



## Leon High School

Tallahassee, FL 32308 (850) 617-5700

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Lion Steel Band Program

Dr. Kayleen Justus, [Director](#)

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**Hello Lion Steel Students and Parents,**

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! If you are reading this letter, you are about to become – or are already – involved in the world of **pan** (steel band). The Lion Steel band program is very special: we are the only high school in Tallahassee with this unique curricular offering and our steel band program is one of the most distinguished of its kind in the country. We have been “jumpin’ up” since 1990 and are proud to be a part of the vibrant performing arts culture in Tallahassee.

Lion Steel, like other creative arts programs at Leon HS, is centered on **developing performance skills**, but we also train students to **read and analyze notated music** and we **explore the cultural, historical, and commercial dimensions of pan performance** in a global context. The Lion Steel program features 29 instruments (and counting!) and our daily classes include 2 advanced ensembles (Canboulay and Bacchanal), 1 intermediate ensemble (Jouvert), and 2-3 beginning bands – over 150 students! Through Leon County Schools, we also offer three community steel bands open to anyone over 18yo, each of which meet once a week in our “panyard” rehearsal space on campus. Parents and alumni are always welcome to join!

During the 2024-25 school year, our steel bands will present on- and off-campus concerts and participate in many other performance events. Our Lion Steel Band Program events can be found on the Lion Steel Band website, the Leon Performing Arts Calendar, and the Leon High School Events Calendar.

I will be using the [Lion Steel website](#), FOCUS, Remind, and our Instagram account (@leonlionsteel) to communicate important information with you throughout the year. You can easily navigate to our Lion Steel website via the link in our Instagram, but the direct URL is: **lionsteel.leonperformingarts.org**. We also have an official YouTube account (@lionsteel3530, or link on our Lion Steel website). Please stay tuned and feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions.

**\*\*\* Students’ and parents/guardians’ first assignment is to: 1) read through this syllabus and welcome letter 2) complete the 7 steps listed on the Lion Steel website (and summarized on the last page of this syllabus. Steps 1 - 4 are due by Friday, August 16th, 2024 for a grade!**

I am so excited to make music with everyone during the coming school year and for another *magical* year for the Lion Steel Band Program!

Cheers,

[Dr. Kayleen Justus](#)

# Lion Steel 2024–25

## Syllabus

### Learning Goals

- Students will **perform varied repertoire** with the full steel band and in small ensembles.
- Students will become **proficient at music reading** and performing on the pan (steel drum).
- Students will become familiar with the **cultural history of the steel band movement** in Trinidad and Tobago and how this history has shaped the international development of the art form.

### Our Bands

- ***Canboulay (steel 4)*** – Our most advanced group, an honors-level class. This ensemble is designed for experienced music readers who have mastered idiomatic playing techniques across varied musical styles. Repertoire is maximally challenging. Members are placed by invitation, recommendation, and/or audition.
- ***Bacchanal (steel 3)*** – A group of exceptional players. This ensemble is designed for proficient music readers who confidently demonstrate idiomatic playing techniques across varied musical styles. Repertoire is quite challenging. Members are placed by invitation, recommendation, and/or audition.
- ***Jouvert (steel 2)*** – Our intermediate group. This class is intended for music readers with at least one year of playing experience and is designed to develop music reading proficiency and idiomatic technical ability across varied musical styles. Repertoire is moderately challenging. Members are placed by invitation, recommendation, and/or audition.
- ***Introduction to Steel Band (steel 1)*** – This class is intended for students who have not yet learned to read musical notation and/or who have never played pan. It is designed as an introduction to: 1) basic music reading skills and 2) playing techniques specific to steel band. Repertoire ranges from easy to moderately challenging. No audition required.

### Classroom Rules

1. Respect the instruments, our space, and each other.
2. Be prompt and present.
3. Bring an open mind, open eyes, and open ears.
4. Mind your mouth and your hands.

→Lion Steel often performs off-campus in Tallahassee and elsewhere. During these events, students should conduct themselves as if **in school**. There is zero tolerance for any behavior that tarnishes the reputation of Leon High School or the Lion Steel band program. This is your community, and you are expected to respect it. All inappropriate behavior will warrant disciplinary action as per the Leon HS code of conduct and may result in dismissal from the Lion Steel program.

# Curriculum

- **Performances and Out-of Class Events**

The ensembles in our Lion Steel Band Program present concerts at Leon HS and various off-campus locations throughout the year. **All students enrolled in a Lion Steel Band class are required to attend and perform in the end-of-quarter Lion Steel Concerts at Leon HS - which includes all loading and unloading times before and after the performances.** These dates are published on the Lion Steel Program website, the Leon Performing Arts Calendar, and the Leon HS Events Calendar. Each term, this end-of-quarter performance grade (and participation in both the performance and the loading/unloading) is worth 50% of students' grade in every ensemble, which means ***a student can NOT miss these end-of-quarter performances and loading/unloading times without failing the class for that term.*** Please see the important notes regarding attendance and grading below in this section and the following section.

In the event of a scheduling conflict with a Leon High School **academic commitment only**, Lion Steel parents and students should contact Dr. Justus in advance to resolve it. **In the event a student must miss a required concert due to an academic conflict, they will be required to complete one of the following make-up assignments: 1) Playing assigned repertoire in class either prior to or immediately following the concert; 2) Writing a 3-5 page report on a steel-band related topic of the student's choice that will be due to Dr. Justus via hard copy or digital file by the end of the quarter.** In the event of a documented emergency that requires a student to miss a graded performance, please contact Dr. Justus ASAP to arrange a make up performance assessment. All other unexcused absences from required end-of-quarter performances will result in a failing grade for the term.

The Lion Steel Band Program Calendar for 2024-25 will also feature many additional activities and events throughout the year, some of which will partially count toward students' participation grade and some of which will not. Non-graded activities include: our small-combo gigging group "Pan Groove" shows, our pan maintenance and panyard cleaning days, possible extra practices for FMEA and Virginia Beach, the Panorama viewing party and lime (Feb). Partially graded activities include: PAWS (December - Canboulay only), the Valentine's Lime (February - Canboulay, Bacchanal, and Jouvert); FMEA (April - bands TBD); Cascades Park Show (April - Canboulay, Bacchanal, and Jouvert); Virginia Beach (May - Canboulay and Bacchanal only).

- **Class Activities**

Each steel band meets for one full period each school day. The specific class activities vary depending on the ensemble, but all bands will rehearse repertoire, learn and practice playing techniques specific to steel band, and learn to read and analyze musical scores. We will also explore together the cultural history of the steel band movement in Trinidad and Tobago and the contemporary applications of pan performance in a global context. This will take place in several ways, including in the form of discussions, listening activities, and homework projects.

- **Homework**

Other projects and activities will be periodically assigned to supplement in-class learning. Examples of possible homework activities include: listening assignments, music reading worksheets, artist profiles, video/documentary viewing activities, etc. The weight of these homework assignments varies according to their merit and academic rigor.

# Grading

Grading procedures for steel band will vary according to the ensemble, but students in all bands will be expected to play excerpts of the assigned repertoire for periodic **graded performance evaluations, preparedness quizzes, concert reflections,** and other assignments as applicable to the repertoire and needs of each band. The performance evaluations target students' progress in the development of technical skill and will be announced in advance. The preparedness quizzes are not announced in advance and are designed to reward students who consistently arrive to the classroom promptly and with the required materials and appropriate attitude.

Students in the **beginner bands** will also be issued a workbook that will include graded worksheets and playing exercises/assignments.

A participation grade will be used to reward students who consistently engage in class activities, focus during rehearsal, follow directions, and exhibit a general attitude to work to improve their musicianship.

50% Successful performances (attendance and participation at the performances and loading/unloading times, completing after-performance reflections)

25% In-class Playing Assessments, Content Quizzes

25% Behavior and Effort

(this is crucial in a musical group and can enable student success or prevent it!)

# Class Fee

Our class fee for participating in a curricular Lion Steel ensemble for the 2024-25 academic year is **\$110**. This fee covers all of the basic operational costs for our steel band for the year, including: the maintenance, cleaning, and tuning of our 29+ instruments and necessary equipment; our performance uniform shirt(s); all of the instructional materials, binders, and musical scores; and the mallets/sticks we use to play. This fee does NOT cover the cost for trips (FMEA, Virginia Beach, etc), which will be collected separately.

The Lion Steel 2024-25 Participation fee can be paid in full or in installments by the eFunds link that will be published on our [Lion Steel website](#) (don't forget to put "Lion Steel 24-25 Student Name" in the eFunds payment notes). The fee can also be paid by check or money order made to "Leon High School - Lion Steel."

## Fee Breakdown:

Performance Shirt	= \$25
Paper, Ink, Binder, Sheet Protectors	= \$15
Mallets	= \$5
Method Books/Scores	= \$25
Tuning	= \$25
Instrument Maintenance/Transp.	= \$15
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Total	= \$110

## Citizenship/Discipline

A citizenship grade of 4 is awarded to select students who demonstrate an extra effort towards rehearsal discipline and a positive contribution to our ensemble community. A citizenship grade can be lowered for a demonstrated lack of rehearsal discipline, for disrespectful behavior, and for consistent tardiness. The rubric for **disciplinary action in steel band** is as follows: 1.) Verbal warning from instructor; 2.) One-to-one meeting with teacher after class and parent notification/contact. 3.) Lunch detention and/or 3-day rehearsal suspension 4.) Referral to Mr. Warfel and Student Affairs for further disciplinary action.

## Audition Requirements

The Lion Steel Band Program holds auditions at the end of the school year in late-May. After the audition process, Dr. Justus will post a list of the prospective “Canboulay”, “Bacchanal”, and “Jouvert” Bands to the [Lion Steel website](#). During the following school year (August) if the student encounters a scheduling conflict with the band that they auditioned into, Lion Steel policy is that students might move down a band (i.e., advanced to intermediate) but not the other way around. Prospective 9th graders (who might have played pan elsewhere) may audition and, though it is possible to skip the first year (beginning) band, it entirely depends on who has already earned a spot in the ensemble, the number of instruments, as well as other factors. *Please note:* while the director works closely with the Guidance Administrator in placing auditioned students in the band they’ve passed into, they cannot guarantee placement; only the school administration has the final authority regarding the master schedule.

# **Participation Agreement and Syllabus Assignment Checklist**

**Students and parents:** Complete the checklist outlined below by accessing [lionsteel.leonperformingsarts.org](http://lionsteel.leonperformingsarts.org) and clicking on each step. Some steps require student OR parent individually, others require both student and parent to complete together. ***Steps 1 - 4 are due by Friday, August 16th, 2024 for a grade!***

- 1) **Read Welcome Letter and Syllabus**
- 2) **Participation Agreement Form and Medical Form**
- 3) **Students - Set up Remind**
- 4) **Parents - Set up Remind**
- 5) **Pay Class Fee**
- 6) **[Parent Volunteers](#)**
- 7) **Follow @leonlionsteel on Instagram**