



# Little Miami Marching Band Handbook 2024-2025

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## Little Miami Marching Band

3001 E. US 22-3  
Morrow, OH 45152

<https://www.lmpantherband.com/>

Mrs. Tabitha Smith, Director of Band  
Mrs. Molly McCoy, Assistant Director  
Mr. Rick Reinzan, Percussion Instructor

Dear band members and families,

Welcome to the Little Miami Marching Band Program. The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint band personnel and parents with all aspects of membership in the band. Read and keep this handbook. It is our hope that the information included will make participation more enjoyable and rewarding.

All efforts are directed toward the goal of providing a quality musical and physical experience for every student. The Panther Band, therefore, operates upon the principle that everyone will strive to do his or her best to present a class act to the public and to their peers. This requires much cooperation, effort, and trust. Therefore, in this spirit, the following information and guidelines will assist students and parents in obtaining the best results possible.

The Panther Band is a dancing band similar in style to the Ohio University Marching 110. We perform several different shows in a season, which requires us to learn many field maneuvers and memorize fifteen to twenty songs. Our band camp, practices and performances are extremely demanding and physical. Students must be physically prepared for the demands of our style of marching band. Students need to be well hydrated at all times. If a student is physically unable to participate in practice and performance 90% of the time, then they should not do marching band.

Marching band is an important facet of our school and community, meeting at regularly scheduled rehearsals and performing in several football games, parades and band festivals. The Little Miami Marching Band has a long and proud tradition, which has been developed by the hard work and dedication of many students, parents, and directors through the years. The experiences encountered and the friendships developed are rewarding and last a lifetime.

We want to thank you all in advance for your dedication and hard work that we know you are going to put in to make our marching band great!

Mrs. Smith, Mrs. McCoy and Mr. Reinzan

*No person in the Little Miami Local School District, shall, on the ground of race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, disability, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, all as in accordance with and as limited by the provisions of applicable law.*

Homeless Local Liaison: Jamie Miles ([jmiles@lmsdoh.org](mailto:jmiles@lmsdoh.org)) 513-899-2264  
Foster Care Local Liaison: Jamie Miles ([jmiles@lmsdoh.org](mailto:jmiles@lmsdoh.org)) 513-899-2264



## General information/Eligibility Requirements

- Marching band is strictly an extra-curricular activity.
- Students will be required to rehearse and perform physically demanding marching and dance routines.
- Students will be required to have a physical on file with the directors before being able to participate in the first day of band camp.
- Any student that has no experience playing an instrument in a concert band will not be able to join the marching band.
- It is highly recommended that all students register for Concert Band or Symphonic Band for the entire school year.
- If a student joins the marching band and then quits, that student will not be allowed to rejoin the marching band.

## PE Option

After 2 seasons of marching band, a student may apply for a PE waiver. In order for the directors to sign off on this waiver, students must do all of the following:

1. Let the directors know during freshman year if the student will be applying for a PE waiver.
2. Students will be required to participate in all rehearsals, parades, festivals and football games for 2 complete seasons before they can receive a PE waiver.
3. After 2 full years (July-May) have been completed, bring the form to the directors to sign. Do not turn in the form for each year.

## Pep Band

Pep band (basketball) participation is required from all marching band students. A pep band schedule will be given to students no later than the beginning of November. Students are each assigned to 5 or 6 home games. Students who are unexcused from more than one assigned pep band game will not be permitted to perform in the Spring parades (St. Patrick's Day, Reds Opening Day and Memorial Day).

## Fees

- Parents will be given a payment plan sheet from the booster treasurer at the marching band informational meeting. This sheet will inform parents in detail when money will be due.
- **All fees must be paid by the first day of band camp, or the student will not be allowed to participate.** There will be no exceptions. If conflicts arise, then please inform the director or the booster treasurer.
- Payments can be made to the band boosters at any time throughout the summer and no later than the first day of band camp.



## **Attendance Policy**

You have made a commitment to be in the marching band this season. Everyone is counting on you! In order to have successful rehearsals and performances, full attendance is essential. ***The absence of one person not only affects that person, but the entire group.*** Critical factors such as uniformity, balance, precision, and alignment cannot be improved or maintained with absences.

An Absence Request Form must be reported to the directors via the google doc link that will be provided on the band website [lmpantherband.com](http://lmpantherband.com) at least two weeks in advance. **FILLING OUT AN ABSENCE REQUEST FORM DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN YOUR ABSENCE IS EXCUSED!**

All students **MUST** attend pre-camp **AND** band camp in order to participate in marching band. Any student that misses due to parents scheduling vacations during these camps will need to show directors that they are fully able to do fundamentals, march their spot in the drill, execute with accuracy the dance number, and be able to play all music before they will be permitted to perform. This can be done in a rehearsal or through a video.

### **Excused Absences:**

- Absent from school - students are not permitted to practice or perform if you are not present at school on the day of the practice or performance. This is a school rule.
- Personal illness - Directors may ask for a doctor's note to verify multiple absences
- Weddings in the immediate family
- Death or serious illness
- Emergencies (details must be communicated with the directors) "Family Emergency" is not necessarily excused
- If a student is involved in a fall, winter or spring sport, they must provide a schedule/calendar as soon as possible. Telling the director on the day of a rehearsal that they have a game or practice is unacceptable. Students should also divide the amount of time equally for both the sport and band.

### **Unexcused Absences:**

- Everything else
- Family Emergency or Family Situation-Some explanation is required
- Absences due to work, driver's education, studying/school work, concerts, doctor's appointments, internships, **other school activities** and all other personal responsibilities **WILL NOT** be excused.

If a student misses two of the three rehearsals in the same week, whether excused or unexcused, that student will not be permitted to perform at the week's performances. If there is no performance that week, the student



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will have to demonstrate that they know all drill, dances, and music at the following week’s rehearsal in order to perform at the next performance.

Any UNEXCUSED absence from a PERFORMANCE will result in the member not being permitted to march at the next football game, parade or festival and may result in a meeting with the student and parent/guardian to determine if and under what circumstances the member is to remain in the marching band. Continued absence from rehearsals and/or performances may result in dismissal from the organization.

## Rules for Conduct

### General Guidelines

#### Students:

- You are responsible for your belongings and your trash at all times. Take care of your instrument to prevent damage.
- No food or drinks in the band room.
- Carry out instructions from the directors and student leaders without hesitation or disrespectful responses.
- No public displays of affection at any time.
- Treat fellow band members with respect.
- No cursing during rehearsals, performances, or any time while in any uniform (summer uniform, full uniform or pep band uniform).
- Insubordination from any student will result in removal from the marching band.
- No experimenting with others’ instruments!
- An Absence Request Form must be filled out for any band events (practice or performance) that will be missed. *See Attendance page*
- All rules in the Little Miami High School Handbook apply to marching band as well.

#### Parents:

- Always be a positive support system for the band and for the directors.
- Set a positive example for all of our students.
- Do not gossip or create problems that cause turmoil for the band and the directors.
- If you have a question or concern, please approach the directors directly so that any issues can be addressed immediately.
- Understand that our marching band is extremely rigorous and physically demanding. It is a huge time commitment so proper planning is critical. If your child is not prepared to meet the physical and time commitment to the band, then perhaps marching band is not a good fit for them.
- Black band t-shirts and black band jackets are for marching band students and alumni only. Parents and siblings should not wear these items. Band spirit wear is available to purchase.

### At All Practices and Band Camp

#### Students:

- You must arrive early enough for rehearsal that you are ready to start on time. Arriving at the start time will be considered late.
- Wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes.
- **No bare feet, sandals, or dinkles!**
- Bring your instrument, binder, pencil and WATER BOTTLE.
- Rehearsals are rarely canceled due to

#### Parents:

- Drop off your child at least 15 minutes before rehearsal begins, and arrive on time to pick up your child at the end of rehearsals/performances.
- The students and directors must be fully focused at each rehearsal so that we can have a successful season. Only designated chaperones are permitted near the practice



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inclement weather. If the weather is bad, we will rehearse inside. If there is no football game that week, practice may be canceled at directors' discretion.

- No cell phones permitted during rehearsals. Cell phones in use during rehearsals will be confiscated until the rehearsal is over.
- Rehearse the way you want to perform.
- Talking during rehearsals must be kept to a minimum. If the director stops the band, stop playing and listen for instructions.

field or rehearsal rooms during practices.

- Practices are closed to the public unless permission has been given by the director.
- Parents are not permitted to give any students food, Gatorade, medications, etc. during rehearsals.
- Chaperones will have a limited supply of water for students, and snacks during band camp so eat breakfast and bring water.

## At All Performances

### Students:

- Be prepared to play at all times.
- Show respect and demonstrate sportsman-like conduct to visiting teams and other bands.
- Abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Stay in **full** uniform at all times. (See page with the *Uniform Guidelines*)
- No ball caps or other accessories.
- We will always sit together as a band. Only current band members are allowed in our section.
- Like instruments should always sit together.
- Do not leave the stands without permission from a director.
- Refreshment breaks are given in the 1st or 3rd quarters of a football game. Be back when there are 2 minutes left on the clock.
- Remember, you are wearing a Little Miami uniform, which represents our school and community. Always make a good impression.

### Parents:

- Only designated chaperones are permitted to be with the band during football games, parades, and festivals.
- Parents may not purchase food and hand it to students in the stands.
- Do not distract students in the stands during football games or festivals. We need all students to always be listening for directions.
- The directors will send a Remind text with an estimated pick-up time for all performances. **Please make sure to be on time to pick up your child.** Directors are required to stay at school until all students have departed. Please be respectful of their time.



## On All Bus Trips

### Students:

- You must ride your assigned bus for all trips throughout the season.
- All students must travel to and from all activities on the bus. In the event you need to go home with your parents, your parent(s) must sign you out (in person) with the head chaperone of your bus. You will not be permitted to go home from a performance with other students or their parents.
- You must observe all rules and directions from the directors, chaperones and bus drivers in order to assure a safe trip.
- Be on time. We will leave at the designated time **with or without** you.
- No food or drinks will be allowed on the bus unless given permission by the director or bus driver.
- Be silent when crossing railroad tracks.
- Use moderation when talking and singing.
- Hands, arms, and heads must remain inside the bus at all times.
- Stay seated and out of the aisles while the bus is moving.
- Reserve the front and rear seats for chaperones and directors.
- Do not board or load equipment on the bus or trailer until asked to do so.
- Exiting from the back door of the bus is for emergencies only.
- Thank your bus drivers and chaperones.

## Consequences

In order to be successful, we need everyone to work together. This is the only way we can achieve our goals. If you are constantly late, have unexcused absences, talk excessively during rehearsals, use profanity or do anything that detracts from our band, the directors will choose a logical and appropriate consequence based on the situation. Keep in mind, negative behavior not only hurts you, but our band as well. If you are doing these things, marching band is probably not for you.

Level	Examples	Consequences
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tardiness (less than 15 minutes)</li> <li>• Inappropriate language</li> <li>• Disrespect to another band member</li> <li>• Excessive talking during rehearsal</li> <li>• Moving at attention</li> <li>• Sitting out during rehearsal</li> <li>• Uniform infraction at performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The directors may ask students to stay after rehearsal to complete a consequence, which may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marching Fundamental Drills</li> <li>○ Playing music memorized</li> <li>○ Cleaning rehearsal area when rehearsal is over</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excessive tardiness (more than 15 minutes) without communication &amp; approval</li> <li>• Unexcused absences from rehearsal or performance</li> <li>• Skipping a consequence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student will not be permitted to perform in the next event.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insubordination, lack of cooperation with the directors.</li> <li>• Suspension from school</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking, or possession of any illegal substances during a band function.</li> <li>• Involvement with any chemical substance.</li> <li>• Destruction of school or private property.</li> <li>• Violating the rules set forth by the directors.</li> <li>• Physical action against another student or staff member.</li> <li>• Any other offensive action the directors feel is inappropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consequence from Little Miami High School Administration.</li> <li>• Possible removal from the marching band</li> </ul>

**Anyone not willing to abide by the rules in the marching band and high school handbooks will not be allowed to perform or will be removed from the ensemble. All rules in the Little Miami High School Handbook apply to marching band as well.**

## Uniform Guidelines

The Little Miami Marching Band takes pride in looking uniform. The uniform policy is strict and must be followed at all times. We respect the uniform and the band by following the guidelines included in this handbook. Inspections will take place before every performance.

### General Uniform Requirements

1. Any student who does not meet uniform guidelines will be unable to perform.
2. Uniform parts (including black t-shirts and band jackets) are ONLY to be worn by band members.
3. You must give our uniforms the best care at all times.
4. You will turn in your uniform after each performance. They must be hung properly on the hanger.
5. Keep your gloves clean, shoes polished, and your instrument shiny.
6. Any hair extending beyond the uniform collar or bangs in the face, whether male or female, must be pinned up. Hair must be of a natural color. No blue, pink, purple, etc. is allowed.
7. No facial hair or face paint of any kind is allowed as part of our uniform appearance.
8. NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND is to be worn with the uniform.
9. BLACK SOCKS MUST BE WORN AT EVERY PERFORMANCE. You will not march if you do not have the correct length black socks (see below).
10. The current senior designed black band shirt must be worn under the band jacket. Sleeveless shirts, tank tops or camisoles are not allowed.
11. Sunglasses and/or ball caps will not be worn unless the band director approves.



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There are 3 uniform types used throughout the season. The directors will determine which uniform is appropriate for each performance.

<b><u>Summer Uniform</u></b>	<b><u>Pep Band Uniform</u></b>	<b><u>Full Uniform</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Black band shorts</li> <li>● Green Panther Band polo shirt</li> <li>● <u>Short</u> black socks</li> <li>● Dinkles</li> <li>● All hair pulled back, out of face and behind the shoulders.</li> <li>● No jewelry</li> <li>● No sunglasses or hats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jeans with no rips/holes</li> <li>● Current year black band shirt</li> <li>● Black socks</li> <li>● Athletic shoes that tie</li> <li>● All hair pulled back, out of the face and behind the shoulders.</li> <li>● No jewelry</li> <li>● No sunglasses or hats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Black band shorts</li> <li>● Current year black band shirt</li> <li>● <u>Long</u> solid black socks (crew-length or longer)</li> <li>● Clean white gloves</li> <li>● Dinkles</li> <li>● Uniform pants</li> <li>● Uniform jacket</li> <li>● Hat</li> <li>● Plume</li> <li>● All hair pulled back, and into the hat</li> <li>● No jewelry</li> <li>● No sunglasses or ball caps</li> </ul>

## **Band Leadership**

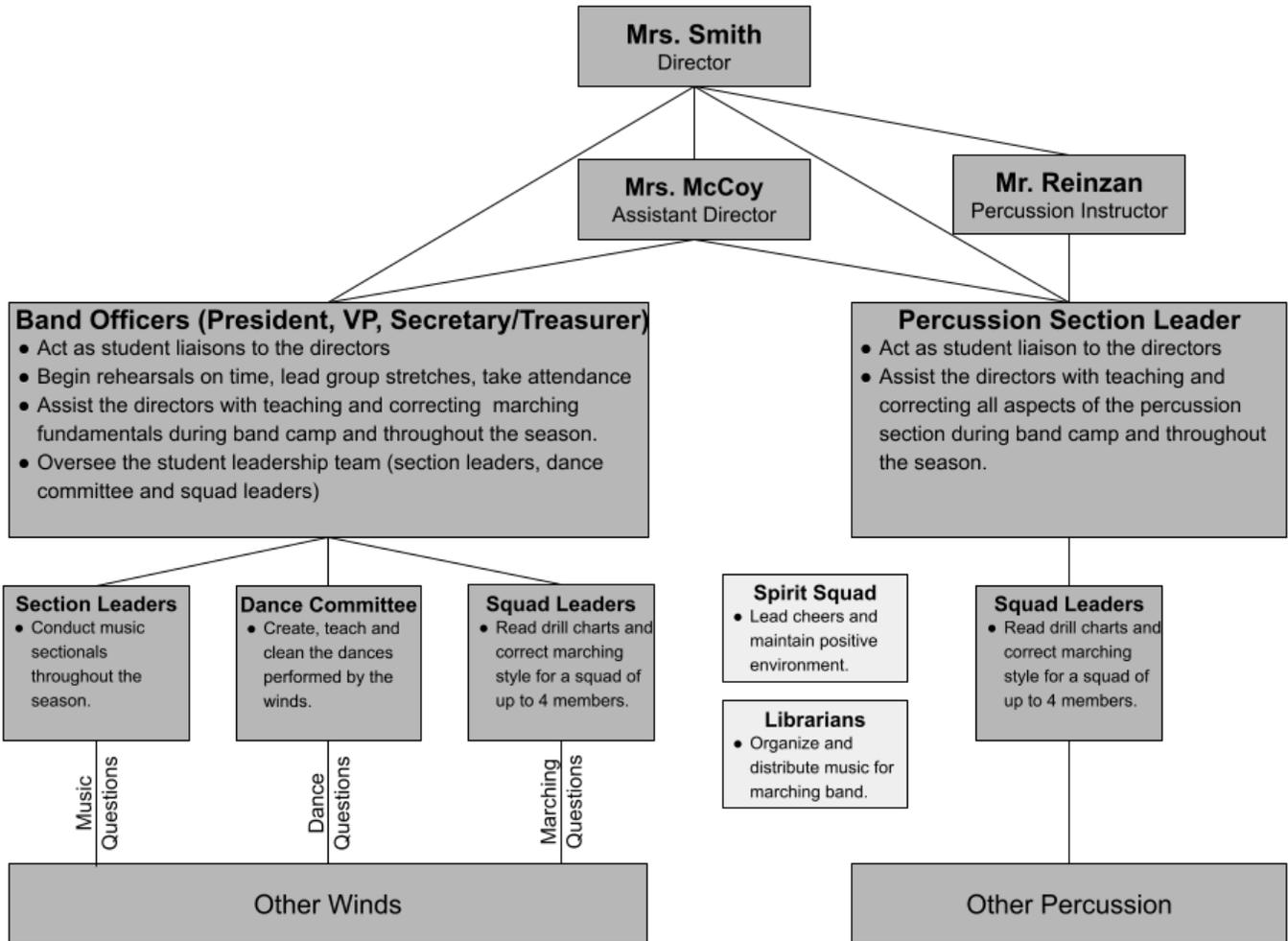
The Little Miami Marching Band could not function successfully without the hours of work and dedication of the student leaders. Student leaders are selected by the directors through an application process in the spring prior to the marching season.

## **Chain of Command**

All successful organizations have structure. To assist in the running of the group, we have certain people designated as leaders. The officers, dance committee, squad leaders and other student leaders have been given these titles because of their wealth of knowledge and commitment to this organization. Please show student leaders respect at all times. If you have a question, please refer to the “chain of command”. It’s not that your question is unimportant, but if everyone is asking the directors these items, progress is delayed..



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## **Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation**

The following regulations pertain to student conduct on District managed transportation and are intended to ensure the safety and welfare of the students, the driver and other drivers on the road and to ensure safety and proper maintenance of school vehicles.

Students will:

- be careful in approaching bus stops, walk on the left facing oncoming traffic, be sure that the road is clear both ways before crossing the highway and wait in a location clear of traffic;
- arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive in order to permit the bus to follow the time schedule;
- wait in an area clear of traffic and refrain from exhibiting behavior at the bus stop that threatens life, limb or property of any individual;
- sit in assigned seats (drivers have the right to assign a student to a seat);
- go directly to their assigned seat without disturbing or crowding other students and remain seated while the vehicle is moving;
- observe classroom conduct, or the bus conduct established by administrators and transportation personnel and obey the driver promptly and respectfully;
- keep the vehicle clean and free of trip hazards);
- refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons or as permitted
- by the District for non-routine trips when supervised by an appropriate chaperone, school administrator or school personnel;
- refrain from using profane language and from loud talking or laughing (unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and might result in a serious accident);
- remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear, keep head, arms and hands inside the vehicle at all times and not throw or pass objects on, from or into the vehicle;
- be courteous to fellow students and to the driver;
- treat equipment as one would treat valuable furniture in their home (damage to the school vehicle is strictly forbidden);
- refrain from using nicotine products on the vehicle or possessing alcohol or drugs on the vehicle except as prescription medications may be required for a student and
- carry on the vehicle only items that can be held in their laps or can otherwise be stored on the vehicle in accordance with State law.
- Students must remain seated until the vehicle stops, then promptly unload and wait in their designated place of safety until the vehicle leaves. Students who must cross the street to reach the residence side of the street must
- wait for the signal from the driver and cross in front of the vehicle after also checking for traffic themselves.



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- Failure of a student to follow these regulations may result in his/her forfeiting the right of transportation on District managed transportation.

## **Discipline**

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or other administrators to suspend a student from transportation privileges only for a period of up to one school year. The only due process required is notice to the student of an intended bus riding suspension and an opportunity to appear before the administrator considering the suspension before it happens. The administrator's decision is final.

When discipline problems with individual students arise, use the following guidelines.

If possible, the driver should resolve the problem.

When the driver is unable to resolve the problem, he/she should report it to the transportation supervisor. The transportation supervisor and driver, if necessary, confer with the principal. Any discipline is imposed by the principal of the school.

Problems that cannot be resolved by measures specified above are referred to the Superintendent.

The suspension of preschool students and students with disabilities from transportation may require a modification of these procedures and complies with all applicable statutory requirements.

**NOTE:** *It is advisable that regulations in the area of student transportation bear the Board's official stamp of approval.*

***Adopted by Little Miami Board of Education***

***April 26, 2022***



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## Checklist for Participation

- Participation in pre-camp and band camp prior to the beginning of the school year **is mandatory and extremely important!** (This is where we learn the majority of our material for the season. See the calendar for dates).
- [Band Registration Forms](#)
- Band Fees paid by the 1st day of band camp.
- Updated Physical turned into the directors
- Signed Handbook Contract (below)

## Handbook Contract

- We have received and read the Little Miami Marching Band Handbook and will abide by all rules and regulations set forth. (Additional copies of the handbook are available upon request.)
- We have received the band department calendar and have made arrangements to attend all scheduled events.
- We understand that, in addition to student conduct regulations discussed in this handbook, all Little Miami High School and district rules and regulations regarding student conduct are in effect at all band functions including bus rides.
- We give permission for our child to participate in and travel by approved school transportation to all local and out of town activities in which the Little Miami High School Bands participate for the 2024-2025 school year.

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Printed Student Name

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Printed Parent Name

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

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Instrument

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Date



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