

LOVEJOY BAND

WILLOW SPRINGS

BAND HANDBOOK **SCHOOL YEAR: 2017-2018**

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www.lovejoyband.com

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START OF YEAR INFORMATION

WHAT SUPPLIES DO I NEED?

All WILLOW SPRINGS band members need:

TUNER AND METRONOME COMBO

6/7/8 grade band members should have a tuner/metronome combo. I like the following makes and models for their convenience, affordability and longevity. A student who takes care of this equipment will use it from 6th grade band through their senior year in the Lovejoy High School Band.

<http://www.korg.com/us/products/tuners/>

<http://www.snarktuners.com/>



BAND BINDER

7/8 grade band members may also wish to purchase:

Music Flip Folder for Pep Band Music



Music Lyre to attach Flip Folder to instrument

These are sold specific to each instrument, so please ask for assistance at the music store. There are NO lyres for flutes, oboes, bassoons, tubas or percussion.

SUMMARY OF FEES (Payable August 22) \$75.00

Pays for: band member band t-shirt; used for the entire band; contest entry fees, student transportation to contests and other events, music for band, music theory textbooks, instrument maintenance and supplies, master classes and clinicians, judges for pre-UIL, and other yearly activities and needs not covered by Lovejoy ISD.

BAND REGISTRATION NIGHT

For WILLOW SPRINGS BAND MEMBERS

Thursday, August 24, 8:00 pm

Willow Springs Band Hall

There will be a short information meeting/introduction to the band directors. This is the deadline to complete your child(ren)'s:

- Online Registration Form (one per child)
- Pay \$75 Band Fee (per child)
- Order any supplies from Williamson Music (For your convenience, there will be a Williamson representative present to sell or take orders for any music supplies you may need.)
- IF YOU PAY YOUR BAND FEE, SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT FEE (IF APPLICABLE), AND COMPLETE YOUR BAND REGISTRATION FORM ALL ONLINE **PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE AND TIME**, YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND THE MEETING!

What is included in my child's band fee?

The band fee covers the cost of your child's band shirt, entry and clinician's fees (judges for solo and ensemble contests, invitational contest entry fees, small amount of cost of clinicians who work with students throughout the year), food/social (section parties, any food provided during or surrounding events).

The cost of optional social events (such as Main Event, Medieval Times, or any other purely social event), is not included in the yearly band fee. Information about those events will be provided as they are scheduled.

One Fundraiser will be conducted per year to provide additional instruments/equipment for our growing program, clinicians, student awards, 8th grade gifts, music, band photos, contest fees, transportation, financial support for deserving students, meals for students (before/after contest performances, masterclasses, all region clinic, etc), judges, private teachers and directors to help us place incoming 6th graders on instruments. A second fundraiser for the spring semester is being considered.

All money directly benefits and provides opportunities for students.

CALENDAR

www.lovejoyband.com

It is so important to attend concerts and performances throughout the school year. With respect for your busy schedules, all WSMS Band events are listed in real time. (Events start when they are scheduled to begin--not thirty minutes later.)

Please review the Band Calendar and add all dates to your family calendar. We try very hard not to make changes to the calendar. If there is ever a change, notice will be given well in advance.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to the 2017-2018 Willow Springs Band program! We strive to create excellence through responsibility, self-discipline, accomplishment, pride, musical growth, and of course, fun! This handbook is designed to assist parents and students in understanding the many dimensions of the band program in Lovejoy ISD. It should serve as a valuable resource to you as questions arise related to your child and band. Every child is very important to the band staff, and we will strive to provide an outstanding musical experience for each of our students. To accomplish this, it is crucial that every student understand and uphold his or her responsibilities as a member of the organization. Joining the band is much like joining an athletic team. Each child's personal success is also an integral part of the success of the band as a whole. Please read through this handbook and help your child understand its contents. We strongly recommend that your child keep a copy of this handbook in their band binder for easy access throughout the year. You may also reference it at any time through our website. Please refer to it as needed.

Please email or call the directors with questions first. We are here to help.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

CONTACTING THE DIRECTORS

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions not addressed in this handbook or in the correspondence we send home throughout the year. Please allow 24 hours for us to return your call or email. All of our directors travel daily between Willow Springs, Sloan Creek, and Lovejoy High School.

Martha Ball, martha_ball@lovejoyisd.net, 469-742-8493

Lindsay Abbott, lindsay_abbott@lovejoyisd.net, 469-742-8492

BAND WEBSITE

Please visit our band website anytime at www.lovejoyband.com.

BAND DATABASE: CHARMS

- Keep your contact information up to date on Charms!
<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/plogin.asp>
- School Code- willowspringsband
- Password- Student ID #

When you log in for the first time, it will prompt you to set your own password. You can update phone numbers, and email addresses. It is so important that you help us by providing the most accurate contact information available.

CLASS SCHEDULE

CONCERT BANDS

We will have three bands this year at Willow Springs. Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band are all three seventh and eighth grade mixed ensembles, set by audition in the spring. See the band calendar for audition dates.

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band is an additional ensemble that will meet outside of school in the spring semester and perform on the Spring Band Concert. Information will be given to students in December regarding Jazz Band membership/auditions. Rehearsals will begin in January. A full rehearsal schedule will be given to students along with audition/sign-up materials for Jazz Band when that information is made available to students in December.

WILLOW SPRINGS

Period	Time	Ms. Ball	Ms. Abbott	Mr. Sadler
Before School	8:00 - 8:50	Section Rehearsal	Section Rehearsal	
	8:55 - 9:39	At Sloan Creek	At Sloan Creek	
2nd	9:43 - 10:27	At Sloan Creek	At Sloan Creek	
3rd	10:31 - 11:15	At Sloan Creek	At Sloan Creek	Color Guard
4th	11:19 - 12:03	At Sloan Creek	At Sloan Creek	
5th	12:27 - 1:21	Wind Ensemble	Assist Wind Ensemble	
6th	1:25 - 2:09	Assist Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	
7th	2:13 - 3:12	Concert Band	Assist Concert Band	
8th	3:16 - 4:00	Conference/Planning	Conference/Planning	
After School	4:10 - 5:00	Section Rehearsal	Section Rehearsal	

*Section rehearsals are once weekly rehearsals for each instrument. They will be scheduled shortly after school begins and the schedule will be made to accommodate student school related activities such as participation in athletics.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Willow Springs Band exist in a number of capacities within the overall school environment. Band is an elective, curricular course with defined TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) objectives. The band also enhances the aesthetic quality of life for all students, and promotes school spirit and pride. Membership in the Sloan Creek and then Willow Springs Bands is the first part of a seven-year journey culminating in membership in the Lovejoy High School Band. In Band, students will:

- Learn techniques of preparation to perform proficiently on their instruments individually and as members of an ensemble
- Develop the ability to understand and evaluate musical performances with an educated ear
- Develop an understanding of our musical heritage and recognize the importance of music in culture
- Develop self-confidence and responsibility by working as a team member
- Build citizenship traits through mutually respectful relationships with teachers and peers
- Build a framework for the lifelong appreciation of music

STATEMENT OF MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Success in musical performance requires a great deal of collaborative effort among teachers, administrators, parents, and students. By enrolling in the Willow Springs Band, you are making a commitment to the band as an organization, to yourself, and to the other students in the band. This commitment includes accepting responsibility for the following:

- Participate as a member of the band for the full school year
- Do your best to grow musically as an individual
- Maintain a positive attitude and support the goals of the band

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BAND

The three most important things a band student must do are:

1. Practice regularly!
2. Be in attendance at rehearsals, concerts and musical events!
3. Turn in all assignments on time and be organized!

Playing an instrument is a skill that develops with time. Lack of practice and frequent absences will cause a band student to fall behind. Participation *is* the band experience.

The nine week's grade is a combination of the individual grade categories listed below:

1. Playing tests (may include taped and live performance of test material)
2. Performance grades (concerts)
3. Written tests and quizzes (procedures, music theory, instrumental information)
4. Materials checks (having all music/music binders in class every day)
5. Participation
6. Fundamentals/Skill Development grades

Good discipline is intertwined with a student's ability to be successful in band. The band has a tremendous responsibility as one of the representatives of our school. The public forms their opinion about our school from the behavior we exhibit as a performing group. Band students must be trusted to exhibit excellent behavior and citizenship at all times. **Those students whose behavior becomes problematic will be denied performance and/or activity privileges with the band.**

PRACTICING

As with any sport or art, successful practice is the key to success. Questions about when, how, where, and what to practice can all be found at this link.

[A Parent's Guide to Successful Practicing - Home](#) by Alicia DeSoto

PRACTICING BASICS:

- The practice area should be quiet and free from distractions. (No tv, siblings, etc.)
- A firm chair without wheels. (Don't sit on the couch, in a recliner, or on the edge of the bed.)
- An adjustable music stand. A foldable wire music stand is perfect.
- Encourage your child--ask questions about what they are practicing, compliment their efforts. Improvement takes time, patience and persistence.

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

In order to have and maintain high quality concert ensembles, attendance from all members is essential. Section rehearsals and full band rehearsals outside the school day are an extension of the classroom and grades will be taken during that time. Students in more than one school related organization will compare and communicate conflicts to all sponsors immediately upon receiving the calendar. Please email Ms. Ball regarding any foreseeable conflicts well in advance.

SECTION REHEARSALS

All 7th and 8th grade band members are required to attend one 50-minute weekly section rehearsal before or after school as set by the band director. Every attempt is made to avoid conflicts with school athletic practices and other school activities. The directors work cooperatively with coaches and other teachers to resolve any conflicts that may occur.

The sectional schedule will be set once school starts. Students will be notified of the section rehearsal schedule in writing, and the schedule will be placed on the website at www.lovejoyband.com.

Please do not schedule appointments or other activities during section rehearsal times. Please discuss any known conflicts with your child's band director in advance. Please communicate any absences due to student illness, absence from school, or other excused conflicts to the band director. It is the student's responsibility to find out what material was covered at any missed section rehearsal.

Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and grades will be taken. Attendance is required.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Band is a performing art and our concert performances, solo performances, competitions and auditions are the culmination of our work. Performances are temporal events, and as such, cannot be "made-up". Attendance is required of all band members.

Each of the ensembles will perform at various time throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of the assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors. (See general attendance policies)

Performances of the concert ensembles will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Holiday/Fine Arts Festival Concert (Sloan Creek, Willow Springs, and Lovejoy HS Bands)
- Pre-UIL Concert (Willow Springs and Lovejoy High School Bands)
- UIL Contest (Willow Springs Bands)
- Spring Concerts (Sloan Creek and Willow Springs Bands)

Individual performances include:

- All Region Band Auditions (Willow Springs Bands)
- Solo Contest (Sloan Creek, Willow Springs, Lovejoy HS Bands)
- Ensemble Contest (Sloan Creek, Willow Springs, Lovejoy HS Bands)

Students should consult the www.lovejoyband.com for dates and times. It is highly recommended that you sync your calendar with ours so you receive updates as they occur.

Concerts are considered to have three parts:

1. Warm-up
2. Performance
3. Listening

The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential.

All concerts are a group effort, thus, attendance is required for all students.

- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make-up all missed work. (This would apply for spring band trips and UIL contest performances.)
- The appropriate attire for all concert will be the concert uniform unless different attire is deemed appropriate by the directors.
- Students are expected to stay for their assigned audience time.

EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCES

- In accordance with LISD policy, all excused absences will be honored with no grade penalty.

These will include:

- Medical emergency or illness
 - Death in the family
 - Religious holiday
-
- An alternative assignment will be provided by the band director for those students who miss a performance with an excused absence. This assignment must be completed and the grade will be averaged in the place of the missed performance.
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- If an excused absence is anticipated, a written notification should be submitted at least two days in advance.
-
- Students who are academically ineligible or temporarily suspended from extra-curricular activities will complete an alternative assignment for each performance missed.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Performance attire for Willow Springs Band members:

CASUAL UNIFORM: Band shirt and jeans or nice shorts and tennis shoes.

FORMAL UNIFORM: Everyone must wear the concert dress (school provided), plus: black dress shoes, and black socks. Students must wear black dress shoes and close toes are preferred for girls. No casual sandals or flip flops. Black tennis shoes and/or black jeans are not appropriate for formal concerts.

Gentlemen will be provided black tuxedo pants (school provided), and will purchase a long sleeved, black, button down, dress shirt. We will provide a red uniform tie. Boys will also need to wear black dress socks and black dress shoes (purchased by student).

PRIVATE LESSONS

We are pleased to offer a high quality private lesson program at Willow Springs with professional teachers/musicians on every instrument. Private lessons provide excellent musical enrichment for students, and allow your child to receive specific instruction to meet his or her needs. Private lessons are NOT remedial! They are designed to meet the needs of EVERY student, targeting specific areas of growth and challenge!

Lesson cost is \$20.00 weekly for one 25 minute private lesson (half of one class period). Lessons are scheduled by our private teachers during band class time or before/ after school hours. Most lessons will take place on your child's home campus. Please fill out the private lesson form and return this to your child's band director. We will place students with private teachers on a first come, first served basis. You may begin taking lessons at any time; however, private teachers set their schedules at the beginning of the year, and may not be able to accommodate students after that time. Also, please understand that our private instructors calculate income based on the number of students who enroll in lessons at the start of the school year. One enrolled, students are expected to continue private lessons throughout the entire school year. Please visit our website, www.lovejoyband.com, for contact information for approved teachers.

The private lesson program is a minimum semester-long commitment, though the expectation in enrollment is for the entire school year.

Please honor your financial obligation to these instructors. Remember, this is their livelihood for themselves and their families.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (NO PASS--NO PLAY)

Many band activities are designated by the state as extra-curricular. These activities are therefore governed by the state laws regarding participation.

Under state law, all students must maintain passing grades in all classes each six weeks to meet eligibility requirements for participation in extra-curricular performances (all contests, festivals, football games, and some other off-campus events are considered extra-curricular; concerts, section rehearsals, and all other rehearsals are curricular, and therefore not subject to eligibility rules). If a student earns a grade below 70 in any course for a six week's period, he or she is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular events for at least three weeks. That student's grade will be reviewed at the end of a three-week period (when progress reports are issued). At this time, the suspension will be removed if the student's grade in every class is equal to or greater than a 70.

Please refer to your calendar for events that require academic eligibility (football games, All-Region Band, Solo and Ensemble Contests, Beach Within Reach, PEAK, or other festivals).

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Behavior expectations establish a safe environment for students as well as the traditions for the future of our band program.

- Students are not to touch equipment or instruments they are not assigned to play in school. Percussion instruments are strictly off limits to non-percussionists.
- As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the band hall.
- No gum in the band hall at any time.
- Be in your seat with materials and instrument ready at the beginning of each period.
- Bring all materials and supplies to class each day.
- Students will be quiet during rehearsals so our time can be used most productively.

SOLO ACCOMPANISTS

The only expense **not covered** by the Band Fee is \$35 or \$40 to pay an accompanist for solo contest (exact cost to be determined). 7th and 8th grade brass and woodwind players must perform solos with live accompaniment. Percussion solos are almost always written to be unaccompanied. The accompanist fee covers the cost of two rehearsals, the performance, and the accompanist's time spent learning the piano part. We will contract excellent accompanists for our students; their job is to assist your child in an optimum performance. We will do all scheduling of accompanist rehearsals and performance times, so you do not need to do that work. Beginning students generally perform with recorded accompaniment, and do not pay this \$40. If we are able to provide live accompanists for beginning students, their fee will be reduced and will only include one rehearsal.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Who pays a school-owned instrument fee? *Students who play...*

Oboe

Bassoon

Tenor & Baritone Saxophone

French horn

Euphonium

Tuba

Percussion

The Lovejoy Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use.

These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value, thus, all school-owned instruments/equipment must be carefully cared for to maintain the best possible condition. Students failing to care for, or take care of their school-owned instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school-owned instruments:

- The instrument usage fee for school-owned instruments is \$100.00 per year.
- All students (including percussionists), who play school-owned instruments will be charged \$100.00 per year. This is a very minimal fee considering that most of the school-owned instruments cost over several thousand dollars each.
- The student and parents are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the equipment.
 - The Lovejoy Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually-owned or school-owned instruments. It is required of all students utilizing school-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for said instrument. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance. You may choose to add the instrument to your homeowner's or renter's insurance, or you can obtain instrument insurance through an individual carrier. There is also a company called Music Agency, Inc., whose sole business is insuring musical instruments. Forms are available at www.musicagencyinc.com if you would like to look into this option.
 - Repairs and adjustments must still be made just like personally-owned instruments at the user's expense.
 - Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition.
 - Each school-owned instrument will be checked and cleaned by a music company prior to issue.
 - The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
 - All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

Special note: School-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they are your own. Most school-owned instruments exceed at least a \$3,000.00 value. Since the expense of purchasing, leasing or renting is mostly waived, students using school-owned instruments are strongly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program.

INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE

All instruments require regular maintenance to remain in working condition and to prevent the need for extensive repair. Brass and woodwind players must regularly oil valves and grease corks and slides. You will need to buy more slide or cork grease or valve oil as your supply runs low. Reed players always need a supply of at least 4 good reeds. Do not wait until you are on your last reed to buy more! Percussionists are responsible for keeping percussion instruments covered and equipment stored in its designated location. All students are responsible for their music folder and all music and method books. Each student needs to have a pencil at his or her stand during every rehearsal. Please see your band director immediately should you need another copy of your music.

STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

As students advance in their abilities, they often outgrow their beginning level instruments and/or mouthpieces. When this happens, a student's continued musical growth be hindered by an inferior instrument. Upgrading to a professional quality instrument can be a very good investment for continued success.

We will be happy to provide you with a list of approved instruments as you consider upgrading. Your child's private teacher is also an excellent resource. Please contact Ms. Ball, Ms. Abbott or Mrs. Rogers before making any instrument purchase!

MUSIC RETAILERS

Music and Arts

Twin Creeks Village, 109 Central Expy S #517 Located in Downtown Dallas

Allen, TX 75013

(214) 383-1737

www.MusicArts.com

Lone Star Percussion (percussion only)

10611 Control Pl

(972) 668-1176

www.lonestarpercussion.com

Williamson

701 E Plano Pkwy #414

Plano, TX 75074

(972) 633-8203

www.wm1st.com

Carolyn Nussbaum Music Co. (flutes only)

625 Digital Dr #300

Plano, TX 75075

(972) 985-2662

www.flute4u.com

Duo Music Clarinet Shop (clarinets only)

Call Mia Song

Frisco, TX

(214) 436-7459

www.duoclarinetshop.com

Brook Mays

6921 Independence, Suite 120

Plano, TX 75023

(972) 618-3222

www.brookmays.com

Helpful for print music and books:

Pender's Music Co.

www.penders.com

J.W. Pepper & Sons Music

www.jwpepper.com

CHAPERONES/PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of parents to help us with band events and in other areas of the band program. Your support allows us to attend events such as football games, band contests, and social activities, and we welcome your involvement in your child's music education. In compliance with Lovejoy ISD policy, parents wishing to chaperone events will need to complete a criminal history check. This can be done online on the Lovejoy ISD website in the PARENTS section. Here is a link for your convenience. Please complete this check two weeks prior to any event.

http://www.lovejoyisd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=388656&type=d&pREC_ID=881532

FUNDRAISING

The band is both a curricular course and a campus organization. In order to function as an organization throughout the year, the band participates in one fall fundraising activity. All money raised is used for the benefit of the students in the Willow Springs Band program. We do hope that, since every student benefits from the use of these funds, every student will participate in generating necessary revenue. Donations are also gladly accepted in lieu of participating in fundraising for those who are interested. More information regarding fundraising procedures will be presented at the start of our fundraising drive.

OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL

All school rules apply to any off-campus event sponsored by a school organization. Off-campus, students are representing the Willow Springs Bands the Lovejoy Bands, and Lovejoy Independent School District, as well as themselves and their parents. Therefore, infractions are taken very seriously. Students who fail to comply with a director or chaperone's instructions will receive appropriate consequences. In the interest of your child's safety, once a student leaves the school with the band, that student must remain with the band until the group returns to the school.

Any questions regarding field trips should be directed to Ms. Ball in advance at least 48 prior to the start of the field trip.

SPECIAL TRIPS

The Willow Springs Band members will participate in an invitational music festival or contest in April as well. They will perform as a band and spend time enjoying the water park with their friends. In order to attend this trip, students must:

- Be academically eligible at that time.
- Attend all scheduled full-band rehearsals.
- Receive no office referrals in band all year.
- Maintain a positive attitude in band.

All band students will have the opportunity to participate in social trips. In order to attend these trips, students must:

- Have no unexcused absences from any band performance during the year.
- Receive no office referrals in band
- Attend contest with the band.
- Maintain a positive and cooperative attitude throughout the year.