

2024-2025 DHS Band Handbook

Forward

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, all members must familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures and traditions of the band. If a problem or question not covered in this handbook should arise, the Director should be consulted for an explanation.

Eligibility

Students must remain academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. No student shall take part in any extracurricular activity if they are not passing ALL classes at the end of each grading period with a grade of seventy (70). Eligibility may be regained at the end of the three-week progress reporting period if and only if, the student is passing ALL classes with at least a seventy (70). All grades recorded as an Incomplete (I) must be recorded as a passing grade within the 7-day grace period. In each case, a one-week grace period applies after the recording period. Public concerts and parades are considered as a part of the classroom activity and are a part of the Essential Elements of the curriculum. All students are required to participate in all sectionals, concerts and/or parades unless excused by the Director as they are “curricular” activities.

Conduct

DHS Band members must conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen at all times. All students must abide by the DISD Code of Conduct as outlined in the DHS Student Handbook during all band activities/events including during any preparation and/or travel times. Students should behave in such a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their families and their school. As a member of the band organization we are representing not only DHS but also the community of Devine – therefore the highest level of expectations will exist in all areas of conduct and compliance. Students who do not comply with the behavioral expectations of the Director and the Music/Band Staff as outlined within the Code of Conduct, this Handbook, and to specific guidelines communicated to all students within the band program - may be **removed** from the organization.

Additional Consequences for unacceptable conduct may include:

- Immediate placement on “alternate” status (Marching Band)
- Removal from any leadership position
- Removal from Color Guard or other auxiliary unit
- Suspension from performance(s) (Marching & Concert Band)

- Demotion from “chair” position or “part” assignment; note: this may result in change of Concert Band placement (i.e. movement from Symphonic Winds to Concert Band)
- Parent Conference
- DHS Disciplinary Referral

Cell Phones

Band activities are ‘school-sponsored’ and therefore the DHS/DISD cell phone policy is in effect. Therefore, it is the expectation that cell phones will be “off” and out of sight during rehearsals and performances – before, during, and after school. Texting, web surfing, or utilizing social networks via cell phones is completely unacceptable during any rehearsal or performance. Cell phones may be confiscated if necessary by any Band/Music staff member. Students will be subject to the consequences listed under the “Conduct” section above for failing to comply with the “cell phone” policy, as well as the consequences within the Student Code of Conduct.

Band Camp

It is mandatory for each band member to attend these rehearsals. Marching fundamentals and music will be learned at these rehearsals. Band camp is usually held during the first three weeks of August. The band camp schedule will be announced, copies distributed, and posted on the band website by the end of the spring semester. The goals of band camp are: learn the drill, show music, stand music, improve technical instrumental abilities, learn all marching fundamentals and perfect these skills, and to develop proper discipline habits. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in recreational and social activities.

Band Camp is **MANDATORY**. A student who does not attend all/part of Band Camp may be removed from the DHS band program. **Please keep in mind that musicians wishing to be in second semester Concert Band must be enrolled and participate in Marching Band the first semester.**

*****Students who are employed MUST make necessary arrangements with their employers to attend all required days during band camp. Employment will NOT be a valid excuse for missing any rehearsal *****

Marching Band/Fall Semester

The Marching Band is a musical marching unit organized during the fall for the duration of the football season. Membership requires total dedication and maximum effort and involvement in all aspects of marching, playing and performance. All members must

attend summer band camp unless excused by the director prior to the beginning of summer camp. All students, however, who miss any part of summer band camp may be placed on “alternate” status at the discretion of the Director. The Marching Band performs annually before hundreds of spectators at various Marching Band Festivals, UIL Marching Contest, parades, pep rallies and they provide entertainment at football games. Rehearsal schedules will be posted. **Special rehearsals may be called as needed.**

Members of the Marching Band will be required to purchase: black shoes (specific vendor), black gloves (specific vendor), black crew-length socks (several pairs), one-inch black binder with 25 clear sheet protectors, and a performance show t-shirt. All band “fees” will be announced prior to the beginning of the fall semester. **Estimated costs for 2022-23:**

- Black Shoes: \$50.00 to DHS Band
- Black Crew Socks: \$Varies According to Pkg – retailer of your choice

****Fees which are payable to the DHS Band must be received by the announced “Due Dates” or the student will be placed on the DHS “Obligation List” until such fees are paid. Unpaid fees could result in suspension from participating in the DHS Band. Any student with financial difficulties may make arrangements to pay within a reasonable period of time, as long as the student and parent(s) have communicated with the Director in a timely manner.**

*****It is important to note that participation in the Marching Band is a privilege, and is earned through audition, appropriate marching/playing performance levels/abilities, eligibility, attendance, attitude, and compliant conduct at all times. Students may be removed from a marching assignment/spot at the discretion of the Director in order to maintain performance and discipline standards necessary for the success of the overall DHS Band program*****

Color Guard/ Fall Semester

These groups are units composed of members who utilize a flag, rifle, saber, props, and dance, to provide overall visual/general effects during marching band performances. These individuals are chosen by audition during the spring semester. Members will be band members/(preferably woodwind players) and will receive credit as regular band members. The Color Guard rehearses and performs with the marching band during the fall semester. At all other times, they will be playing their instruments with either the Symphonic Winds or the Concert Band as placed by their instrumental audition. The color guard will have additional rehearsals as needed. Members WILL be expected to adhere to all rules/regulations set forth in the Band Handbook, and the DHS Student Handbook in addition to the rules/regulations specified by the Band Director, Color Guard Instructor/ Sponsor. Members of the Color Guard will be **required** to purchase warm-up/performance attire. Specific requirements will be announced prior to the

beginning of the fall semester – **minimums to include shoes, show shirts, warm-ups, unitards, and other personal wear items.**

Members of the Color Guard will be expected to attend instrumental section rehearsals during the marching season to prepare all “stand” music. ***Members will be expected to play their instruments in the stands at all football games and pep rallies.***

*****It is preferred that students who wish to participate in Color Guard be Woodwind players – as ALL Brass and Percussion players are needed as part of the instrumental marching band. This is extremely important to the success of the DHS Band!!*****

Symphonic Winds/Concert Band/ Applied Music

Students placement in one of our Spring ensembles will be at the discretion of the band directors. Criteria for placement in the Symphonic Winds(Varsity), or in the Concert Band(non-Varsity band will be based on instrument proficiency, reading ability, attendance, and lastly ATTITUDE. The size of the band will be determined on the overall number of students in the class.

*****Sectional or Extended Ensemble Rehearsals will be a required co-curricular activity associated with membership in the Symphonic Winds or the Concert Band. Attendance will be a percentage of the band grade as outlined on the class syllabus. Failure to participate in Section Rehearsals will result in a lower band grade, and may result in a change of part assignment, and/or removal from the varsity ensemble, and/or lead to the removal from the DHS Band program*****

Applied Music will be offered as a class for advanced music students in grades 9-12. Students will be afforded the opportunity to study independently on solo/technical literature and to explore the concepts of music theory. Students in this class will be **required** to enter Region Auditions **and** UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. At the discretion of the Director, students will be allowed to register for this course based upon the student having exhibited proper levels of self-discipline and musical interest.

Attendance Policies

Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students should be on time for ALL band functions unless excused by the Director in advance. The Director will only accept **written** excuses from a Parent/Guardian. (Handwritten notes or Email – Text Messages are NOT acceptable). The excuse must be dated and signed by the parent or guardian, stating the cause of absence.

A. Excused Absence from Rehearsal

Except in cases of extreme emergency, illness, or extenuating circumstances, band members will not be excused from rehearsals. In case of illness, students are asked to call the band office at (830) 851-0866 and speak to a director or leave a message at least two hours prior to the start of the rehearsal. Doctor/dentist/orthodontist/hair appointments must be made outside of the rehearsal schedule. These types of appointments will NOT be considered “excused”. During marching season, absences may result in being placed

on “alternate” status or having performance privileges removed at the discretion of the Director.

B. Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal

Any student receiving an unexcused absence from rehearsal will have his/her grade lowered for each unexcused absence within the grading period. Unexcused absences may result in the student being placed on “alternate” status or having performance privileges removed, and lead to the removal from the DHS Band program – all at the Director’s discretion.

C. Tardy to Rehearsal

Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals. Excessive tardiness may result in the student being placed on “alternate” status or having performance privileges removed, at the Director’s discretion. In addition, students who are tardy will receive a lowered attendance band grade and may be asked to remain after rehearsals to run laps or ‘line drills’ as assigned. Parent conferences will be required for students with excessive tardies.

D. Absence from Performance

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a **failing grade** for that grading period. Only in cases of extreme emergency or personal illness will a person be excused from a performance. The Director must approve excused absences. Without communication prior to the actual performance however, the absence may be considered “unexcused”.

E. Conflicts

Students who are involved in multiple activities should inspect the published calendars of each activity as soon as possible to identify potential conflicts between schedules. Once conflicts are discovered by the student, **the student must immediately communicate with the Director.** The Director will assist the student to resolve potential conflicts with any band activity, and/or help clarify the student’s responsibilities. The Director will communicate (along with the student) with Coaches or Sponsors of any school-related activity in order to derive an appropriate resolution to any conflicts. In general, a school related activity will take precedence over a non-school-related activity. Also, a UIL school-related activity will supersede a non-UIL event/activity in most cases. In all cases however, it is the goal of the D.I.S.D. Bands to produce the highest quality public performances possible, and to meet the needs of all of our students in the most responsible manner. The D.I.S.D. Band calendars will be published each year and distributed during the month of August. Calendars and ‘Band Plans’ are also available online at: www.devineisd.org under the Band tab. ***Being a member of the DHS Band carries with it a personal responsibility and commitment to all other members of our organization. Communication is the key!***

Grading

*****Please see Class Syllabus for specific grading policies*****

In general, grades within the DHS Band program will be determined by the following: Daily Grade 40%, Performance/Test Grade 60%. Participation, attendance, effort, and having the correct supplies are considered as part of the 'daily grade'. Auditions, performances, written or playing tests are considered as part of the 'performance/test grade. *****Students who refuse to participate in class/rehearsals will be REMOVED from the Band Program*****

***** Students who receive a failing band grade will require a parent conference and may lead to the removal from the DHS Band program. ****

Instrument Information

The band department will provide certain large/specialized instruments for those students not able to purchase their own, and specialized marching instruments. Each band member is responsible for the proper care, condition and repairs of their instrument. Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the director at once. Damages due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student. If the instrument is lost or stolen while away from the band hall, the student must reimburse the band for the cost of the instrument.

A privately owned instrument is the responsibility of the student who owns it. Students should check with their parents to see that the instrument is included on their homeowner insurance policy. Before purchasing an instrument, students should consult with the band director. All instruments should be kept in excellent playing condition and should be cleaned and polished before every performance. Inspections will be held periodically before the games and concerts.

LETTER JACKET AWARDS

Lettering in Band

To earn a letter jacket award in band you must earn six points from the following:

- 1.Participate in U.I.L. Region Marching Contest (1 point)
- 2.Participate in U.I.L. Concert/Sight-Reading Contest (1 point)
- 3.Audition for the TMEA/ATSSB All-Region Band (1 point)

4. Be selected as a member of the TMEA/ATSSB All-Region Band (3 points)
5. Participate in U.I.L. Solo/Ensemble Contest (1 point)
6. Receive a first-division at U.I.L. Solo/Ensemble contest (1 point)
7. Be an elected officer in the band for one year (1 point) 8
Advance to UIL State Solo & Ensemble (1 point)
- 9 Advance to the Area level in UIL or ATSSB (1 point)
- 10 Advance to the TMEA/ATSSB All-State Band (3 points)

Other criteria that must be met to receive a jacket award:

1. Maintain eligibility for all U.I.L. events for the entire school year in which point accumulation equals or exceeds six.
2. Maintain an “A” average in band for the entire school year in which point accumulation equals or exceeds six.
3. Not have received an office disciplinary referral from band for the entire school year in which point accumulation equals or exceeds six.

Note: Being a senior in the organization does not necessarily guarantee being awarded a letter jacket.

Officers

President - The President is the student representative for the entire band program. He/She is in charge of speaking for press releases and band announcements. The President schedules meetings, activities, and presides over other officers. This person strives to be in direct communication with directors as a student spokesperson. Selected by a band vote.

Drum Major - The “Senior” Drum Major serves as the primary student leader and conductor of the marching band. He/She assists with running marching rehearsals, teaching marching drill, and conducts the band at football games, parades, and pep rallies. Selected by audition.

Asst. Drum Major – The “Junior” Drum Major serves as a primary leader in the marching band as well, and is the drum major in training for the following year. He/She also assists in conducting at football games in the stands, parades, and pep rallies. Typically, this person may march with an instrument during show performances. Selected by Audition.

Secretary - Officer in charge of internal and external correspondence. Other duties might include assisting with attendance, writing of press releases, and designing band concert programs. Selected by a band vote.

Librarian(s) - In charge of the organization of the Music Library. Duties include filing, copying, distributing and collecting music. Also responsible for keeping an accurate database of music titles. Librarians may be assigned for each ensemble and are therefore

responsible for the music collection, organization, and distribution of music for that ensemble. Selected by a band vote.

Historian(s) – Duties include photographing band events, collecting newspaper articles pertaining to the band, saving band programs, etc. to put together a comprehensive scrap book of the band’s history for that year. Duties also include putting together an end of the year powerpoint/video to show at the band banquet. Selected by a band vote.

Quarter-Master(s) - Usually three-four students elected to share the responsibility of making sure the quarters are kept with one to possibly be assigned the head quarter-master/facilities manager position. Duties include: Organization of the uniform room, fitting, distribution, and collection of uniforms and their parts, supervising loading/unloading of equipment, organization of “the crew,” and pre-rehearsal set-up. Appointed by the Director.

Section Leader(s) - These are students in the band who are selected by the directors based on demonstrated leadership ability, musical ability, and marching ability. This is not an elected position, though students may have input by vote. There may be more than one section leader per section as decided upon by the Director. Duties include setting an example for others both musically and academically, and making sure that their section is meeting expectations of the band program. This leader is to be in direct contact with the directors regarding issues within their section. Appointed by the Director.

Colorguard Officers – These are students in the colorguard that have had a minimum of one year of experience and wish to hold one of a maximum of three officer positions. These students are asked to handle warm-up exercises with the full group, help with record keeping, organization, and help assist younger students when needed. They also serve as student liaisons to instructors to aid in communication and problem solving. Selected by Audition.

**All officers in the band are expected to set the highest example both musically, academically, and personally both in and out of the band rehearsal setting. Students selected as officers will attend a leadership camp in the summer. **The band director reserves the right to remove a student from an officer position and replace him/her with a director- appointed student.

Classroom/Rehearsal Rules

1. All students are expected to be on time to class. This means in your seat with instrument/equipment, music, and supplies when the tardy bell rings. There may be a specific tardy policy assigned for your specific class.

2. Students are expected to remain quiet and focused during rehearsals. This means both ***audio and visual silence*** during instruction both inside and outside.

3. There is to be no food/drink in the band hall or during any rehearsal with the exception of water in a clear plastic container.
4. There is to be no storage of books, notebooks, papers, personal items, etc. in the band hall with the exception of band/music related items that are necessary for rehearsals. The DHS staff assumes no responsibility for things that are left unattended in places where they should not be.
5. The band hall is not a playground. Act in a mature and responsible manner when inside the band facility.
6. Have a pencil readily accessible at all indoor rehearsals.
7. All rules/regulations/consequences addressed in the “DHS Student Code of Conduct” apply in ALL band classes and while at any band event or while traveling.
8. Consistent failure to abide by the outlined rules of the organization may result in removal from the organization.

Travel Rules

All DHS Band students will have the privilege to have school transportation provided to many of our activities and events throughout the school year. Student safety is our first and foremost concern in regard to the following rules. Students **WILL** follow these rules and all other instructions regarding travel with the DISD Band program. Students who can NOT abide by the rules, or specific Director instructions, ***will lose the privilege to travel and participate with the DHS Band.***

1. You must stay on the Director ***assigned bus*** for the round trip.

2. You must ride to and from an off campus performance event in a provided school district transportation unless an approved “*Alternate Travel Form*” is turned in and signed by a parent & the Director **prior** to the trip.
3. You must have all necessary equipment, supplies, etc. before “Checking Out” and loading the bus.
3. Music may only be listened to with *headphones* while on a bus.
4. Noise must be kept at an appropriate level. (NO loud singing, chants, etc.)
5. Do not put any part of your body out of the bus window.
6. Any food, drink, or trash must be disposed of properly in a trash bag.
7. Chaperones are expected to be treated with the same respect that you would treat a director.
8. All conduct rules as outlined in the DHS Student handbook apply on band trips.
9. Students **MUST** arrange their own transportation to/from the band hall prior to/after all events. Students **MUST** have a ride home within (30) minutes upon arrival of school buses to the band hall following any event. **Failure to have transportation within the (30) minute time frame will result in the LOSS of Travel Privileges with the DHS Band!**
10. Failure to abide by travel rules could result in loss of travel privileges via school transportation. This would leave the parent(s) responsible for transportation to and from band events.

Drug-Testing – DHS (*Excerpt from Student Handbook*)

All students in grades 9-12 who intend to participate in competitive extracurricular activities and/or obtain/maintain a permit to park on campus during the course of the school year are subject to random drug testing. Before a student may be allowed to participate in competitive extracurricular activities and/or obtain/maintain a permit to park on campus, the student and the parent/guardian must present written consent to the testing.

Competitive extracurricular activities for which testing is required includes all UIL activities and other activities approved by the district as extracurricular. Competitive

extracurricular activities are those that are school-sponsored, school-related, competitive activity, including elective offices, and participation in clubs, teams, or organizations. This pool of students shall be subject to random testing at a frequency and at a rate to be determined by the school administration. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.

Philosophy

The Devine ISD Band Program is founded on the philosophy that music is an essential component in the enrichment of the educational experience. The multidimensional thinking involved in grasping the harmonic and temporal concepts of music touch the most basic preconscious structures of the brain. The disciplines involved in the study of music demand mastery of the highest levels of intellect, memory, concentration, and emotions as well as the finest tuning of coordination and sensory awareness. The study of music is where students may learn commitment to quality and excellence in their work and where they can explore the inseparable relationship to mind and body. Whether it is on the concert stage, the football field, the rehearsal hall, or the academic classroom, ultimately, we want every student to become the best person he/ she can possibly be.

Strive for Excellence in All That You Do...

GO Warhorse Band!

2024-2025 DHS Band Handbook Acknowledgment Page

I have read the band handbook for **2024-2025** and understand all rules/policies as outlined. I understand that failure to abide by the outlined rules presented either written or verbally may result in a grade reduction, removal from an ensemble, and/or removal from the band program as seen fit by the Director in addition to any standard disciplinary actions taken. I also understand that by committing to the organization, I agree to have full participation for a minimum of (1) year as outlined in the class syllabi and attendance expectations. I also understand that participation in band/colorguard, and particularly marching band, is an outdoor physical activity that can be strenuous and may require students to occasionally be in somewhat extreme weather conditions (heat, rain, cold, etc). I understand that the Devine I.S.D. faculty, staff, and consultant staff will always do their absolute best to maintain student safety while students are under their direct supervision; however, I am releasing them of any liability in regards to any injury that could occur. I understand that this Handbook is not intended to be an “all-inclusive” listing for every situation which may occur. This Handbook is intended to be a “guide” for the majority of situations and as an outline for the basic structure of the organization.

By placing our signatures below, we are stating that we have read the DHS Band Manual and we agree to the terms and guidelines as set forth:

DHS Band Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

