



2020-2021 Band Handbook  
COVID-19 Edition

Chase Moore, Director of Bands



Dear Students and Parents,

This is surely an unprecedented year, not only for band, but for certainly for all parts of our school as well. This year will bring about many changes. Some will be easy, some will not be; rest assured, we will get through this together.

First off, I would like to welcome you to the program! Being in band is a highly enriching opportunity for students. They will make new friends, learn new skills, and have a wonderful time working with other students to create great music! The handbook contains what you will need to know for success in the DMS Band Program. I encourage you to read over it carefully so that there will not be any surprises in the coming year.

I encourage you to stay connected with us online at [www.duncanvillemsbands.weebly.com](http://www.duncanvillemsbands.weebly.com). I also encourage you to make use of your student's CutTime account. I will pull information from their account at different times of the year, and use it to send out our weekly email.

Band will certainly look different this year. Concerts will definitely look different this year. No matter what happens, we are one band family, and I look forward to working with you to make the best band experience possible! Throughout the year, I ask that everyone remain flexible and open to change. With whatever happens, we will tackle this year together, and we will all come out of this year as better musicians, students, and as a band family.

Musically Yours,

Chase Moore, Director of Bands  
Duncanville Middle School

Traci Primm, Acting Principal  
Duncanville Middle School

# Duncanville Middle School Band

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Duncanville Middle School Band Program is to provide a comprehensive music program in which students will develop the skills necessary to perform and become lifelong participants in music. Through individual and group instruction, we hope to foster a new generation of musicians that will continue to participate in music long after departing from the Duncanville Middle School Band Program.

## Our Ensembles

### Beginning Band

Membership in Beginning Band is open to all students in the 6th and 7th grade. No previous experience is required. The fundamentals of playing an instrument and music reading skills are stressed. Beginning Band performs a Holiday Concert and a Spring Concert.

### Concert Band

The Concert Band is comprised of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at DMS that have successfully completed at least one year of study in band. The Concert Band curriculum continues to stress the fundamentals of playing an instrument and accuracy in music reading. A special effort is made to prepare the students for high school band. The Concert Band will perform for Pep Rallies, a Fall Concert, Holiday concert, Spring Concert, Music Performance Assessment, and various other events throughout the year.

### Jazz Band

Jazz is an integral part of a well-rounded musical education. In Jazz Band, students will learn the basics of jazz style, blues, and perform jazz music. The term “jazz” is an umbrella that references many different topics and playing styles that students will learn throughout this year.

# Policies and Procedures

## **Classroom Etiquette**

We have a very limited amount of rehearsal time during the school day. These rules are in place to ensure that we maximize the efficiency of our rehearsal time!

### **1. There should be no unnecessary talking or communication.**

- This can be very distracting to those around you and prevents you from being able to pay attention.
- It is rude to whoever is trying to teach and very distracting to the teacher.
- Cell phones should be silenced and should be out of sight during rehearsal.

### **2. Bring all necessary music and equipment to each rehearsal.**

- a. Music must be brought to every rehearsal.
- b. Music should not be shared; each student should have his or her own copy of the music at all times!
- c. Have a pencil on your stand to make corrections and take notes.
- d. Have your mouthpiece and/or reed.
- e. Reeds are the student's responsibility – No reed = no credit for rehearsal or performance.
- f. If your instrument requires a reed, you should have at least 3 you can play on. Reeds lose their playability quickly, and you never know when you will need a backup.
- g. Students will not be allowed to leave the room unless it is an emergency. Students will not be allowed to go back to their locker or another classroom if something is forgotten.

### **3. Be respectful to everyone around you**

- a. Remain seated and quiet at all times unless given permission.
- b. Do not move other students' instruments or equipment without prior permission.
- c. Be responsible for your equipment and your area.

### **4. Be respectful of the facilities**

- a. If you make a mess...clean it up!
- b. If you drop something on the floor, pick it up and dispose of it properly.
- c. Keep the area around your instrument and music neat and tidy.
- d. Lockers will be checked for cleanliness. Keep your space clean!
- e. Only your band binder, band book, and instrument will be allowed in your locker.
- f. No food or drink (except for water) allowed in the band room at any time.

**You should use the restroom before and after rehearsal not during rehearsal. Do not get up from your chair during rehearsal unless it is an emergency.**

**Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable!**

## Sanitization Procedures

It is my goal to promote a safe learning environment for all in-person students, and for remote students that visit my classroom. These procedures will be followed daily.

### 1. Chairs and stands will be sanitized between classes, and before any after school function.

- Students will return any materials that they use back to its “neutral” position after use.

### 2. Students will not share any materials.

- Students are responsible for bringing their materials to class, and removing any materials they will need to bring with them.
- With the exception of Beginning Band, students will enter the room and go straight to their seat. Students will be dismissed in small groups to their band lockers in the back of the band room.

### 3. Students will be responsible for the maintenance of any materials given to them.

- Students will receive instruction and proper cleaning and care of their instrument.
- **Improper care of school owned instruments (unapproved cleaning solutions, improper cleaning methods, attempted self-repair) will result in being charged the full amount of the instrument.**
- It is the student and parent/guardian’s responsibility for sanitizing any PPE provided for the student.

## Discipline Procedures

If a student violates the rules above, we stick mainly to the school’s LLR and referral system. However, there are a couple variances. Our discipline procedures are:

1. A warning will be issued.
2. The student will be asked to pack up their instrument and will be given an alternate assignment. The student will receive silent lunch or break detention. They will also lose their participation points for the day.
3. Correspondence will be sent to parents either by email by phone.
4. A parent conference will be scheduled, and administrators will be involved.
5. If the behavior is still unresolved, then the student will be dismissed from the band program.

## Attendance/Online Work

When members make the commitment to be a part of DMS Band, they also make a commitment to each other. We rely on every member to do his or her part in performance, in rehearsal, and in personal practice time. A revision may be posted if we are able to resume normal operating procedures.

### **Attendance**

The attendance procedures pertain to any required out-of-class meetings.

#### **Absences are excused for the following reasons:**

- I. Illness
- II. Death in the immediate family
- III. Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the child as determined by the principal and/or Superintendent
- IV. Legal quarantine
- V. Emergency conditions as determined by the principal and/or Superintendent
- VI. Prior permission of the principal with the consent of the parent or legal guardian.
- VII. Student participation in athletic event (after school rehearsals only, must make time up in band room. Must be present in at least one after school rehearsal per concert.)
- VIII. Prior written consent of the band director.

### **Online Work**

All students, regardless of in-person or remote, will be responsible for some form of online work. This will be in-lieu of required after school rehearsals, and will be used to supplement our normal curriculum. Please see the section entitled, "Grading," for more information.

## Grading

Daily Grade/Fundamentals- 5pts. Per day.

Students are allotted five points each day for their daily grade. Students will receive full credit for that day if they have all of their required materials and actively participate in coursework. Every student will be assigned a fundamental exercise, playing or music theory, to complete. Practice and repetition of these skills is vital to the student's success. The grade will be given based on completion and improvement.

Pass-Offs- 20pts each

Students will be required to play various selections individually. This will be pass/fail, however, if a student does not pass the selected passage, they will be given feedback and multiple chances to complete the requirement. Selections and deadlines will vary. These will be done either in person, through SmartMusic, or through video assignments. **\*\*Beginning Band remote students will not be able to submit these assignments without coming to an after-school set-up clinic, or scheduling a time to be set up on their instrument.** It is impossible for students to be set up correctly without some form of face-to-face instruction. After school sign up times will be limited to promote social distancing, extra sanitization precautions will be followed, and students will be able to enter directly into the band room.

Assessments- 15pts. each

Various assessments will be given throughout the year to assess students on the material being taught in class.

Performance or Final Project- 40% of 9 weeks total points

In lieu of a Fall concert, we will be attempting a virtual concert. Students will be given explicit instructions on how to prepare, record, and submit their videos. Specific dates will be announced later in the year, but these videos will be due by the first week of December.

Please remember that with a new way of doing things may come with errors. Revisions may be posted as needed.

## Required Materials

### Beginning Band:

#### Everyone:

- 1" 3 Ring Binder (provided for each student) with 3 dividers and sheet protectors
- *Essential Elements for Band Book 1* (These are instrument specific, make sure you get the one for your instrument!) May be purchased online, through the DMS Band, or through an instrument retailer.
- Pencil (the more the merrier!)
- Instrument (see preferred instrument list)
- Luggage tag for your instrument case

#### Woodwinds (flute, clarinet, saxophone):

- Care kit for your instrument
- Reeds (clarinet, saxophone)- D'Addario Royal 2 ½ Strength Reeds (Clarinet: Bb Soprano Clarinet, Saxophone: Alto Saxophone) *may also be purchased for \$2 at school*

#### Brass:

- Care kit for your instrument
- Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba: Valve Oil
- Trombone: "Slide-o-Mix" Slide oil, small water spray bottle

#### Percussion:

- Rogers, Ludwig, or Mapex Drum and Bell Kit with mallets

## Concert Band:

- 1" 3 Ring Binder(provided for each student) with 3 dividers and sheet protectors
- Pencil (the more the merrier!)
- Instrument (see director for preferred instrument list)
- Luggage tag for your instrument case
- Reeds (woodwind instruments only)- Vandoren 3 strength reeds for your instrument (Bass clarinet- Vandoren 2 ½ Bass Clarinet Reeds) Reeds may be purchased through the band. See Mr. Moore for more details.
- *Warmups and Beyond* (for your instrument)

All books (in *italics*) may be ordered from local music retailers, or may be ordered through the school. Students must have these by the second week of school.

Students wishing to audition for Allstate will need to purchase the Rubank Method Book for their instrument.

## Uniforms and Equipment Rental

The uniform procedures will be in effect if we are able to resume in-person concerts with our students. Uniform requirements for our Fall Concert video will be announced in the video instructions.

Students will not need to purchase any uniform parts until told to do so.

The uniform for concerts will consist of:

- Band Polo (purchase through the band program)
- Solid Black Dress Pants (jeans and sweatpants will not be allowed)
- Solid Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes or boots)
- Solid Black Socks
- Solid Black Belt

Students will be required to provide the pants, shoes, socks, and belt. The cost of this set will be announced within the first two weeks of school. Returning students who still have their polo will not be required to purchase a new one, just the new t-shirt for the current year.

Students who are not in uniform at the concert venue will not be allowed to participate in the concert.

For any pep-band or football games, students will wear the band t-shirt that will be purchased with the band polo. Students may also be required to wear these on any trips that the band may take.

There are a limited number of usable instruments available to rent from the band program. If you would like to inquire about renting one of the instruments, please contact Mr. Moore for availability. The cost of renting these instruments will be \$100 per year, or \$50 per semester to cover the cost of general maintenance and cleaning. Students who rent equipment from the band program must complete the Rental Agreement Form which can be obtained from Mr. Moore. Students who rent brass equipment from the school are required to purchase their own mouthpiece. Students are strongly recommended to purchase their own instrument, or rent from a preferred instrument dealer (Cole Band or Gadsden Music).

\*\*Students will be responsible for taking care of these instruments as if they were their own. Students may be responsible for issues that arise with the instrument while in the student's possession.

## Fees and Fundraisers

Members of the DMS Band program are required to pay a \$25 elective fee set by the Board of Education. This year, we are not requiring the Fair Share fee to help relieve burdens placed on families affected by COVID-19. We will still be requiring the \$100 per year instrument rental fee.

Fundraisers are a vital part of building and maintaining a band program. Especially this year, we rely on fund raisers to help offset the ever-growing costs of having a high-quality band program. There will be multiple opportunities for students to fundraise for any fees they may have. Students and parents will receive information on fundraisers when they are set. \*\*The band program is always looking for new and creative ways to raise money! If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please contact Mr. Moore.

## Calendar

Due to the flexibility needed this year, our calendar will only be offered online through your student's CutTime account, or on our website. Any dates changed or added will be sent out in the weekly email.