

# Welcome to the Larned Junior High "Band of Indians"

*Welcome to a part of Junior High not all students have the opportunity to experience. Membership in this distinguished organization is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The Larned "Band of Indians" consistently maintains a performance standard of excellence while providing each individual with an opportunity for growth.*

*This high power band program requires students to be dedicated, determined, and optimistic. Larned "Band of Indians" members are dedicated to the performance of good music to the maximum of their abilities. They are dedicated to their fellow band members, to Larned High School, and to their community. They are determined to work hard and diligently become a part of this disciplined group, and to make their family proud of all they have accomplished. They are determined to persevere when things get rough, and optimistic that through hard work and practice, they will become the leaders of tomorrow.*

*The "Band of Indians" Handbook is designed to outline the organizational and procedural aspects of our Band Program. In this handbook you will find information regarding items such as attendance, grading policy, uniforms, and important dates. Please read through the handbook and familiarize yourself with the information.*

*Best wishes and I look forward to sharing a year of wonderful musical experiences with you!*

*Musically,*

*Katie Sperry  
Director of Bands*

# Mrs. Sperry's Music Philosophy

I believe music is a powerful medium that can help students discover their unique capabilities, build positive relationships with their peers, and foster meaningful connections with the larger community. As Director, my job isn't just waving the baton; it is conducting myself and our band in a way, which brings the benefits of music into the lives of our band members and community neighbors.

As Band Director, I am committed to:

- + Providing a safe place for students to grow musically
- + Helping students develop a feeling of musical competency
- + Guiding students toward creating their signature musical sound and style
- + Fostering student's love of music and an appreciation for fellow musicians
- + Giving back to the community through music
- + Cultivating meaningful partnerships among students, teachers, families, and community members

## Mission Statement

The mission of the "Band of Indians" is to consistently strive for excellence in all we do. Members of the "Band of Indians" operate within an environment of deeply engrained values: Motivation, Dedication, and Musical Development. Along with these values, "Band of Indians" members develop important life skills: time management, leadership, cooperation, humility, and responsibility. These values, when combined with quality music, lead to an exciting and rewarding band experience.

## Objectives of the "Band of Indians"

1. Develop, in all members, a lifelong and appreciation for music.
2. Support both Larned High School activities and our community through performances.
3. Project a positive image of USD 495 and the Larned Performing Arts.
4. Provide enjoyable and exciting experienced for members in all performing ensembles.

# Expectations of the Larned "Band of Indians" Members

Band members are typically some of the finest young people in the school. At all times, you should be able to say these things about yourself:

## **Respect Yourself.**

*If I make a mistake on a song, I laugh it off and try again.  
I practice, so I'm prepared for band rehearsal.  
I am a good example to those around me.*

## **Respect Others.**

*I don't laugh at or make fun of other people's playing.  
I have kind words to say to my fellow band members at all times.  
I allow my band director to teach without interruptions.*

## **Respect Property.**

*I take good care of my instrument and respect my bandmates' instrument.  
I hold my instrument securely so I don't drop it.  
If I am NOT a percussionist, I don't touch the percussion equipment.*

## **YOU HAVE A CHOICE!**

*You are an important member of our band, and your actions will affect everyone else in our group. Your behavior will determine how much we learn and how well we play, and will also show the community what the "Band of Indians" are all about. When you choose your actions in band, always remember that you are choosing your consequences as well. When you do your best, band becomes energized with music-making excitement! However, poor behavior can ruin people's good impression of our band—and even worse, it can make learning music more difficult and less fun.*

## **"Band of Indians" Consequences**

One of Mrs. Sperry's most important jobs is to help band members develop character traits to help them excel both in the band room and beyond. Throughout the year, we will model productive behavior, establish helpful classroom routines, and provide boundaries and guidance to help members learn to make good behavior choices. Behavior issues in the "Band of Indians" will be used as opportunities to help members grow.

1. Verbal warning
2. Verbal warning with loss of daily points
3. 30 minute detention either before or after school
4. 30 minute detention and phone call to your parents
5. Referral to the Office

# "Band of Indians" Procedures

1. Before rehearsal, please use the restroom and get a drink of water. Please finish any food or gum before you enter the band room – remember food and band instruments do not mix!
2. Enter the respectfully, assemble your instrument, music, pencil and music stand.
3. Begin your individual warm up; use this time to count rhythms or practice challenging music. Your warm up will end when Mrs. Sperry steps on the podium.
4. During rehearsal, please raise your hand for permission to leave your seat or to ask a question.
5. During rehearsal, we will warm up, count rhythms, work on pieces of music together, and learn new things. This is a great time to listen, ask questions, and practice positive behavior.
6. At the end of rehearsal, when Mrs. Sperry dismisses you, are responsible for putting your music, music stand and instrument away. Please return the music stands neatly and all will fit on the stack racks.

## Food and Drink Policy

Food (to include gum) and drinks (except water)  
WILL NOT be allowed in the classroom.

## Electronic Device Policy

Band members WILLNOT be allowed to use their cell phone or other electronic device in the classroom without permission from Mrs. Sperry. Any student caught using such a device during class will be subject to the following:

1. Verbal warning
2. Device taken away and loss of daily points
3. Device taken away, loss of daily points and 30 minute detention served either before or after school
4. Device taken away and referred to the office.

# Grading Procedures

A student's grade is a balanced reflection of the individual's musical achievement, technical skill on an instrument, participations in all activities, and effort both within rehearsal and at home. The grade is made up of THREE different factors: Rehearsal, Playing Test, and Performances.

## Rehearsal – 5 points per day

Each day you will receive a rehearsal grade, which will be based on the following:

1. You are prepared: instrument, music, pencil, marching charts
2. Your work ethic and attitude
3. You are in class and in your seat ready for warm-ups.

## Playing Test – 15 points per test

You will be asked to play alone in class. This isn't to torture you; it is a way to monitor your musical progress on your instrument. There will random playing tests during Marching Band and Concert Band.

There will be a chair placement test in August and January. Once this placement is complete you will be able to challenge for two weeks after each placement. Mrs. Sperry will select the challenge music and you will have one week to prepare.

## Performances – 200 points per performance

Performances are an integral part of the musical experience. Performances give you a chance to celebrate your hard-earned musical skills and give back to the community with your talents. Therefore, attendance is **mandatory** for all members. I will let you know in advance of any additions or changed to the marching band, pep band or concert schedule.

Concert dates are provided in this handbook, written on the white board, and posted on the door. Please take the time and put these dates on your calendar. This will help with family event planning and your work schedule. Work is not a valid reason to miss any performance. If you need an extra copy and/or a note to provide your employer, please let me know.

## Tardy Policy

You are expected to be in the rehearsal room preparing for warm-ups when the bell rings. I will allow for two additional minutes for set-up and preparation. **You will be considered tardy if you are not in your seat at 8:05 pm when Mr. Wrinkle begins morning announcements.** If you are late due to another teacher, please ask for a note. Your consequences for being tardy will follow the "Band of Indians" Consequences.

# Attendance Policy

All schedule rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Dates are set well in advance and made public in a multitude of formats, please plan accordingly. In the event of an unavoidable absence in order to be EXCUSED from a:

**Performance** must provide written notification signed by your parent/guardian at least ONE WEEK prior to the performance date. This includes: Marching Band, Pep Band, Concert Band and Festivals. Grade will be reduced, if notification is not within the time frame stated.

**Illness/Emergency Absence** must provide notification promptly either by written notification or a phone call to the High School office.

An UNEXCUSED absence will result in the loss of rehearsal or performance points.

## Concert Band

The Concert Band will perform two school concerts, at League Music, and State large Group. Attendance is required at all performances. **Concert attire will be black slacks/full length skirt, white dress shirt (blouses/polo), black socks/pantyhose or nude pantyhose and black dress shoes.** Marching band shoes will and long black skirts are available upon request. Please ask several days prior to a concert.

## Solo and Small Ensemble

Starting in January each student will be assigned a small and large ensemble to participate in. Each student is also encouraged to take their own solo to perform at League Music. Each soloist and ensemble is provided rehearsal time during the school day in preparation for the final performance event. Students will also an opportunity to perform their solo or ensemble for the Larned Music Club meeting March and our Spring Concert.

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in this event, as it is one of the best ways to receive personalized instruction from Mrs. Sperry and gain knowledge and skill specific to your major instrument.

# In Closing

Student, band is going to be fun, but be aware there will be some spots on your path, which will be challenging and hard to pass. When the going gets tough, remember you have the ability to keep practicing and beat any challenges that come your way. Also, remember, Mrs. Sperry and your parents are here to help you become the BEST musician you can be.

Parents, our youth need positive direction in their lives, and our community is in constant need of good music and happy new. Let's make the Larned "Band of Indians" a positive force, which provides both! Working together, we can design a band that not only influences students' lives for the better, but also allows our students to influence the work for the better. I encourage you to become active in our program, communicate with me, and encourage your child to practice. This is your band, too!

Many thanks for your support and best wishes for a safe, happy and successful school year! I am looking forward to another outstanding year with all of you!

Musically,

Katie Sperry  
Director of Bands  
(620) 2285-2151  
katie.sperry@usd495.net

[coverlayout.com](http://coverlayout.com)



"Music gives a soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind..."

~Plato

# "Band of Indians" Handbook Agreement

Your first assignment is to read through this handbook with your parent/guardian(s), sign the agreement below, and return to Mrs. Sperry by Tuesday, August 25, 2015. This assignment is worth 100 points.

**We have read the policies and procedures documented in this handbook.  
We understand and agree to their terms and conditions.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Printed Name)

Parent/Guardian Contact information.

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ (best number to reach you at)

Address \_\_\_\_\_



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2015-2016  
Student Handbook