

Hello Eighth Grade Band Students and Families!

My name is Kate Sellers and I am the band and orchestra director at La Plata High School. Entering high school can be confusing and a bit intimidating for students but participating in an instrumental ensemble is a great way for ninth graders to make friends and adjust to school. Below is the list of different options as well as helpful information about those ensembles.

Concert Band- (curricular) students in Concert Band will play music appropriate for early high school musicians. Many students in concert band select to move up to Symphonic Band after one or two years of Concert Band. There are required Pride Time (activity period) rehearsals once a week and required after-school rehearsals once a month in addition to class.

Symphonic Band- (curricular, audition) students in Symphonic Band will play advanced high school and college-level music. Eighth graders will be recommended by their middle school teacher and/or audition for Symphonic Band before the start of the 20-21 school year. All Symphonic Band students are required to prepare an audition for All-County band and must play a solo or ensemble piece for re-audition back into the ensemble. There are required after-school rehearsals once a month in addition to class.

Marching Band- (extra-curricular) marching band is a huge time commitment but is very rewarding. Many students reference the band being a “family” and that is certainly true for the La Plata Marching Warriors. We rehearse at band camp in August, Tuesdays/Thursdays during the school year and play at football games and competitions most weekends. Additional information regarding marching band will be sent out, and there will be a virtual interest meeting, date/time TBD.

Jazz Band- (extra-curricular, auditions in November) the LPHS Jazz Band is a traditional big band that plays a variety of music genres (swing, rock, funk, Latin, etc). Saxophone, trombone, trumpet, guitar, bass, piano and percussion players will audition in November at the conclusion of marching band season. We perform at our concerts as well as local community events.

Full Orchestra- (extra-curricular, auditions in December) started this year, the full orchestra plays high-level literature featuring strings, winds and percussion. The full group will rehearse five or six times together before the performance.

Pit Orchestra- (extra-curricular, auditions, if needed, in January) the pit orchestra plays the music for the musical. This is professional level music, and can be tricky at times, but playing in the pit is a fun experience.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions via email at ksellers@ccboe.com. It is my sincere hope that every eighth-grade student involved in instrumental music continue with music in some way, shape or form in high school. Whether a student plans to be involved all four years or is just looking to get their arts credit, sticking with an instrument is something that many adults wish they had done.