

LEOPARD BAND

At-a-Glance



Goals of Beginning Band

- To instill an individual desire for excellence.
- To promote cooperation, teamwork and pride.
- To express the aesthetic value of music through performance skills.
- To fulfill state and district requirements for fine arts in the school curriculum.
- TO HAVE FUN AND SUCCEED!

Specific Objectives for Beginning Band

- To demonstrate correct posture while playing an instrument.
- To demonstrate correct embouchure while playing a wind instrument.
- To demonstrate correct hand and stick position while playing a percussion instrument.
- To produce a characteristic tone on an instrument.
- To understand and demonstrate the various articulation markings, such as slurring and tonguing.
- To clap, count and perform various rhythms that include whole, half, quarter, dotted quarter, eighth, dotted eighth, sixteenth and triplet figures.
- To play seven major scales and a full range chromatic scale.
- To develop technical motor skills such as tapping foot to the beat and clapping rhythms at different tempos.
- To develop listening skills including intonation: the ability to play in the center of the pitch.
- To demonstrate and apply correct knowledge of musical terminology.
- To develop listening skills within small and large ensembles of alike and different instrumentation.
- To develop technical and musical skills adequate for advancement to the seventh grade level in the middle school band program.
- To develop socially through large group interaction.
- To develop personal and social self discipline.

Band Schedule

Lillard is one of only two intermediate schools in MISD that supports the beginning band program to the extent that we have band EVERY DAY! Most band directors would agree that having band class each day is the single most important factor in a young musician's success. Lillard will be on the "SPOT" schedule again next year, which affects band students in this way: band students will only go to SPOT class every other

day; and on opposite days will come to band instead. This means that while non-band students have SPOT every day, band students will have SPOT every other day. Our principal supports this schedule, but with the understanding that if a student is struggling academically, the student's team teachers have the discretion to pull a student from band on opposite days to attend SPOT every day.

Practice Records

One of the ways in which we work to instill a sense of discipline in our beginning band members is through the process of developing a regular practice routine. We know from experience that students who practice on a regular basis succeed at a much higher rate and enjoy band much more than those students who practice in fits and starts with little regularity. In order to encourage a regular practice routine, students complete a Practice Record each week which must be signed by a parent. The Practice Record factors into students' grades at 20%.

Performances & Contests

Beginning band students will perform many times throughout the year. Major performances include the Fall Preview Concert in October, Holiday Concert in December, and the Spring Concert in May. Other performing opportunities include student assemblies, Open House Night, and Recruiting Concerts to the elementary campuses. The band members will also participate in the Solo & Ensemble contest in the spring semester, and will compete at the Sandy Lake Band Funfest in April.

Social Activities

Being in band is not all about practicing and performing – we also have a lot of fun, both in and out of the classroom. This past year Lillard Band had a Band Fun Night, a skating party at the Arlington Skatium, and we will have our end of the year party at “The Ice” at the Parks Mall in May. We know from experience that children will find friends in the activities in which they are involved, and we want all students to know that band is a safe place to form lasting friendships.

Grades & Conduct

Band is a graded class which factors into a student's grade point average. Grades are earned in the following categories:

- Playing tests & written work (music theory)
- Participation
- Weekly Practice Records.