intermediate Band.

WHAT: Opportunity to build on skills to prepare for high school band.

WHEN: 12:50pm - 1:43pm (5th period) every day that regular school is in session

WHERE: Music room @ CLHS

WHY: Level of difficulty in Concert Band requires that learners work hard to prepare for that group.

- Performances generally include Arts Night Out (Fall), Winter, and Spring Concerts, as well as pep band for home football & basketball games, plus Graduation in June.

Concert Band

Those who work hardest are rewarded with the most opportunities!

WHO: Students that have demonstrated that they are ready for the challenge and expectations of this class.

WHAT: Opportunities to present skills developed & in public performance, especially on tour.

WHEN: 1:46pm - 2:39pm (6th period) every day that regular school is in session

WHERE: Music room @ CLHS, occasional out-of-school performances

WHY: Level of difficulty in Concert Band requires that learners work hard to prepare.

- Performances generally include Arts Night Out (Fall), Winter, and Spring Concerts, as well as pep band for home football & basketball games, plus Graduation in June. Out-of-school performances & festivals may also be added to the performance calendar, and approximately every other year members of this group take an overnight performance tour (often out-of-state). Members of Concert Band are privileged with the opportunity to represent themselves, their families, and the Central Linn community in their public performances, and are expected to demonstrate appropriate decorum at all times. (see below)

Kyle Kivett, Director of Bands

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Central Linn Band Department

Expectations of Band Members

At all times, pursue joy, by which I mean “satisfaction of accomplishment.” It has also been said that “work is its own reward.” Do your very best at all times, and be content in the knowledge that you have done so. At all times, remain:

- Focused on the material/activity/energy of the moment. Self-discipline is always better & more effective than external discipline. Irresponsibility is not neutral. When you are irresponsible, it forces somebody else to be responsible for what you should have done. Do the next right thing.
- Available. Be in class on time, appropriately prepared. (Instrument ready to go, know your music at an appropriate level, have a pencil, etc.) Plan ahead to avoid conflicts with out-of-class events. Participate in fundraisers, group activities, etc. Get involved. Be aware of how & what you can offer.
- Teachable. Education requires humility from each of us. Be ready & eager to learn/change. Consider everything as an opportunity to learn something new. Ask for more from your teacher, your peers, and yourself. Growth is painful - develop and exercise trust.

Whether in band class or out, Concert Band members will be:

- Exemplary students: Focused, Available, and Teachable. Ask for help politely when necessary, and be diligent to pursue the best grades possible in all classes.
- Exemplary people: Careful to develop & maintain positive relationships with students, staff, & other adults to protect & advance the reputations of themselves & the band department. Eschew gossip, slander, bullying, and negativity.
- Exemplary musicians: Committed to the process of individual improvement, through practice, active listening, and research. As much as possible (appropriate for their experience), students will be expected to learn their notes/ rhythms out of class, so that class-time can be spent solving ensemble concerns.

It is expected at all times that all learners will treat all property & all others with respect.

Uniforms

Details will change from year to year, but my philosophy behind uniforms is that we should dress in a way that makes it immediately obvious to all who see us that we take seriously the privileges & responsibilities of performance. Some gigs are formal, & some informal, but “uniform” means that no one person distracts from the look of the group. This doesn’t mean that individual expression is anathema, but shouldn’t be distracting.

Formal Performance Attire will include at least the following basics:

Women:	Black dress shoes (closed-toe)	Men:	White undershirt (no images, logos, or writing)
	Black socks/stockings (optional)		Black dress slacks (no jeans, please)
			Black dress socks & shoes

(Concert Band will determine the rest of their uniform on a year-to-year basis, with an attempt to keep costs to a minimum.)

(Intermediate Band will wear black below the waist & white above, with black shoes & socks.)

Informal Performance Attire

Additionally, a band department t-shirt & sweatshirt will be required for informal performances (Pep Band, among others). This will be determined in the first few weeks of school, approximately every other year. Cost for the set is generally less than \$40. If this cost is a financial hardship, please let me know. I would ask that everybody pay what you can at a time that it won’t be a burden on your family, but as soon as possible so as not to burden anyone else.

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Grading

All Performances (40% of grade) are required. Missing a performance steals a moment from your bandmates that can never be reclaimed. Therefore, an unexcused absence will lower a student's grade significantly. The following grading scale will be used (with the freedom of awarding numbers in-between those listed when Mr. Kivett deems appropriate):

4.0 = Band member was on time for the concert & stayed throughout the event; focused, attentive, & teachable; clothing/uniform were appropriate and well-cared for; and played the best they could on that day.

3.5 = Band member met most of the above criteria.

3.0 = Band member met some of the above criteria.

2.5 = Band member didn't meet most of the above criteria.

2.0 = Band member met little of the above criteria

1.0 = Band member made an appearance, but didn't meet any of the rest of the criteria.

0 = Band member was absent without notifying Mr. Kivett ahead of time.

Unavoidable absences must be cleared ahead of time (excepting for sudden emergencies), but may still lower the students grade, though not as severely. Grades affected by excused absences, however, may be raised back up by devoting out-of-class time to the music department.

Daily Formative Assessment (25%) is the primary method of determining whether the music is being learned at an appropriate pace. Learners will receive a bi-weekly assessment of how well they are meeting expectations.

4.0 = Learner is a model for all students. All parts known & played well enough that others learn from them.

3.6 = Learner knows most of their parts & is a strong contributing member of the group.

3.3 = Learner knows some parts well, but is still struggling with some parts.

3.0 = Learner knows enough to not hold the group back, but isn't contributing much to moving us forward either.

2.5 = Learner does not know their music as well as should be expected for the time we've been working on it.

2.0 = Learner's lack of progress is slowing the group's progress.

1.0 = Learner does not know their music.

0 = Learner does not play in class (barring valid excuse).

Tests (20%) will be used occasionally to measure individual progress & help keep learners motivated. These will sometimes be written, and sometimes be playing tests that will need to be recorded outside of class time (analog & digital formats accepted).

4.0 = Exemplary in every way

3.6 = Very accurate & musical

3.3 = Mostly accurate & musical

3.0 = Evident that work was done, but some more work left to do

2.5 = Accuracy & musicality lacking, but much work left to do

2.0 = Test turned in, but lacking accuracy and/or musicality (lowest score possible for submitted test)

0 = No test turned in

Ensemble Rehearsal Skills (15%) are the key to any successful music ensemble.

4.0 = Learner is a model for all students. Focused, available, and teachable. Helps other band members thrive.

3.6 = Learner is nearly always focused, available, and teachable & occasionally helps other band members succeed.

3.3 = Learner is sometimes focused, available, and/or teachable, but is sometimes distracted or not prepared.

3.0 = Learner is often not focused, available, and/or teachable. Often distracted or not prepared.

2.5 = Learner is more often distracted and/or unprepared than focused, available, and/or teachable.

2.0 = Learner is regularly a distraction in class & requires frequent redirection.

1.0 = Learner's behavior is a serious burden on the group's progress, requiring multiple redirections every day.

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Communication

I use several methods of communication to make sure learners, parents, and the community at large get the information they need. If I am missing an effective method of communication, I will add it to my collection!

PERSONAL CELL PHONE: 503-559-3531

I understand that the nature of music programs means that learners & parents may need to get ahold of me immediately, & I want you to feel free to do so when necessary. Keep in mind that I share all texts with Mrs. Kivett (and with parents if I deem it necessary or if they ask) & they should be considered public information - nothing secret or personal, please.

REMIND: (this service allows me to easily send short messages to large groups of learners & parents)

These groups are for anybody that needs/wants info about gigs, fundraisers, and other events as they apply to each group. Each ensemble has its own code, so please join the ones that apply to you. To join, send a text to 81010 with the class code as the body of the text. Be sure to include the "@" in each class code.

Beginning Band: @cleband

Intermediate Band: @cljband

Concert Band: @cobramusic

Music Dep't Alumni: @CLalumni (all graduates are automatically added to this group)

EMAIL: kyle.kivett@centrallinn.k12.or.us (or clcobramusic@gmail.com)

SOCIAL MEDIA: @clcobramusic on all platforms

I occasionally use Facebook to post information about upcoming events or share cool links; Instagram for pictures taken at events or on tours; and Twitter and Snapchat for fun updates!

Travel

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness" ~Mark Twain

One of the greatest parts of the Central Linn Music Department is the regular performance tours we have been blessed with the opportunity to take. Our goal is to take an overnight out-of-state tour every two years and alternating those tours between Southern California (Disneyland) and New York City. Additionally, classes may take day trips to festivals, learning opportunities, or college visits. When feasible, non-tour years may include a brief overnight retreat. Continuing the tradition of CL Music Department travel will depend on many factors, not least of which is the trustworthiness of the individuals in Concert Band & Blue Notes. Character always matters, and behavior that causes Mr. &/or Mrs. Kivett to question whether an individual could be trusted away from school may impact that individual's participation in the upper-level classes.

Parents & learners, please sign the bottom of the back sheet of the Syllabus to indicate you have read and understand this Band Handbook and Syllabus. Don't hesitate at any time to voice concerns or ask questions about anything you find unclear.

(I understand that some of the material between the two documents is similar, but the hope is that this Handbook provides more detail. I would appreciate your feedback on its usefulness.)

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