

LAGO VISTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

---

# OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

## 2023-2024



Pieter DuPlooy  
**Director of Bands**  
[pduplooy@lagovistaisd.net](mailto:pduplooy@lagovistaisd.net)

Adam Mothersole  
**Associate Director of Bands**  
[amothersole@lagovistaisd.net](mailto:amothersole@lagovistaisd.net)

Benjamin Russell  
**Assistant Director of Bands**  
[brussell@lagovistaisd.net](mailto:brussell@lagovistaisd.net)

## MISSION

The Lago Vista High School Viking Band is committed to building a tradition of excellence through hard work and effort of its members, staff, and parents. It is the job of each director and student member to see this tradition is built and improved upon each year. The success of the Viking Band will only be determined by the dedication, determination, discipline and pride displayed by its members and the collective staff, parents and community. It is important to remember that each member represents what is best about young people, our community, and involvement in a musical organization. The goal of the band staff is to provide students with the best music education possible while aiding students to develop their character to the fullest extent through hard work, goal setting, cooperation, and responsibility. **Excellence is a habit and should be exhibited at every band event.**

For our greatest goals we must be dedicated to our cause, determined to succeed, and have the discipline to work hard and make progress each day. With these words in mind, please read this handbook carefully and make sure you understand what is expected of you as a member of the Viking Band.

### Band Expenses 2023-2024

Band Assessment Fee	\$100.00/\$50.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ \$100.00 for first student/\$50.00 for additional students in the same family. If you have two students in the program, you need to pay the \$100 for one, and each additional student is \$50.00.</li><li>○ This money is used to offset costs of uniform cleanings, clinicians, and various other expenses that is not able to be covered by our district budget availability. These funds directly impact the students currently in the program.</li></ul>	
Marching Shoes (will be sized and ordered in class)	\$40.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Only required of new members to marching band or members who need a different size.</li></ul>	
Informal Performance Uniform *NEW*. (will be ordered in class)	\$30.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Required of all members. This uniform will be used for pep rallies and for all informal community performances. More details TBA.</li></ul>	
Flip Folder (if needing new or replacement – may purchase on Amazon)	\$15.00
Instrument Supplies (reeds, valve oil, slide grease, etc...)	Varies
“Foundations for Superior Performance” Blue Book (Students must have this purchased and in class by November 1 <sup>st</sup> . Available on Amazon or at Music and Arts music store in Cedar Park.)	\$8.00
Black 1” Binder (Students must purchase this on their own prior to the start of concert season.)	
White Button Up Dress Shirt (Male students and approved female students will need to wear this with their tuxedo jackets in the spring semester. Please purchase by February, 2023.)	
Black Dress Pants (Male students and approved females will need to wear this with their tuxedo jackets in the spring semester. Please purchase by February, 2024.)	

### *Membership*

Membership in the Viking Band consists of all students in the high school band program and select members from Lago Vista Middle School at the director's discretion. Students are required to have played an instrument for at least one year prior to attending Lago Vista High School in order to be a member of the Viking Band program.

### *Marching Band*

The marching band will perform at ALL football games, various competitive marching festivals, the UIL marching contests, and local parades and events as scheduled and requested. All performances are mandatory for each band member.

For the marching show, the band directors will assign each student a marching position. Marching assignments will be made during summer band and may change at any time during the season as the directors see fit. Students who do not march at any given performance are still an integral part of the performance and will assist the directors with field equipment and organizational needs.

### *Performance Spot/ Alternate Block (Z-Line)*

For the marching show, students will be assigned either a performance spot or a spot in the alternate block. All students will march at all performances per the schedule assigned by the directors. Alternate block members will not, however, perform at competitions and will assist the directors as needed on the day of competition. Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as eligibility issues, illness, attendance, or other various factors, it is a necessity that we march an alternate block in the event a spot needs to be filled in the competition show.

Students must maintain the quality of their work in order to retain their positions – both on and off the field. Positions will not be held open. It is, therefore, important that students attend all scheduled rehearsals in order to retain their marching spot.

It is the goal of the band staff to include all band students in all of our performances. We will make every effort to see this goal is met and that all students participate. However, each student is accountable for the quality of his or her own individual performance.

Performance is judged based on each individual's work and how it affects the overall body of performance of the entire band.

Some common reasons for removal from a permanent marching assignment:

1. Attendance issues
2. Grade issues in academic classes
3. Attitude
4. Responsibility (especially in learning your marching spots and music)
5. Dedication and Pride

### *Attendance*

Students are required to be at ALL rehearsals and performances. Rehearsal begins at the first call to attention. **The Lago Vista High School tardy and attendance policy will be strictly enforced at all band events, including morning and evening rehearsals.**

Students will receive a weekly attendance grade and performance grade based on their participation. Failure to attend a rehearsal without prior communication will lower the student's attendance grade by 20 points. Tardies will lower the student's grade by 10 points. It is imperative that all students understand that attendance is mandatory and makes us a better band. If students need to miss a rehearsal or performance, they must communicate with the band directors **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** for it to be considered as an excused absence with no penalty and it will need to be an appropriate/valid excuse as to why they will be absent. **Please note: The directors will consider the approval of absence notifications. Sending a notification of an absence does not guarantee approval.**

Examples of Excusable Absences:

1. Illness
2. Funerals/Family Emergencies
3. Other Extracurricular Activity Requirements (with proper notification.)
4. Academic Field Trips (with proper communication.)
5. Medical Visits (if unavoidable – please schedule outside of our rehearsal times.)

Examples of Unexcused Absences:

1. Uncommunicated Other Extra-Curricular Activity Requirements (practices, games, etc.)
2. Family/Personal Vacations
3. Oversleeping
4. Job Scheduling

Students will receive either a 100 or a 0 for their performance grade depending on their attendance at the performance.

Students are subject to the Lago Vista High School attendance policy and we will follow it in regards to our program. When our rehearsals are scheduled to start, that is when attendance will be taken for our class. For instance, if our rehearsals begin at 7:45am, attendance will be taken at that time and tardies will be assigned as appropriate.

### *Involvement in Other School Activities*

The band staff actively promotes students to be involved in other activities on the LVHS campus, with the understanding that proper communication and understanding occurs between all parties, including the directors and other club sponsors, the student, and the student's parents or guardians. It is the **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to communicate with the directors and the other club sponsors for the activity in which they are involved to come up with a viable plan that will work for both activities. Conflicts must be communicated with the band directors **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** of the conflict. Please be proactive in asking for schedules of all activities and clubs you are involved in to recognize any conflicts ahead of time.

The band staff is committed to working with the other LVHS teachers, coaches, and sponsors to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other organizations on the campus within reason.

### *Communication*

**The most important aspect of our program is communication.** Due to the size and continued growth of our program, communication is extremely important to ensure mutual understanding.

The yearly schedule, announcements, and other pertinent information is available on our band website – [www.lagovistabands.com](http://www.lagovistabands.com). Also, announcements and information will be posted on our band “Facebook” page. Please join our band Facebook page by searching “Lago Vista Band Boosters” and request to be added. *Note: All updates are made to the website daily by 7:00pm. In the event I am not able to update the site by 7:00pm, an email will be sent out with the important announcements after the site has been updated.*

### *CUT-TIME Database System*

Each student and parent of the Viking Band must have an active e-mail account and be registered with our Cut-Time database system. Information sheets will be available on how to register for Cut-Time at the Mandatory Band Meeting. In order to receive e-mails from the directors, updated information, and to check account balances with the Booster Club and any trip and/or assessment fee payments, all students must have an active Cut-Time account.

**A Cut-Time account is REQUIRED by all members of the Viking Band and must include working email addresses for all students and parents.**

### *Band Program Drug Policy*

The Viking Band maintains a zero-tolerance policy as it pertains to drug abuse. As an extra-curricular activity, student members are subject to the district random drug testing. The band program follows a strict policy in regards to students who test positive for drugs.

*Offense One:* Meeting with student and parents regarding the drug test and appropriate counseling and medical attention assigned as necessary.

*Offense Two:* Student will be suspended from all band activities and subject to removal from the band program unless significant medical attention and counseling is assigned.

*Offense Three:* If the student is able to continue in the program after the second offense, a third offense will immediately have the student removed from the band program.

# MARCHING BAND

## *Marching Policies and Procedures*

Marching band activities include playing at all football games, community parades, marching festivals, UIL marching contests, and other events specified on the band calendar. With a student's active involvement in marching band, students earn a 1/2 PE credit during the marching season.

## *Student Responsibilities*

1. Marching fundamentals
2. Marching music (memorized and passed off by the directors)
3. Attendance at all rehearsals
4. Proper uniform care
5. Passing ALL of their classes
6. Making a conscientious effort to improve each day
7. Attend summer band
8. Turning in all required forms and documents (travel forms, handbook forms, etc...)
9. Exhibiting excellence and dedication at every rehearsal and performance
10. Communicating with the directors about all issues and conflicts that could affect their participation at any band eve

## *Dress Code*

We often rehearse during the hottest part of the day during the summer. Clothing worn must remain in the guidelines of the school dress code. For example, no bare midriffs, sport bras, etc. Shirts must be worn at all times.

For your own safety, all students should bring the following to every outdoor rehearsal:

1. Hat
2. Sunglasses
3. Personal thermos with water or sports drink (no carbonated or energy drinks)
4. Tennis shoes only (no sandals, boots, or bare feet will be permitted)
5. Sunscreen

### *Football Games*

Students are expected to follow and uphold all rules, regulations, and guidelines set forth by Lago Vista ISD and the LVHS Student Code of Conduct.

In addition, students are responsible for the following:

1. Stay in your assigned seats at all times – do not move around during games.
2. **Do not purchase or receive any unauthorized food or refreshments during the game – eating is NOT ALLOWED in the stands while in uniform.**  
**Parents: Please do not bring your student snacks or drinks during the game.**
3. Do not play your instrument unless the entire band is playing.
4. No one but band personnel is allowed in the band section or along the edges of the band during games. (Permission from the director is necessary for any exceptions.)
5. Watch the director/drum major at all times.
6. Watch closely for cut-offs during the game.
7. Stand and sit when you are assigned.
8. Listen to directions given by the director prior to halftime. File out in an orderly fashion for pre-show setup.
9. Treat other guests and directors politely at all times.
10. Restroom breaks will be given at appropriate times. Always check with a drum major before going to the restroom.

### *Uniform Guidelines*

1. Band uniforms will be issued during summer band. Band uniforms will be stored in the uniform room ONLY, not at home or in the locker room.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and its components.
3. Students may not enter the uniform room to retrieve a uniform. Only a director or designated assistants may hand out a uniform.
4. All uniforms are to be transported in garment bags and hat boxes.

### *Wearing the Uniform*

All students in the Viking Band are expected to wear their marching uniforms with pride at all events. Students are expected to wear the school-issued marching uniform to all performances, unless otherwise specified. Section leaders will be in charge of uniform inspections prior to each performance and will notify directors of any students not in proper uniform. Students that are found to not be in proper uniform will not be permitted to perform with the band.

The marching band uniform consists of ALL of the following:

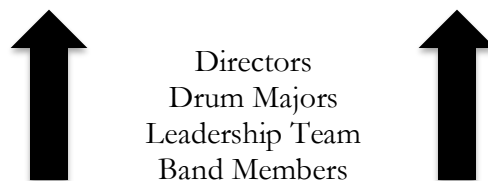
- Band shirt (issued at the beginning of the year)
- Bibbers (pants)
- Jacket
- Shako (hat)
- Black socks (calf-high only; no ankle socks and no other colors)
- Black approved marching shoes
- Gloves

Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish, or any other distraction from the uniform will not be acceptable. These hinder the uniform and the overall appearance of the band.

Also, band students with long hair will be required to put it up neatly under their hat during performances. Any visible hair should be pinned under the hat. All artificial hair colors should be done in a professional and tasteful manner. **Remember, you are a reflection of the band program and Lago Vista High School.**

### *Chain of Command and Student Leadership Team*

Students are expected to be knowledgeable of the chain of command within the band program. In most cases, questions can be answered by peers and student leadership. The chain of command in the Viking Band is as follows, starting at the bottom and working up:



Student leadership for each marching season is selected by application process at the end of the spring semester of the previous school year. These positions are detailed in the “Student Leadership Positions Descriptions” page that is available when applications become available each spring.

Students may apply for one or more of the following leadership positions:

- Drum Major
- Leadership Team



### *Operations Team*

The Operations Team assists in the day-to-day operation of the band program. Although not considered student leadership, these positions are carefully selected by the directors based on an application process. These positions are extremely important in operating the band program.

The Operations Team positions include the following positions:

- Historian
- Uniform Captain
- Librarian
- Loading Crew

### *Band Council*

The Band Council consists of positions elected by the members of the Viking Band. The members of the council are responsible for planning and executing the annual band social events during the year, including the annual Band Banquet. The Executive Council positions (voting members) in Band Council are as follows:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- One representative of each class – freshman, sophomore, etc...

### *Grading*

Grading in marching will be based on the following:

- Attendance
- Pass offs (music and marching)
- Preparedness for rehearsals and performances (having all uniform and instrument parts, music, etc...)

### *Pass Offs*

Students will be assigned a section of music and marching that they will be required to perform for a grade to ensure proper preparedness for performance and development. These pass offs will be assigned either electronically (recording submittal) or performed for the director(s) during class. It is the student's responsibility to ensure proper understanding of the performance and marching requirements prior to the pass off submittal.

Pass-offs will also be utilized to determine performance positions on the field. Students who are not prepared with their music or marching may be reassigned to an alternate position at the director's discretion.

## CONCERT BAND

The official start to “concert season” begins immediately following the conclusion of the marching competition season. Although football playoffs may still be occurring, our focus as a band program shifts to concert season.

During the concert season, the Viking Band will perform a winter concert, as well as prepare for the spring’s UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest, spring band concert, and various community performances.

### *Concert Band Uniform*

Ladies will have a dress provided for them for use during UIL performances. Gentlemen will need to acquire a pair of black dress pants and a white button up shirt. A tie and jacket will be provided to them for use during the UIL performance. Gentlemen may wear their own black jacket if they so choose, but they are required to be in appropriate concert black attire.

Black dress shoes will need to be acquired by both ladies and gentlemen for the concert season.

### *Involvement in Other School Activities*

The band staff actively promotes students to be involved in other activities on the LVHS campus, with the understanding that proper communication and understanding occurs between all parties, including the directors and other club sponsors, the student, and the student’s parents or guardians. It is the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to communicate with the directors and the other club sponsors for the activity in which they are involved to come up with a viable plan that will work for both activities. Conflicts must be communicated with the band directors AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE of the conflict. Please be proactive in asking for schedules of all activities and clubs you are involved in to recognize any conflicts ahead of time.

The band staff is committed to working with the other LVHS teachers, coaches, and sponsors to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other organizations on the campus.

### *Attendance*

Students are subject to the Lago Vista High School attendance policy and we will follow it in regards to our program. When our rehearsals are scheduled to start, that is when attendance will be taken for our class. For instance, if our rehearsals begin at 7:45am, attendance will be taken at that time and tardies will be assigned as appropriate.

## **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

Percussion Ensemble is our percussion performance ensemble for all percussion students at LVHS and LVMS. We will perform at several events throughout the year, including concerts, community events, and Solo and Ensemble Contest.

### *Performance Dress Code*

- For Gentlemen, black pants, long black socks, black shirt, black shoes.
- For Ladies, black pants/shirt or long black dress, black shoes/socks (if needed).

### *Attendance/Communication*

- Rehearsals will be held primarily during the school day, with a few after school rehearsals scheduled throughout the spring.
- All Percussion Students are expected to abide by the LVHS Band Attendance Policy. Any conflicts are to be communicated at least two weeks in advance.

## **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

The Lago Vista High School Jazz Ensemble is an auditioned performance ensemble studying the jazz music style. We will perform at several events throughout the year, including concerts, community events, and a jazz festival in the spring.

### *Performance Dress Code*

- For Gentlemen, black pants, long black socks, black shirt, black shoes.
- For Ladies, black pants/shirt or long black dress, black shoes/socks (if needed).

### *Attendance/Communication*

- Rehearsals will be held primarily during the school day, with a few after school rehearsals scheduled throughout the spring as needed.
- All students are expected to abide by the LVHS Band Attendance Policy. Any conflicts are to be communicated at least two weeks in advance.



# LAGO VISTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BANDS

## Letter Jacket Tracking Form

### HIGH SCHOOL BAND

- 10 points for high school marching & concert participation
- 10 points for being on the leadership team
- 10 points for Jazz Ensemble participation

### HS REGION BAND

- 10 points for making the All-Region Band
- 20 points for making All-Region Band and All-Area Band
- 40 points for making All-Region, All-Area, and All-State Band

### SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

- 10 points for receiving a superior rating on a solo or an ensemble
- 20 points for receiving a superior rating on a solo AND an ensemble.
- 10 points for receiving a superior rating at State Solo and Ensemble on a solo or ensemble.

### **Letter Jacket Eligibility**

- *50 points TOTAL*
- *If you are senior and have been in band all 4 years in high school, you will qualify for your letter jacket.*

	<b>EIGHTH GRADE</b>	<b>FRESHMAN YEAR</b>	<b>SOPHOMORE YEAR</b>	<b>JUNIOR YEAR</b>	<b>SENIOR YEAR</b>
<b>BAND</b>					
<b>LEADER</b>					
<b>REGION</b>					
<b>S &amp; E</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					

**Lago Vista High School**  
**Viking Band Calendar**  
**SUMMER/FALL 2023**

**July**

20-21	Leadership Training Camp (Leadership Team Only)	Band Hall – 8:00a-12:00p
24-28	Drumline Rehearsal	Band Hall – 8:00a-11:30a
	Front Ensemble Rehearsal	Band Hall – 1:00p-4:00p
26-28	Freshmen/New Marcher Camp	Practice Lot – 8:00a-12:00p
31	Full Band Rehearsal	8:00a-11:30a/1:00p-4:00p

**August**

1-4	Full Band Rehearsal	8:00a-11:30a/1:00p-4:00p
4	Phone Drive Fundraiser (Mandatory)	4:00p-7:00pm
	Band Administration Day	4:00p-7:00pm
	Season Kickoff Tailgate/Mandatory Parent Meeting	7:30pm
7	Full Band Rehearsal	4:00p-7:00pm
8-10	Full Band Rehearsal	8:00a-11:30a/5:00p-8:00p
11	Full Band Rehearsal/Band Water Day	8:00a-10:30a/11:00a-6:00p
14-16	Full Band Rehearsal	8:00am-11:30a/5:00p-8:00p
17	First Day of School	No Rehearsal
18	Normal Rehearsal Schedule Begins (See below)	

**Normal School Rehearsal Schedule**

Monday	8:15am-9:15am (Indoor Music Rehearsal) 6:15p-8:15p (Full Band Rehearsal @ Stadium)
Tuesday	8:15am-9:15am (Full Band Rehearsal) 4:30pm-5:30pm (Woodwind Sectionals) 4:30pm-5:30pm (Drumline Sectional)
Wednesday	7:30am-9:00am (Full Band Rehearsal)
Thursday	7:30am-9:00am (Full Band Rehearsal) 4:30pm-5:30pm (Brass Sectionals) 4:30pm-5:30pm (Front Ensemble Sectional)
Friday	8:00am-9:00am (Full Band Rehearsal)



**2023 Varsity Football Schedule**

Week 1	August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cameron Yoe	Away
Week 2	September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Academy	Home
Week 3	September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Giddings (Homecoming)	Home
Week 4	September 15 <sup>th</sup>	La Grange	Away
Week 5	September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Smithville	Home
Week 6	September 29 <sup>th</sup>	BYE WEEK	NO GAME
Week 7	October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Navarro	Away
Week 8	October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Austin Achieve	Home
Week 9	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Manor New Tech	Away
Week 10	October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wimberley	Away
Week 11	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jarrell (Senior Night)	Home

**Marching Competition Schedule**

October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Troy Marching Band Festival	Troy High School
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Comal Classic Invitational	Canyon HS, New Braunfels
October 14 <sup>th</sup> *	UIL Regional Contest	Burnet HS
TBA (Possibly Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup> )*	UIL Area Contest	Location TBA

# LAGO VISTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

---

## Handbook Contract

By signing below, all parties agree that they have read, understand, and will comply with the 2023-2024 Viking Band Handbook and all of its policies and procedures.

---

Student Name

---

Student Signature

---

Parent Name

---

Parent Signature

---

Date

