

**LINCOLN-WAY EAST HIGH SCHOOL**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS, 2017-2018 for:**  
**Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble**

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit."*

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor:	Dr. Bert Johnson	Mr. Cary Ruklic
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Website:	<a href="http://www.lwemusic.org">www.lwemusic.org</a>	<a href="http://www.lwwmusic.org">www.lwwmusic.org</a>
Office:	Room 108	Room 108A
Office Hours:	By Appointment	By Appointment

### **GENERAL REHEARSAL INFORMATION**

Rehearsal Time: M-F, 1<sup>st</sup> (Concert band) 2nd (Sym. Band) 3rd (W. Symphony) 5th (W. Ensemble)  
Class Materials: All personnel are expected to have his/her music (including any method books), instrument (w/accessories), and a pencil at all rehearsals.

### **PHILOSOPHY & GOALS**

The goals of the Lincoln-Way East Band Program are:

1. To study, rehearse, and prepare music to the highest level of understanding and excellence so that students can experience the excitement of sharing musical gifts with others through performance.
2. To provide students with an opportunity to be a part of the greater whole – to know that each individual is equally important to the success of the entire group.
3. To learn about ourselves through the journey of studying, preparing, and performing those things that will help make us better people.

The Lincoln-Way East Bands instill the highest performance standards while offering its members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual, and musical horizons. It is devoted to the study, preparation, and performance of quality traditional and contemporary literature. The curriculum is designed to emphasize the development of comprehensive musicianship, general musical knowledge, and instrumental performance fundamentals, through the study of high school literature (Percussionists will meet in a separate class and join the winds via after school rehearsals prior to performances.

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. **LEARN YOUR MUSIC**—Students are expected to prepare notes and rhythms during personal practice time at home.
2. **RESPECT YOUR INSTRUMENT**—If you own your instrument, you know how important it is to maintain it. If you are using a school owned instrument, treat it as if it were your own. Polish it, clean it, put it properly in its case, and store the case appropriately.
3. **RESPECT THE FACILITY**—This is **your** band room. Everyone is expected to pick up after themselves, store instruments in their proper location, and not bring food or drink into the room. Lockers in the music hallway should be used for instruments and band equipment only. Personal items (clothes, shoes, books, etc.) should be stored in the hallway lockers unless special approval is given.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS Continued

4. **RESPECT ONE ANOTHER**—Respect one another by not worrying about anyone other than yourself when it comes to roles within the ensemble. Show respect for each other’s instruments and personal property as well.
5. **BE PROFESSIONAL**—This is perhaps the most important expectation of all because it embodies and encompasses everything we do from rehearsal, to practice
  - Be prepared for rehearsal.
  - Practice at home, not at rehearsal. Amateurs practice until they get it right. Professionals practice until they can’t get it wrong!
  - Remain quiet during rehearsal when you are not being addressed.
  - Dress according to the concert attire guidelines—professionally.
  - Always mind what you say when representing the ensemble. Profanity is NOT tolerated.
  - Extend respect to others outside the ensemble and music department. Leave a positive impression in the minds of others about our band and school
  - When in a concert (band, choir, orchestra etc.) never speak during the performance, either on stage or in the audience.
  - Be human. Kindness can have the most profound impact of all. If you have nothing nice to say, keep it to yourself. If it will brighten someone’s day, say it!

## CLASSROOM RULES

1. No cell phones in rehearsal unless asked by an instructor (See school policy on cell phones).
2. No food or gum in the band room water bottles are allowed (no spilling).  
Why? – They cause poor tone quality, can damage instruments, and it is against school policy.
3. Leave all backpacks, cases, and other unnecessary items outside of the band set-up.  
Why? – They are a distraction and have nothing to do with band rehearsals.
4. If “it” is not yours, do not touch “it.”  
Why? – Instruments are expensive. Instrument *repairs* are expensive.
5. Do not “hack” (play) when you are not being directly worked with.  
Why? – It is a distraction and disrespectful to other students and the conductor.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students should follow the rules and expectations stated above and in the Lincoln-Way East High School Parent-Student Handbook at all times. If a student is not following the rules and expectations, being disruptive, or misbehaving, the student will be subject to the Lincoln-Way East High School Discipline Policy, and the following system:

1. First offense: Verbal warning.
2. Second offense: Verbal warning. Written referral to main office. Parents will be notified.
3. Third offense: Written referral to main office. Parents will be notified. A Parent-Teacher conference will be scheduled. Students may be removed from class.

*Steps in this hierarchy can be passed over as a result of extreme misconduct.*

## REHEARSAL PHILOSOPHY & PROCEDURES

Rehearsals (Re-“HEAR”-sals) are not to learn your part – rather they are to learn everyone else’s part and therefore, the music. Rehearsals are a time to work together, not individually. The development of music fundamentals and the discovery of how the composition works in relation to the composer’s intent is the focus of rehearsal time. Your part is your responsibility. This standard is important because it is the professional standard and it is what good musicians do.

Before rehearsals the:

1. Musician is inside the band room when the bell rings.
2. Musician sets up his/her own stand and chair properly and in the correct area.
3. Musician attends rehearsal with music (including method books), pencil, and instrument in good working order and with all accessories (quality reeds, mutes, oils, clean mouthpiece, etc.) Musician prepares for rehearsal through practice.
4. Musician prepares for rehearsal that day by demonstrating proper warm-up technique (long tones, lip slurs, scales, etc.)
5. **Musician demonstrates proper decorum by concluding all preparations when the conductor steps to the podium.**

During rehearsals the:

1. Musician works and performs to the best of his/her ability.
2. Musician demonstrates proper posture, hand position, and embouchure.
3. Musician demonstrates frequent eye contact with the conductor while playing and receiving verbal instructions. Musician takes notes or marks the music for future improvement and individual practice.
4. Musician demonstrates proper rehearsal decorum by not talking while the conductor is rehearsing another section.

After rehearsal the:

1. Musician prepares their chair and stand for the next ensemble rehearsal.
2. Musician demonstrates proper instrument, equipment, music care, and storage. Instruments should be disassembled, swabbed (if necessary), and put in cases.
3. Musician prepares for the next rehearsal.

## GRADING POLICY

The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:

40% 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grade

40% 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Grade

20% Final Exam including Concert Review

Participation – Showing up is expected, not to get credit!

If a student is not prepared on a consistent basis, it will be reflected in assessments related to the mastery of the content. If the director feels that a student has missed enough class time to be detrimental to subject mastery, parents will be notified, and additional assignments may be necessary to fulfill class assessment needs.

Ensemble Performance – *Summative*

Daily rehearsals culminate in quarterly performances of quality wind band literature. It is mandatory that students attend their OWN dress rehearsals and performances, be on time, and prepared. **If a student misses a performance for ANY reason, the instructor will determine an appropriate make-up assignment and due date commensurate with the quarterly cornerstone assessment that the concert represents.**

#### Individual Performance— *Summative and Formative*

Students will be assessed on musical material distributed and worked on daily in class. These tests will include “Box of Destiny” and “SmartMusic” assessments. Students will not “fail” these tests, they can be re-taken until the student earns a passing grade. Grades will be given based on a rubric to be discussed later in class.

#### Projects & Written Work – *Summative and Formative*

These are independent student assignments specifically designed to cover the fundamental curricular areas of music theory and music history. The purpose of this supplemental work is to enhance the rehearsal and study of select quality repertoire in a rehearsal sequence. Activities will encompass a wide range of musical skills from composition to listening. Projects will also include activities that further develop musical fundamentals.

#### Summative Assessments—70% of Grade

*Possible examples include; concerts, playing test, smart music assessments, music theory assessments and honors credit assignments (Wind Ensemble Only)*

#### Formative Assessments—30% of Grade

*Possible examples include; scale tests, smart music assessments, music theory assignments*

## WEBSITE

The Lincoln-Way East High School Music Department website is [www.lwemusic.org](http://www.lwemusic.org). This web-based system contains, among many things, an updated music department calendar, Classroom resources, Links to online content such as Edmodo, Smartmusic, Breezin thru theory, etc..which should be checked regularly for important upcoming dates or schedule changes in addition to protected class content and resources.

## ATTENDANCE & TARDY POLICY

The success of the band is in direct relationship to students’ attendance and effort during class time. The attendance policy is the same as Lincoln-Way East High School’s attendance policy.

Students must be in the **band room** when the bell rings, or they are **tardy**. Days that students are **tardy** will be tracked and reported to the main office.

If a student is absent from a regular school day, it is the **student’s** responsibility to check with the director, practice music to maintain classroom standards, and take care of any make-up work.

As a member of the Lincoln-Way East Band Program, students are expected to:

1. Place attendance at all band dress rehearsals and performances as of equal, if not greater, priority to any other activities in which you are involved.
2. Demonstrate responsibility by informing your parents of dress rehearsal and performance dates.
3. Demonstrate responsibility by informing a director of potential conflicts in advance.

If a possible conflict can be foreseen, a note should be given to the director no less than 14 days prior to the performance. **If a student misses a performance for ANY reason, the instructor will determine an appropriate make-up assignment and due date commensurate with the quarterly cornerstone assessment that the concert represents.**

**Dress rehearsals are considered a *part* of the performance, and are mandatory.**

All musicians are expected to stay for the ENTIRE concert, in the auditorium. Musicians who are tardy for the call time, display improper concert etiquette, leave the auditorium, or leave the building before the time stipulated by a director may have their performance grade lowered one letter.

## PRACTICE

Individual practice/review of music and other related classroom materials outside of the school day is essential to the success of the student musician and the band as a whole. Students should set aside a daily time to do so. Students in the band program are expected to **practice at least 3 days a week for 30 minutes each day**. Practice time is more effective if completed in smaller portions on a frequent basis instead of all at once.

## SECTIONALS

Student musicians are encouraged to hold regular sectionals (meaning with other members of their band/all other members of their section) outside of the usual class time. Students must have permission from a director and must be supervised.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private instrument lessons from a highly qualified instructor can be a highly rewarding and worthwhile experience for any band student. Students are not required to take private lessons, but will be highly encouraged. Most private lesson teachers in this geographical area teach right in the LWE Music practice rooms, making it easy for students to schedule and attend lessons. Assistance and contact information for a variety of private lesson teachers is available from Dr. Johnson or Mr. Ruklic.

## CONCERT DRESS / ATTIRE

Whether on stage or seated in the auditorium, concert dress is to remain "intact" until the conclusion of a concert. More details regarding check out of uniforms are forthcoming.

- **MEN:** Lincoln-Way East High School provides all male students with black tuxedos. \*\* Students will check them out from the school and will have to pay a small cleaning fee. Male students will need to purchase their own tuxedo shirt, and supply their own **black** dress shoes and **long black dress socks**.
- **WOMEN:** Lincoln-Way East High School provides all women with black dresses. \*\* Students will check them out from the school and will have to pay a small cleaning fee. Female students are expected to adhere to the following dress regulations: 1) ONLY Black, silver, or gold jewelry can be worn; 2) Any hairpieces need to be black; 3) Appropriate black **dress** shoes need to be worn; 4) Hosiery needs to be a "natural" color.

"Black" concert wear removes the visual distraction and puts the focus on the music being performed.

**\*\*The 2017-18 cleaning fee for tux and gown usage is \$20.00.**

## MUSIC

There is a method workbook required for this class that costs \$10.00. Music and other various materials, etc. are supplied by the Lincoln-Way East High School Music Department. Students are responsible for all materials, and must be returned by the end of the school year. **If a student loses a book or original music, the replacement fee is \$10.00 per item.**

"Parts" will be assigned by the director on a "rotating" basis.

## SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS & LOCKERS

School owned instruments are available and will be checked out by Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Ruklic. Students will need to pay a fee of \$150.00 to rent an instrument from the school for the school year. Students who need more than one school instrument will need to pay a fee of \$200.00 for the school year. Please see the "Equipment Loan Contract" for conditions and expectations.

Lockers are available to students to store their personal instruments. Only combination locks that are provided by the school are allowed. Lockers must be kept clean and orderly. If misused, the **privilege** of storing personal items in a band locker may be revoked.

## **REQUIRED INSTRUMENT MATERIALS**

LWE Concert Band students are expected to take high quality care of their own or any school owned instruments. This includes owning and having instrument maintenance accessories at each rehearsal.

**WOODWINDS:** Woodwind students must own a cleaning rod/swab and swab their instruments every day. Reed players should own 3-5 reeds at all times. Clarinet players need cork grease in their cases and use it every day. Clarinet and saxophone players need a mouthpiece brush and should clean their mouthpieces regularly to avoid health issues.

**BRASS:** Brass students should own their own valve oil and slide grease. Valves and slides should be oiled/greased *before* each rehearsal (not during). Polish cloths are also recommended to keep the instrument finish from wearing. Trumpet and trombone players need to purchase, at the minimum, their own straight mute. Brass students should also own a mouthpiece brush, and clean their mouthpieces regularly to avoid health issues.

*"Maintenance Kits" are available from the Music Department for \$10.  
These items can also be purchased at local music stores.*

## **INSTRUMENT UPGRADES**

As a student progresses musically, it will become necessary for the student to upgrade his/her own personal instrument-whether in part or whole. Before purchasing a new instrument or upgrading a certain part of the instrument, please consult Dr. Johnson or Mr. Ruklic for recommendations on brand, make, or model to assure that a quality purchase is made.

**Summary of expenses**  
**You will pay for these items separately once they are requested**  
**Tux and Gown \$20**  
**Class Rehearsal Workbook \$10**

LINCOLN-WAY EAST HIGH SCHOOL BANDS  
**MEMBER EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT**

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO DIRECTOR BY  
**Friday, AUGUST 25, 2017**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ATTACHED "LINCOLN-WAY EAST BANDS SYLLABUS" AS BOTH GIVEN AND DISCUSSED IN CLASS. I HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY IT AS INDICATED BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW. FURTHERMORE, I RECOGNIZE THAT FAILURE TO DO SO COMPROMISES THE MUSICAL INTEGRITY AND SUCCESS OF MY FELLOW MUSICIANS AND THE SUCCESS OF THE ENSEMBLE AS A WHOLE, AND MAY LEAD TO MY REMOVAL FROM THE ENSEMBLE.

**PRINT STUDENT NAME:**

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**STUDENT SIGNATURE:**

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**PRINT PARENT NAME:**

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**PARENT SIGNATURE:**

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**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Department Dates: BOLD CONCERTS ARE REQUIRED DATES FOR A GRADE

Please put these dates into your personal calendar. This schedule is subject to change. This schedule is also be available on the Lincoln-Way East music website. If any changes are made, they will be posted to the website and students will be notified.

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<b>Fall Dress Rehearsal #1</b>	Wednesday, September 20	3:00-5:15PM
<b>Fall Dress Rehearsal #2</b>	Monday, September 25	3:00-5:15PM
<b>Fall Concert</b>	Thursday, September 28	7:00PM
<b>December Dress Rehearsal #1</b>	Wednesday, November 29	3:00-5:15PM
<b>December Dress Rehearsal #2</b>	Wednesday, December 6	3:00-5:15PM
<b>December Concert</b>	Thursday, December 7	7PM
<b>Kaleidoscope Dress Rehearsal 1</b>	Tuesday, December 12	3-6PM
<b>Kaleidoscope Dress Rehearsal 2</b>	Wednesday, December 13	3-6PM
<b>Kaleidoscope Concert</b>	Thursday, December 14	7:00PM
<b>Winter Dress Rehearsal #1</b>	Wednesday, February 28	3:00-5:15PM
<b>Winter Dress Rehearsal #2</b>	Wednesday, March 7	3:00-5:15PM
<b>Winter Concert</b>	Thursday, March 8	7PM
<b>Spring Dress Rehearsal #1</b>	Wednesday, May 2	3:00-5:15PM
<b>Spring Dress Rehearsal #2</b>	Monday, May 7	3:00-5:15PM
<b>Spring Concert</b>	Tuesday, May 8	7PM
*LWE Jazz Showcase	Friday, May 4 & Saturday, May 5	Evening
*LWE Graduation Ceremony	Tuesday, May 29th	Evening

\* Select students.

*"Practice like you are the worst player. Perform like you are the best."*