
Dessau Middle School Band

Handbook



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Dear Parents and Students,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we introduce the Dessau Middle School Band Handbook. This handbook was designed to give you an overview of the program and answer any questions you may have.

After reading the material carefully, please be sure to sign and return the required documents found at the end of this book by the last Friday in August. We look forward to working with you and your child this school year!

Respectfully,
DMS Band Staff

Dessau Band Course Syllabus

Course Goal:

To stimulate musical and personal growth in a safe and positive environment

Course Objectives:

To learn beginning, intermediate, and advanced techniques of playing an instrument
To learn beginning, intermediate, and advanced techniques of playing in an ensemble
To represent and serve the Dessau community through quality musical performances
To develop qualities of leadership, citizenship, and pride in performance

Course Requirements:

Participate in all rehearsals
Participate in extra rehearsals, concerts, contests, and other official class activities
Follow all school rules and band rules
Respect and maintain the Band Hall area and all school-owned equipment
A positive attitude and your best effort at all times

Course Grading Policies:

Grading will adhere to the official PfISD grading policy
Percentage weight of grades:

Major Grades 70%

1. Performances

To receive credit for this part of the grading policy, students must participate fully in all Dessau Band performances and activities, unless otherwise agreed to by the director, student and parent. Beginning band students must attend a select number of rehearsals after-school prior to the performance to participate in concerts and receive credit. Only personal illness or death in the family constitutes as an excused absence from these events. In these cases, the directors will need to be notified and will be required to bring a written excuse from a doctor or parent/legal guardian. In addition, students must have all required materials and attire for all rehearsals and performances.

2. Objectives

All band students will have playing tests. Wind Ensemble students are required to learn and prepare Region Band music and participate in the Region Band Audition process. Symphonic band and 6th grade students will be tested on material selected by the directors. Students will also be assigned literature to prepare for assessment in class or during before/after school rehearsals. These assessments may also be used to place students in chair order within their section.

Minor Grades 30%

1. Attendance, Participation, Materials, Sectionals

To receive credit for this part of the grading policy, students must participate fully in the Dessau Band. Students must attend all rehearsals and performance, unless prior arrangements have been made between the student and a director. Students will be given periodic material checks during their band class. Each student must have the course materials including an Instrument (in good working condition), Cleaning & Maintenance materials, 3 reeds (for Woodwinds), concert music, pencil, scale and fundamental sheets, Essential Elements/Foundations Book (Blue Book), Metronome/Tuner

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band students will be required to attend sectionals once a week before or after school. If a student misses a sectional, it is his/her responsibility to make it up.

Online Citizenship and Responsibilities

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other DMS teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band. Band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all Band activities for a period no less than 3 school days.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from band.

ATTENDANCE

The following guidelines pertain to all band students in sectionals/performances.

In order to maintain a high quality program, attendance from ALL members is essential. While the DMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the DMS band program. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

Roll Check

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.

Absence

Student not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for an absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence or students with a pattern of excused absences may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time
- Loss of chair position
- Schedule change
- Removal from program

Parents will be notified immediately.

Bandhall Rules

1. NO food, gum, drinks, skateboards, or caps allowed.
2. No Public Display of Affection (PDA)
3. Address band directors with "Yes Sir, No Sir" or "Yes Ma'am, No Ma'am"
4. Enter the bandhall calmly and quietly. No running or horseplay.
5. Emergency exit only door in bandhall.
6. Only band/choir students allowed in music wing.
7. Use restroom before class all year. Emergencies only during class.
8. No bullying, profanity, or insubordination. This will not be tolerated.
9. Keep instrument and personal belongings in instrument room. DMS band is not responsible for items lost or stolen.
Don't write on or damage school property. Don't lean on stands
Bandhall opens at 7:30AM everyday for students who want to practice. Everyone else at 8AM.
10. Theft may result in removal from the organization.
11. Be seated with your instrument, music, and pencil one minute after the bell rings.
Only small woodwind cases under chair during practice. (Others in locker)
Dress code is in effect at all times
12. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of the rehearsal. Raise your hand and ask questions if you need individual help. Maintain proper posture at all times.
13. No cell phones during classes or rehearsals.
14. Leave bandhall when not busy. Only practicers allowed during non class or rehearsal times.
15. Trash must be put in trash cans.
16. Students should not enter the directors' office without permission. Please knock and wait for a response. No student is to use the band office computers/phone/copier without permission.
17. Please be considerate of the directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.
18. There will be NO CHANGING in ANY band facility. This includes practice rooms, band hall, instrument room, percussion room, and offices.
19. Follow all school and district rules. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:
 - a. Conference with student
 - b. Parent phone call
 - c. Conference with student and parent
 - e. Discipline referral
 - f. Probationary contract
 - g. Expulsion from band program
 - h. Other (as designated by school administration)

Eligibility, Enrollment, School Instruments, Performing Groups/Auditions, and Spring Trip/Fundraising

Eligibility

Students will be required to be academically eligible in order to perform or attend any contests, public performances, trips, UIL, football games and rehearsals. A passing grade is a 70% or above in all subjects. Eligibility is dependent upon the 9-week grading report. Students eligible for a waiver, must complete the steps required at the appropriate time.

Re-enrolling in band

Students who are removed from band or quit will NOT be allowed to return. Transfer students or students who have music experience and have not been enrolled in band may be evaluated for participation on a case-by-case basis. Transfer students will be required to audition prior to being assigned a band class.

School Instruments

Students are highly encouraged to purchase/rent their own instrument at a music store of their choice. In some cases, school-owned instruments may be available for rental for the school year. PflSD charges a \$75.00 rental fee for the school year. Any damage to an instrument beyond the normal wear and tear will be charged to the student/parent.

Performing Groups/Auditions

The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band are performing groups that are open normally to 7th and 8th graders who have completed at least one year of band. There will be one major audition at the end of each year to place students in correct band classes at the beginning of the next school year. Directors will consider the following for student placement in performing groups: performance assessments, skill, academics, a positive attitude/effort, group instrumentation, and/or class enrollment. Student chair placement within a band may change during the semester at the director's discretion based on performance, attitude, or Region Band audition results. Students not in the Wind Ensemble that earn a position in the region band may be given an opportunity to challenge for a position. A position in a region band does not automatically guarantee a higher position in band. Band Directors reserve the right to modify band placements at the end of each semester or in some cases during the year at any time. Students must pass off all of their UIL contest music for a director in order to participate in the UIL contest in March.

Spring Trip/Fundraising

Each year, Dessau band students will have an opportunity to attend a band trip during the spring semester. Spring trips typically cost between \$70-\$100 (this is subject to change). Students must be eligible (passing all classes) in order to attend. Students who have received ISS, OSS, OC, and/or expulsion may not be able to attend. Students who have failed to attend concerts, performances, UIL contests, or after school rehearsals are subject to forfeit their trip eligibility. No refunds will be issued for reasons of ineligibility or behavior infractions.

Students may subsidize spring trip costs through a band fundraiser. Only students who have been given written consent from their parents will be allowed to participate. Participation is not required, but highly encouraged. Students and parents should understand that taking part in the fundraiser does not guarantee trip participation. Profits earned by each student will go to the entire cost of the band trip. Students will also be eligible for incentives provided by the fundraising company. Students who are no longer in band or who are ineligible for the trip will forfeit the use of band fundraising money.

Private Lessons & Spirit Wear/Formal Wear

Private Lessons

Dessau Middle School offers a full staff of private lesson instructors. These highly qualified teachers are specialists on their particular instruments. Private Lessons offer the students the opportunity to study at their own pace. If they need extra assistance on fundamentals, the private lesson instructors help to supplement their daily assignments. If the student feels they would like to push forward to upper level studies, the instructors will help in this process. Depending on the experience level of the teacher, lessons cost in a range of \$17-20 weekly for a 30 minute lesson either before or after school or during class time. Partial and full scholarships are available to those who qualify. Please contact the directors directly for information. All personal information will be kept confidential.

Most lessons are scheduled during band class period although some lessons will be before school or after school. If a student is unable to attend a lesson, they are expected to communicate with the private instructor 24 hours in advance. If advanced notice is not given and the student does not show up for the lesson, payment for that lesson is still required.

Spirit Wear/Formal Wear

Spirit Wear

- Band Polo (Must be purchased by each student for \$10-\$15)
- Blue jeans
- Tennis Shoes

Formal Wear – Girls

- Formal concert dress issued by DMS.
- Solid black, closed-toe dress shoes. High-heels must be no more than 1-inch high.

Formal Wear – Boys

- Tuxedo jacket, pants, shirt, bowtie and cummerbund issued by DMS.
- LONG black socks
- Solid black, hard-soled dress shoes (no athletic shoes or flip-flops)

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

for the Dessau Middle School Band Handbook

*****Due Last Friday in August*****

It is the intention of the Band Directors to provide a safe and positive musical experience for every band student. Some behaviors, which include but are not limited to theft, misconduct, possession of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol would constitute immediate removal from the Band program.

In the event of other inappropriate behaviors (such as flagrant and/or repeated insubordination or persistent student misconduct in or around the Band Hall, or at band events), the directors will follow the guidelines below.

1. Director- student conference
2. Director- parent conference (with or without the student)
3. Student behavioral contract
4. Removal of student from Band Program

Please check one the following regarding Dessau Band publication and media release information:

_____ I give permission to use my child's image on the Dessau Band webpage or any DMS band media.

_____ I do not give permission.

I/We have read and understand all of the information from the Dessau Middle School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the stated policies.

Student's Printed Name:

(Last) _____ (First) _____

Band Class Period _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent(s) Signature(s): _____ Date _____