

Kaci E. Henderson- Director of Bands

Email: kehender@lex5.k12.sc.us **Band Room Phone:** 732-8193

Web Site: DFMSBAND.ORG **School Fax:** 732-8171

Address: DFMS Bands 1528 Old Tamah Rd. Irmo, SC 29063

Welcome to the Dutch Fork Middle School Band Program! Participating in a musical organization such as this will provide opportunities for you to take part in concerts, festivals, athletic events, trips, and other special activities that will greatly enrich your middle school experience. The guidelines in this handbook will help us to better work together and create outstanding performances.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

- To teach instrumental music education through performance
- To develop performance skills and techniques
- To provide an ensemble/group experience requiring commitment
- To provide some of the musical needs of the school and community
- To develop life skills through cooperation and reaching goals

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF BAND

Teamwork/Cooperation- No matter what you do in life, teamwork is essential. Band is a great way to work as a group and learn to reach goals together..

Friendships- Many band members make friendships that last a lifetime. The band is like a family where everyone helps each other..

Leadership- Students learn to become excellent leaders through performance and activities.

Time Management Skills- You learn how to manage your time and make the most of it.

Extra Curricular- Colleges and Universities are impressed when students have participated in activities such as band. Most scholarship applications require participation in extra-curricular activities.

Life Skills- Students learn dedication, commitment, perseverance, responsibility, acceptance of others, and cooperation. These are necessary skills for life.

BAND CLASS PROCEDURES

- 1.) Enter the classroom in a quiet orderly fashion before the tardy bell.
- 2.) Place book-bag in the book-bag area.
- 3.) Take instrument/needed band items to seat—you will be given 2 min to unpack/prepare after the tardy bell—if you are not ready after 2 min. you are marked tardy
- 4.) Don't leave cases on the floor—put large cases in cubbies during class.
- 5.) After class instruction is complete, clean the area around your seat and disassemble your instrument.
- 6.) Neatly place instrument in the assigned area and return to your assigned seat. The band director will dismiss the class by rows when the bell rings.

BAND CLASS RULES

We believe that all students can behave appropriately. Students are expected to do so at all times. No student will be allowed to interfere with the teaching or learning of other students in class or an ensemble.

- 1.) All school rules apply.
- 2.) NO GUM...EVER!!!
- 3.) **DO NOT BLURT OUT!!** Raise your hand and wait to be called on.
- 4.) No talking or playing unless instructed to do so.
- 5.) Respect yourself and others.
- 6.) Follow instructions.
- 7.) If it's not yours DON'T TOUCH IT.



CONSEQUENCES

- ◆ Warning (verbal or via clear eye contact)
- ◆ Lunch detention
- ◆ After School Detention/Parent Contact
- ◆ Written discipline referral

for severe offenses, immediate discipline referral will be issued

Repeat offenses may earn a discipline referral with recommendation for expulsion

GRADING POLICY

Daily Grades 30% of final grade

- ◆ Playing Grades
- ◆ Music Quizzes

Practice Records will only be assigned to students with low playing grades for extra credit. This is a daily report of practice time signed by a parent. Keep your playing grades up and you will not have to worry about practice records.



Performance Attendance 40% of final Grade

There will be very few required after school practices and performances during the year. The few that we have are **MANDATORY** and **attending these will be a large part of your grade**. Proper attire and punctuality is part of your grade for performances as well. We will send a handout in the mail when the concert attire and call time for the concert has been set. If there is a non-emergency legitimate excuse the band director must be notified **one month** in advance with a written parent note. Discuss any athletic, cheerleader or school-related conflicts with the director well in advance.

Class Participation 30 % of final grade

- ◆ Participate **during the entire class time**.
- ◆ Have a working instrument and all needed accessories*
- ◆ Have a pencil and any required sheet music/ band books
- ◆ Follow class procedures set on the board for that day.

DON'T FORGET YOUR INSTRUMENT!!!!

NOT HAVING AN INSTRUMENT IS THE #1 REASON STUDENTS GET IN DISCIPLINE TROUBLE OR GET A FAILING GRADE. Keep an A/B day calendar up in your home or leave your instrument at the door so you don't forget it!

BROKEN INSTRUMENT POLICY

*If your instrument is broken you need a **note from a parent** indicating the **music store** and **date** you took it to get repaired. The Band Director reserves the right to call and verify this with the music store. **PLEASE KEEP YOUR INSTRUMENT MOUTHPIECE**—The director may have a loaner instrument for you to use with your mouthpiece until yours has been repaired—if no loaner instrument is available, **you ARE REQUIRED to follow along quietly with the band during class so you don't lose points from your participation grade.** You are NOT permitted to do homework for another class or go to the library. Failure to follow along quietly will result in a grade reduction and disciplinary action.

REQUIRED MATERIALS FOR BAND CLASS

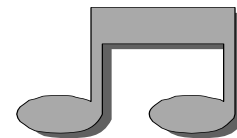
These are the materials you will need for band class. Visit local music stores to purchase items not provided by the school. The web site has a list of music stores.

YOU MUST HAVE FOR EACH CLASS:

- ◆ Instrument/needed accessories*
- ◆ Standard of Excellence Book 2 (Blue Book) **PROVIDED** (don't buy)

If you do not bring needed items to class your grade will be lowered

Needed accessories may include: valve/slide oil for brass, reeds or key oil for woodwinds---#3 reeds are suggested for sax/clarinet unless your private teacher feels you should play on something else. (Medium soft reeds for oboe and bassoon)



STORING YOUR INSTRUMENT IN THE BAND RM

* Any instrument or personal items left on school grounds or in the band room is **done so at your own risk**. It is not possible for the director to monitor these areas at all times.

* Taking instruments with you daily is the best way to insure security.

* Keeping your name clearly marked on the case with tape or Name-tag will greatly improve safety.

* When enough supplies are available, we will supply students who play larger instruments (such as tuba) with a practice instrument for home and a locker for the one at school.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

DFMS supplies instruments for beginners such as French Horn, Baritone, and Tuba under the following conditions:

1. The student and parent/guardian must sign an instrument usage contract and the instrument must be returned when requested at the end of the year. This contract is available at the end of this handbook and on the web site. Any damage will result in you being charged for the item.
2. **\$50 Rental Fee due October 2nd** (checks payable to DFMS BAND)
3. Students must own their own mouthpiece and/or reeds—brands approved by director (the brand names required by CRMS are automatically approved so 7th graders may use their mouthpiece from last year) The instrument usage contract lists approved mouthpieces.

ABSENCES FROM REQUIRED EVENTS

There are so few after school times that it should not be difficult to attend the required events. Please make every effort to be present and on time for each event. Remember, **“To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be LATE!”**

Absences for the reasons listed below will be excused provided the Directors are notified well in advance when possible. Please email or write a note to the director.

- Illness (Doctor's note needed for missed performance)
- Marriage in the immediate family (1 month notice required)
- Death in the family
- Emergency Doctor or other appointment (NON-emergency appt. should be re-scheduled)

Extenuating circumstances, such as church related events, family situations and school-related sports/activities, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. They must be discussed **well in advance** with the director.

DFMS BAND BOOSTER CLUB

This newly organized group exists to support our band program and do whatever it takes to help us reach our goals. The Boosters will send out information on how to join and opportunities to help the band once the school year begins. The web site will also have booster information available at the start of school.

FUND-RAISING

We have several fundraisers because the band fee provides us with less than half of our budget. Without fundraisers we would have to charge over \$200 for students to participate in band. Students will be expected to help with any and all fundraisers that occur during the year. If we do not all give our fair share the band fee will increase each year. Without successful fundraising efforts our band will not be able to compete and participate in all that we do. Please make every effort to do your share during every fundraiser. Fundraiser details will be provided in monthly newsletters.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

FORMAL UNIFORM-- Formal Concerts and Festivals

GIRLS

ALL BLACK pant-suit or dress (dress must cover knees when sitting)

ALL BLACK shoes/hose

No Prints, please—attire must be all-black

GUYS

ALL Black pants, shoes, socks, belt

ALL White Tuxedo shirt*** (Wear plain white T-Shirt under)

Black bow-tie and cummerbund***

***PROVIDED BY SCHOOL- you don't need to buy

INFORMAL UNIFORM-- Informal Concerts, Pep Rallys, etc.

ALL STUDENTS

Blue Jean Pants (not shorts)

DFMS Band T-Shirt

\$25 BAND FEE DUE SEPTEMBER 25th

To cover the many expenses of band, a \$25 fee is required of each student in band class. Our cost is minimal considering many programs charge \$150 to \$300 to be in band. A good band costs money. Efforts will be made in the coming year to apply for grants and district support so that the fee can be reduced or even eliminated in future years. Until then, please understand that this is the only way to provide your child with a top notch band program.

THE FEE HELPS TO COVER ITEMS SUCH AS:

-band shirt for informal performances(you will get to keep this item)

-sheet music/handouts/workbooks

-music stands/chairs/posters/other band room items

-guest clinicians and staff to help with specialized instruction during the year

* MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **DUTCH FORK MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**. You can mail your check/money order to the DFMS Band(address on front of this handbook) OR place it in the band room security box. Please DO NOT send cash. Payments are NON-REFUNDABLE. Fundraiser money cannot be applied towards the band fee this year.

NOTE: The district charges a separate \$16 lab fee at registration for band. This pays for your band books.

BAND INFORMATION FORM– DUE BY AUGUST 27th

I have read this handbook, understand and accept the guidelines, requirements and responsibilities contained in it.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Student Signature)

BOTH SIGNATURES REQUIRED ABOVE

(Please PRINT clearly and fully complete the form below)

Name _____ Adult T-Shirt Size _____

Main Instrument _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Home Phone _____ (Cell) _____

Email you wish to receive for band news and info with:
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY— many emails are case sensitive

Student email _____

Parent email _____

We will not send spam—only pertinent band news

**YOU CAN PUT THIS FORM AND/OR INSTRUMENT USAGE CONTRACT IN THE
SECURITY BOX IN THE BAND ROOM
OR MAIL/FAX TO:**

DFMS Bands 1528 Old Tamah Rd. Irmo, SC 29063
OR fax it to: 732-8171 (please put attn. Band Director)
OR scan and email it to: kehender@lex5.k12.sc.us

BEGINNER SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USAGE CONTRACT

Student Name _____ Phone _____

ALL students using school inst. must own their own mouthpiece. Please check the instrument needed below and we will distribute them at the start of school.

- French Horn---must have own Holton Farkas MDC or Schilke mouthpiece

- Tuba---must have own Bach 18 or equivalent mouthpiece*
- Baritone---must use own mouthpiece*

This section to be completed by the director once contract is turned in
Instrument Serial Number _____
Brand name _____

- 1) *We promise to take care of the instrument listed above and keep it properly maintained (valves oiled, slides/cork greased). If any damages occur above normal wear and tear while under this contract, we will take it to a reputable music store, and pay for the repairs.*
- 2) ***We understand that there is a \$50 rental fee Due Oct 2nd.***
- 3) *We will own our own mouthpiece and/or reeds and return the school instrument at the end of the school year. Ask the director if you need to approve a mouthpiece not listed above*

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN _____

See the band information form for your options on how to turn this in.