



Dundee Middle School 8th Grade Band Handbook 2015-2016



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year in the District 300 Instrumental Music Program. The purpose of this letter is to inform and advise you about some of the District 300 Instrumental music policies. This information should help make your child's musical experiences at DMS both successful and enjoyable.

THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE IS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE. PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND MARK THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR.

At various times during the year, I may need assistance with activities. If you are interested, please note your availability on the handbook form. I will then contact you about specific events. Your help and support is the key to maintaining an outstanding band program and I appreciate your help.

My goal is to provide your child with the best instrumental music education possible. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's participation in the band program, please contact me at **224-484-4534** or by email at matthew.bishop@d300.org. Please note that the DMS Band Program has its own web site at www.dundeemiddleschoolband.weebly.com which will be updated regularly.

Thank you for your encouragement in your child's enrollment in music. Statistics indicate that if your child participates in music, he or she is likely to earn higher grades and score better on standardized tests. There is powerful scientific evidence of a cause and effect link between music instruction and intelligence. Please sign the handbook contract on the last page informing us of your commitment to your child's participation in the Dundee Middle School Band. Your child will begin the year by receiving a quiz grade of 100% for returning the signed form by **Friday, August 28th, 2015.**

Sincerely,



Mr. Matthew Bishop

8th Grade Band Director
Director of Jazz Ensemble
Associate 6th and 7th Grade Choir Director
Director of the DMS Street Ensemble
Director of the DMS Chordunals
Co-Sponsor of Beta Club
DMS Videographer/Video Club

DMS Band Calendar 2015-2016

**** Items marked with stars are required performances.****

SATURDAY- October 3, 2015

**ILMEA Jr. Auditions at Yorkville Middle School
Audition times TBA: between 8:00AM-1:00 PM
(Only for students who wish to audition)**

WEDNESDAY - November 12, 2015**

**DMS Fall Band Concert-Veteran's Day Concert
Dundee Middle School Gymnasium
7:00 PM (Students arrive at 6:30 PM)**

SATURDAY- November 21, 2015

**ILMEA Jr. Festival at Plano High School
(Based on results from auditions)
Concert Performance at 3:00 PM**

TUESDAY - January 12, 2016

**District 300 Honors Band Concert
Location: Hampshire Middle School
7:00 PM (Select Student Participation)**

WEDNESDAY - February 24, 2016**

**DMS Winter Band Concert
Dundee Middle School Gymnasium
7:00 PM (Students arrive at 6:30 PM)**

SATURDAY- March 19th, 2016**

**IGSMA District IX Band Contest
Performance between 9:00 AM-2:30 PM(TBD)
Location: TBD**

SATURDAY - April 9, 2016

**District 300 Solo & Ensemble Contest
Dundee-Crown High School
Various assigned times between 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

WEDNESDAY - May 19, 2016 **

**DMS Spring Band Concert
Dundee Middle School Gymnasium
7:00 PM (Students arrive at 6:20 PM)**

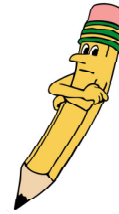
***Extra Performance Opportunities(more to come):
Culver's Veteran's Day Ceremony(Brass Ensemble)
Spring Hill Mall/Senior Center(s)- Christmas Music(Separate Ensemble)
Festival Performances-(8th Grade Band- TBD)***

*****Please Note- Extra-curricular ensembles will have more performances.*****

Band Supplies & Materials:

Students must bring to band:

1. Their instrument (with name on case)
2. A three ring binder (no larger than 1/2 inch thick)
3. Two(2) working pencils that can be kept inside the band folder. **You must have a pencil daily!**
4. Working reeds, cork grease, valve oil, etc. (if applicable)



Percussionists must provide their own sticks; mallets will be provided. Please contact Mr. Bishop with any concerns.



Band Uniforms:

All band students will be required to wear the designated band uniform to concerts and other performances as directed. Uniform requirements will be:

Girls:

White Blouse
Black Dress Pants or Long Black Skirt
Black Dress Socks
Black Dress Shoes (no heels or open toes)

Boys:

White Button Down Shirt
Black Dress Pants
Black Dress Socks
Black Dress Shoes

8th grade band members must wear white button down/long sleeved shirts or blouses. They will also wear a red band vest provided by DMS.

Required Performances:

As this is a performance-based class, ***attendance at all performances is mandatory***. The dates and places are in this handbook. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them. If a student has to miss a performance, for any reason, they are to notify the director at least 2 weeks in advance. Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

*Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this class. Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.

*Performances are the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.

*Band is a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing instrument voice. We rehearse together and we perform together.



Extracurricular:

Participation in the activities listed below are not required, but it is *greatly encouraged* to audition for or join one of them. Before-school study sessions and/or rehearsals are required in most cases.

- ***Solo & Ensemble:*** This event is for students being adjudicated as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble.
- ***D300 Honors Band Festival:*** This band is made up of students selected to represent each middle school in the district.
- ***Jazz Ensemble:*** These ensembles are made up of students interested in learning and performing in the styles of jazz, rock, funk, fusion, swing, etc. These groups generally have a few outside performances that are determined throughout the jazz season. Placement in either Jazz Ensembles is based on audition. Audition materials will be given well ahead of auditions.
- ***Brass/Woodwind/Percussion Ensemble:*** More information to come.

Procedures & Routines:

***Be on time in your assigned seat when class begins.**

***Participate in all classroom activities – especially playing!**

***Be prepared! Have your instrument, music binder, and pencils with you for every class.**

***No GUM, food, or drink is allowed. This is not only a band expectation, but a school policy.**

Absences from concerts / performances:

Concerts are an integral part of any music program. There is no way to make up the experience if a concert is missed. **Students are expected to attend *ALL* performances.** All concert dates are provided early in the year so that families can avoid scheduling any conflicting appointments or trips around those dates. *Excused absences:* Illness; death in the family; other emergency situations; pre-arranged absences (i.e. religious reasons) where there is clear communication using an Absence Request Form. Unexcused absences will have the opportunity to earn partial credit with a makeup assignment, and a grade will be issued based on the quality of assignment.

Ensemble Behavior:

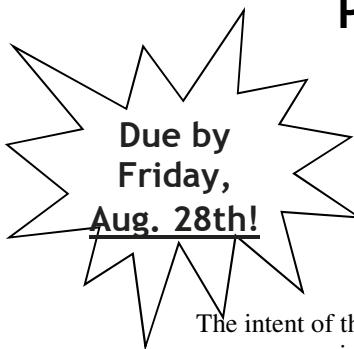
Our band ensembles are, essentially, music teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional; it is required. Repeat offenders will conference with the director and may be removed a particular rehearsal or performance. A point system will be used to promote proper ensemble behavior. Students will lose participation points for any infraction in the following areas:

- Class preparation
- Quiet during rehearsal when not playing
- No Gum, Food, Drink, or Cell Phone
- Respect the room and property within it
- Sitting in correct seat and quiet when class begins
- Demonstrates correct posture while playing
- Respect for self and others
- Participates appropriately during rehearsal

Grading Policy:

Grades are earned by assessing each student's knowledge (classroom assignments, quizzes, and exams), skills (chair placement assessments), and participation in daily rehearsals and required performances. Grades will be assessed on a weighted point system. The district has adopted a new grading policy and we are waiting final confirmation of the details. We will send out the new grading policy as soon as we receive it.

**Dundee Middle School 8th Grade Band
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK
CONFIRMATION FORM
2015-2016**



To be signed by parent and student!

This is worth
a 100% quiz
grade!

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY

The intent of this form is to verify that band parents and students understand and agree with what is involved with membership in the Dundee Middle School Band Program.

PLEASE CHECK BOXES BELOW:

- "I have read the DUNDEE MIDDLE SCHOOL 8th GRADE BAND HANDBOOK with my child and we understand our responsibilities in maintaining a successful band program."
- "I understand the concert attendance policies and uniform requirements."
- "I have taken the time to mark down the band concert dates."
- "I give permission for photos and/or videos of my child to be used for music department purposes."

 Student Name (Please Print)

 Grade

 Instrument

Parent A:	Parent B (if applicable)
*Name: _____	Name: _____
*Email _____	*Email _____
Cell Ph: _____	Cell Ph: _____
Home Ph: _____	Home Ph: _____
I <u>may</u> be available to chaperone field trips or volunteer at these times: (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Daytime <input type="checkbox"/> Evenings <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime	I <u>may</u> be available to chaperone field trips or volunteer at these times: (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Daytime <input type="checkbox"/> Evenings <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime

X _____
 Parent Signature

 Date

X _____
 Student Signature

 Date