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# **Laraway Band**

# **Handbook**

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**Laraway CCSD 70C**

**2021 - 2022**

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## Welcome!

Dear Laraway Families,

Welcome to the Laraway Band! I am extremely glad that you have chosen to join the Laraway Band family. Your decision to become part of our program will ensure that the music tradition of pride, dedication, and excellence will carry on for many years to come. As a member of the Laraway Band, you will learn more than just how to play a musical instrument; you will learn how to work as a team toward a common goal and experience success on a greater level. As a band member, you are joining the leagues of millions all over the world who, for the love of music, communicate and work together for the pure enrichment of the arts. Congratulations on joining our band family and I look forward to an exciting year together!

Sincerely,

*Ms. Kelly Thelen*  
Laraway Band Director  
[kthelen@laraway70c.org](mailto:kthelen@laraway70c.org)

# Ensembles

## Lancer Band (Concert Band)

The Lancer Band is the ensemble for students, who have previous instrumental experience. Students are admitted into the Concert Band after they have passed specific checkpoints in their curriculum or by passing the playing test. Students in the ensemble will also participate in marching band in the fall. The Lancer Band performs at all band concerts, Joliet's Light Up the Holidays Parade, community performances, and Six Flags/Chicago Wolves games. The Lancer Band will rehearse once a week before/after school, and multiple times a week leading up to a major community performance. Students in Lancer Band also have small group performance opportunities including: holiday caroling, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and joint performances with the high schools.

## Squire Band (Beginning Band)

The Squire Band is the ensemble for students, who are new to playing an instrument. Students in Squire Band learn the foundations of playing their instrument and must pass specific curriculum checkpoints, before progressing into the Lancer Band. Students who do not pass into Lancer Band after one year, will remain in Squire Band until the concepts are correctly learned. Squire Band will rehearse after school this year from 3:00pm-4:30pm once every few weeks. Students will also perform at the Holiday and Spring Concerts.

## Stage Band Exploratory

Stage Band is offered to junior high students, who are enrolled in exploratory. It is **strongly encouraged** that students take the Piano Exploratory first. Stage Band is a year-long exploratory that meets every morning. Students learn how to play guitar and bass guitar through FigureNotes, piano, vocals, and basic drum set patterns. Stage Band performs throughout the year at concerts, lunch periods, and community events.



## Lesson and Rehearsal Procedures

### Small Group Lesson Procedure:

1. Student(s) check in with their classroom teacher and record all assignments in their planner. If the class is doing a project, quiz, or test, then students need to stay to complete the activity. They can always reschedule their lesson for another time.
2. Walk to the band room and set up your instrument.
3. Students will be dismissed when the bell rings.

*Students who are not following CHAMPS, or are not taking their lesson time seriously will be sent back to class or to the office.*

Lesson schedules are given to each student, are posted in the hallways, and are available online.

### After School Rehearsal Procedure:

1. After the last class is dismissed, students need to bring all of their belongings to the band room.
2. Rehearsals will begin at 3:15pm. Prior to this, students need to use the restroom. By 3:15pm, students should be seated with their instruments and ready to play.
3. When rehearsal is over, students need to pack up their instruments and line up by the door in order to receive their bus number.

***Please note that even though band is before/after school, students will still need to follow all school rules. This means that cell phones should not be out during rehearsal.***

## Performances

Live performance is an important part of being a musician and is a great way to celebrate the process of making music, and showcase what the students have learned. Since each musician makes a unique contribution to each performance, attendance is required. A performance and rehearsal calendar will be sent home each trimester. Should an emergency arise, please contact the band director as soon as possible. Students will participate in the following concerts, additional performances may be added throughout the year:

School Community Events/Open Houses

Light Up the Holidays Parade (Lancer Band)

Holiday Concert (All Bands)

Solo & Ensemble Contest (Lancer Band - Optional)

Fine Arts Festival (Stage Band, Solo & Ensemble)

Junior High Jamboree (Lancer Band, Stage Band)

Spring Concert (All Bands)

Six Flags/Wolves Game – *All students will participate in each if they join Squire Band in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Lancer Band in 6<sup>th</sup>*

## Student Expectations

**ATTENDANCE** – Each student's personal success is directly related to attendance; therefore, band members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and lessons. Additionally, each band member contributes to the success of the group as a whole.

In order for students to participate in a concert, students must have good attendance at their lessons, rehearsals, **and the last rehearsal prior to the concert**. Students who fail to meet this requirement will not be ready to perform in the concert.

Important **family or religious conflicts** should be communicated by a parent/guardian to Ms. Thelen in writing at least two weeks prior to the conflict.

**School-sponsored activity or sport** conflicts should be communicated to Ms. Thelen at least one week prior to the conflict. Ms. Thelen will assist in creating a schedule that allows attendance at both activities.

*Students that miss a lesson or rehearsal due to a school absence are excused and do not need to make it up (they can always reschedule a lesson). Students are also excused if they cannot miss a class due to their teacher's recommendation. Students are not excused for not attending, or not knowing their lesson time. Students can reschedule their lesson during the same week or practice their music after school for a make-up. Students who do not reschedule their lessons or do not show up to their make-up will be given a "0" for that week.*

**BEHAVIOR** – Band members are expected to follow all school and band classroom rules at all times. Your actions are a reflection of the Laraway Band as a whole. Misbehavior resulting in a major referral, suspension, etc. is unacceptable. Students who fight during lessons, rehearsals, field trips, or in the band room will be referred to the principal and will incur a possible loss of privileges.

**INSTRUMENT** – Students are expected to stay with their instrument throughout the duration of the school year. Instrument switches are only done if a medical condition arises or per director recommendation.

**PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** – Band members are expected to demonstrate personal responsibility when using music equipment: keeping track of their instrument, keeping their band cubby clean, getting any notes or homework that they miss in class, etc.

**PRACTICE** – A student's success on a musical instrument is dependent upon positive participation during group instruction and daily individual practice. Students who do not practice will encounter difficulties in music both at Laraway, and in high school. There are open practice times at Laraway and instruments can be taken home. With the new one-to-one technology, playing assessments will start to be given this school year.



## Band Room Policies

**Restroom Policy:** Students need to use the restroom prior to lessons and after school rehearsal. The band room has a bathroom. Students need to ask permission to use the space. During after school rehearsals, only one student is allowed in the bathroom at a time and they must lock the door upon entering.

**Recess Policy:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade students may practice or make up a lesson during their recess time, as long as they check in with their classroom teacher and are given permission. Students who do not use this time to their advantage (i.e. playing other's instruments, running throughout the room) will be asked to go back to recess.

**Practice Room:** Practice rooms are available for students to use to practice during lunch, recess, and after school. Practice rooms can be reserved during breakfast each morning. Students need to ask permission before entering these spaces. All food and beverages (except for water) are not allowed in the practice rooms.

**Offices and Storage Closets:** These rooms are filled with instruments and supplies, and students must ask permission before entering these spaces.

**Instrument Storage:** All instruments will be kept in instrument cubbies. Students are only permitted to use **their personal cubby**. Students are not permitted to take any belongings out of a cubby that is not their own.

**Instruments:** All students need to make sure that they are the only ones that use their own instrument. In the new room, percussion instruments will be out and students should not touch these, if they do not play percussion at Laraway. These instruments are very expensive and can break if they are not played or moved correctly. Instruments will also be hung up around the room and should not be touched.

## Band Officers

Each year, students have the opportunity to be a Band Officer! Band Officers have leadership positions in the band and represent the ensemble to the school and to the Band Director.

### Band Officer Guidelines:

1. Students must remain in good academic standing (not failing any classes).
2. Students must remain in good band standing. Any students who have two unexcused lessons and rehearsals will be ineligible to be an officer.
3. Students need to positively represent the musical ensemble.
4. Students will be voted into office by their classmates and will hold their position for the entire school year.
5. Once voted into office, students must attend the Band Officer meetings during recess/lunch.

## **Parent Expectations**

**CHEERLEADER** – Encouraging your child to finish something they started teaches them a valuable lesson that they can carry with them throughout their lives! The experience of trying something new and challenging is more enjoyable for students when someone is in their corner cheering them on with words of encouragement.

**SUPERVISOR** – Help your child grow into the best possible musician they can be, by supervising their practice activities and reviewing their Goal Sheet with them each week. Ask your student questions about what they are learning and have them play the exercises/songs for you. If they are not sure about something, encourage them to ask Ms. Thelen for additional assistance.

## **Grading Policy**

Students will receive a grade for band on their report card. Squire Band, Lancer Band, and Stage Band Exploratory will all receive separate grades. Grading for the ensembles will include the following criteria: lessons/rehearsals, assignments (goal sheets, playing assignments), quizzes, and performances. Students are given plenty of opportunities for lesson and rehearsal make-ups.

## **Care of Instrument**

Your instrument must be stored properly in its case when not in use. It may only be taken out of the case for rehearsals, lessons and individual practice. Students **may not** take their instrument out of its case while on the bus, in hallways, or any other non-practice/performance location. This puts the instrument at risk of being damaged.

Students should not play other students' instruments, especially if they do not know how to handle them. This includes instruments in the band room, including: guitars, pianos, tubas, and percussion. Instruments can break very easily and should only be handled by the student playing it. Students who break instruments (their own or someone else's) are responsible for any repair costs.

Notify Ms. Thelen immediately if your instrument is not working properly. DO NOT try to fix your instrument on your own. Musical instruments are very delicate and should be repaired by a trained technician. Do not store your instrument in a car. Extreme hot and cold weather can damage your instrument.

## Required Materials

Students will need the supplies and instrument accessories listed below during lessons and rehearsals.

Students who rent from Laraway will be given their method book when they sign up. Additional method books are available to purchase for \$10, or \$16 for percussion.

### Required Supplies

1. Instrument in good working order
2. Band binder (1" black binder)
3. *Essential Elements for Band* (Book 1)
4. Sharpened pencil

**Flute** – Cleaning rod/cloth, slide grease

**Oboe** – Three working reeds, reed guard, small container for water, cork grease

**Clarinet** – Four working reeds, reed guard, cleaning swab, cork grease

**Alto Saxophone** – Four working reeds, reed guard, neck strap, cork grease

**Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba** – Valve oil, slide grease

**French Horn** – Rotor oil, slide grease

**Trombone** – Slide oil, slide grease, cloth

**Percussion** – Bell kit with drum pad

### NOTE ABOUT REEDS:

Reeds are “disposable” accessories, because they wear out over time. Once a reed is chipped or worn out, it must be thrown away.

- Additional **clarinet** reeds may be purchased from Laraway for **\$1** each.
- Additional **alto saxophone and bass clarinet** reeds may be purchased for **\$2** each.
- Additional **oboe** reeds may be purchased from Laraway for **\$5** each.
- Boxes of reeds are available for purchase at the local music stores listed on page 8.

These reeds are recommended for purchase for students:

Squire Band – Rico Royal, Strength 2.5 (Alto Saxophone and Bb Clarinet)

Lancer Band – Rico Royal/Vandoren Strength 3 (Alto Saxophone and Bb Clarinet)



## Choosing a Rental Vendor

Consider the following questions when selecting a rental instrument for your child.

- Does the music store display a wide variety of quality woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, supplies, method books and music?
- Are band rental instruments new or refurbished (used)?
- Does the instrument meet the recommended brand listing?
- How is the instrument delivered to you?
- Does the rental contract include a maintenance and replacement program?
- Are loaner instruments readily available during periods of repair?
- Are repairs completed in-house or out-sourced? How are instruments delivered when repairs are completed?

## Rental Options

### Laraway Community Consolidated School District 70C

Families may choose to rent an instrument directly from **Laraway School** for a one-time fee **\$45 for the entire school year**. The rental fee covers basic maintenance of wear and tear. Available instruments will be rented on a first come, first served basis.

**The \$45 rental fee does not cover repairs beyond normal wear and tear, or if the instrument is lost or stolen.**

**Major repairs and replacement are at the cost of the renter.**

## Recommended Instrument Brands

Flute – Gemeinhardt, Armstrong, Yamaha, Selmer

Clarinet – Buffet, Yamaha, Selmer

Alto Saxophone – Selmer, Yamaha, Bundy

Trumpet – Bach, Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Getzen

French Horn – Holton, Conn, Yamaha

Trombone – Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Bach,

Baritone or Euphonium – Yamaha, Jupiter, Besson

Tuba – Miraphone, Yamaha, Jupiter

## Rental Options Comparison Chart

	Laraway School	Quinlan & Fabish	Brandolino's	PM Music
<b>Location</b>	On Site	Burr Ridge, IL	Shorewood, IL	Aurora, IL
<b>Initial Cost</b>	\$45 yearly fee	\$40—\$115 4 month trial	\$25—\$61 3 month trial	\$49 : \$59 : \$105 : \$135 4 month trial
<b>Monthly Cost</b>	\$0	\$20 - \$45 per month until paid in full	\$25 - \$61 per month until paid in full	\$19—\$99 per month
<b>Condition</b>	used	new and used	new and used	new and used
<b>Maintenance &amp; Repair Cost</b>	major repairs at cost of renter	included in monthly rental cost	included in monthly rental cost	Free repairs
<b>Where do your monthly payments go?</b>	n/a	payments apply toward purchase of instrument		Only the first 9 months go towards the purchase of the instrument. You will also receive a 35% discount when you purchase.
<b>Loaner Instruments</b>	no loaner instrument provided during repair		loaner instrument provided during repair	
<b>Pick-Up/ Delivery</b>	n/a	Pick-up and delivery to school Pick-up in store	Pick-up and delivery to school <b>and</b> home or pick-up in store	Pick up in store Delivery to school
<b>Phone</b>	815-290-9424	630-654-4111	815-729-2858	(630) 978-9927
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://Larawaymusic.com">Larawaymusic.com</a> <i>Instrument rental not available online</i>	<a href="http://qandf.com">qandf.com</a> <i>budget rental</i> <i>not available online</i>	<a href="http://rentfromhome.com">rentfromhome.com</a> <i>rent online</i> <i>CODE: pr76g</i>	<a href="http://Pmmusiccenter.com">Pmmusiccenter.com</a> <i>Rent online</i>



Quinlan & Fabish

6827 High Grove Blvd.  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527



Brandolino's Encore Music Center

700 W Jefferson Street  
Shorewood, IL 60404



PM Music Center

4411 Fox Valley Center Dr  
Aurora, IL 60504