

**Dutchtown Middle School Band  
Concert Band Handbook  
2009-10 School Year  
Richard Bresowar, Band Director**

**Introduction**

This handbook will serve for the 2009-10 school year for members of the Dutchtown Middle School Concert Band. This handbook has dates, rules and regulations, grading policies, information on performances, uniform requirements, instrument checkout procedures, goals for the band, and other information related to band membership. It is designed to be a reference for any band events or policies that may come up during the year. **IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT EACH STUDENT AND PARENT FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THIS HANDBOOK.** Please keep a copy of the handbook to refer to during the year.

**Web Site**

The Dutchtown Middle School Band maintains a web site that has all the information needed for participation in the band. This is a very convenient resource if you have misplaced this handbook, or other letters that have been passed out in band during the year. The web address is [www.dmsband.org](http://www.dmsband.org). Please go there regularly to get information on the band.

**Goals and General Information**

The Dutchtown Middle School Band program has a long history of excellence. By joining the band you have committed yourself to continuing that pursuit of excellence in musical performance. The goals of the band each year are to attain a high level of musical performance and understanding by its members, to have its members acquire the skills needed to perform in the Dutchtown High School Band, or other high school band program, to have a large number of our students qualify for District Honor Band, and to perform high quality musical selections at a level that is appropriate for the State Band Festival. To achieve these goals, band members must be committed to working for excellence. The band expects certain things from its members and offers much in return. To this end, certain basic requirements are expected of the band members. This handbook will enumerate these requirements.

Concert band is offered in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and is mainly a class, not a performing group. Hopefully the goal of all Concert Band members is to make it to our main performing group which we call the Symphonic Band, either during the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year or by 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore the main goal of this class is to make sure that the students have the needed skills that will enable them to play in the Symphonic Band at some point.

**Bands**

There are two possible band assignments for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The highest level is the Symphonic Band. This group is made up of the top students that can schedule the class, and has the highest level of responsibility for its members. Symphonic Band has more required performances and after-school rehearsals than the other groups. The Concert Band is a training group for students that have not yet gotten to the performance level of the Symphonic Band. In the concert band, performances opportunities are optional and there are no required rehearsals outside of the regular

class rehearsal. These students will be given the music for the Spring and Christmas Concerts, but are not required to attend. The Beginning Band is made up of 6<sup>th</sup> grade members, and performs only at the Christmas and Spring Concerts. These students will be assigned to one of the other bands in their second year.

### **Physical Exams**

Concert Band members are not required to have a physical exam on file, unless you wish to march with us at the Christmas Parade. This parade is optional for Concert band members. The physical is usually done in the PE classes during the previous year or you can bring a form from your family physician.

### **Band Parents Organization**

We have been doing reasonably well without an official band parent's organization, but there are many events that will need parent involvement for the band to have success. We will have a band parents meeting during the first month of school to outline these events. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, in the Bandroom. At this meeting we will be discussing fund raising activities and other events for the year. Unless unusual events take place, this is the only full band parent's meeting that we have each year so please make plans to attend.

### **Classroom grading system and rules**

The band grade is given to give parents an idea of their child's progress in band class. The grade that each student receives in band is made up of three elements. The first element is weekly test grades, the second element is in-class participation and the third element is home practice. The elements are weighted as follows: Tests are 55% of the grade, Participation is 45% and home practice is 10%. The participation grade represents daily participation in class. For the test grades, the students will be given an assignment and several days to practice for the test. The tests will usually be from music that the band is working on in class, or scales. Occasionally written tests may be given on musical concepts needed to perform music properly.

Classroom participation will be accounted for in the following way. There will be a weekly participation grade that reflects the student's participation. If a student has an instrument and is participating appropriately each day of the week, the grade will be an A for that week. If not, the grade will be lowered appropriately for that week.

In the case of a student not participating properly, a warning will be given by the teacher, explaining what the student needs to do to correct the problem. If after the warning the problem persists, the student will be marked as non-participating for that class period and given a written assignment. Any student disturbing the class after being marked as non-participating will be sent to the ISSP coordinator for disciplinary action.

### **Home Practice**

For the band to succeed and for each student to have the best chance to make honor band and receive other honors, home practice is absolutely essential. Home practice is the main element of the practice grade and is measured by how many practice charts are turned in. Practice charts are home practice reports that are done weekly. Students should pick up a new practice chart each Monday. Each week the students should practice a minimum of 150 minutes. It is recommended that the student practice 30 minutes a day for 5 days each week, but the student may break it up differently if desired. By Monday of the next week the practice chart must be turned in signed by the parent. Unsigned practice charts do not count. You will see a practice chart grade twice

each nine weeks that represents 4 practice charts that should have been turned in during that 4 week period. If your grade for that period is 4 or "A" then all 4 charts have been turned in. If only 3 charts were turned in, the grade would be 3, which is a "B" and so on.

### **Uniform Requirements**

I do strongly encourage Concert Band members to participate in the Christmas Parade, Spring Concert and Christmas Concerts. If you are going to be a part of the band for these events, you will need to have the band uniform which follows: One pair of white pants or jeans, white tennis shoes, a band T-Shirt, and white socks. **Socks must be full length.** Pants must be regular fit (no baggy jeans, capris, cargo pants, or shorts.) Tennis shoes must be ALL WHITE. This means no colors. For football games, the students will wear school uniform bottoms, tennis shoes, and the band shirt. Band shirts and white pants will go on sale at the beginning of school. Shirts and White pants can be ordered through the band. Shirts will cost \$10.00. Pants will cost \$25.00.

### **Instrument Checkout**

Those students who will be using a school owned instrument will be required to maintain the instrument properly and will be responsible for damage that is caused by them. Normal maintenance will be taken care of by the band. The band director will assign a specific instrument to each student as needed. If you are using a school owned instrument it is strongly recommended that you purchase your own personal mouthpiece. Also each student should have the supplies needed to take care of that instrument, such as valve oil, reeds, mouthpiece pouch or cap, or other items appropriate to the specific instrument. No one is to play on or touch instruments that are not checked out to you or do not belong to you. THIS MEANS YOU. Instruments must be stored on the designated shelves when they are left in the band room.

### **Student Owned Instruments**

Clearly, the band will not be able to reach its goals if the instruments that the students perform on are not working properly or are of poor quality. Students are responsible for making sure that their instruments are cared for and in proper working order at all times. Make sure that there is always a tag or some way on the outside of the case to identify the instrument as belonging to you. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ANY STUDENTS TO PLAY INSTRUMENTS THAT DO NOT BELONG TO THEM OR ARE NOT CHECKED OUT TO THEM.** Violations of this will be dealt with severely. I strongly recommend that parents keep a record somewhere of the serial number of your instrument. It is also a good idea to check your homeowners insurance to make sure you are covered if the instrument is stolen. The school board does not have insurance to cover loss of band instruments. I will do the best I can to make sure the band room is as secure as possible, but the band can assume no responsibility for lost or stolen instruments. If you don't have adequate insurance, the music stores should have information on insurance policies that are available. The last time I checked, these policies cost about \$3.00 a month for most instruments and cover repair and replacement with a very small deductible. They are well worth the price. Please make sure that you have a high quality mouthpiece that is in good condition. This is the best and most cost effective investment you can make if you want to be a good player.

## **Band Dates for 2009-10 School Year**

Below are the performance dates for the school year. These dates are subject to change, with notice. Notice will be on the band website, plus by email if you are on the email list. In addition, I will send a note home, but this is not a reliable way to get information, because the notes don't always make it out of the classroom. In this list the performance time is the actual time of performance. Students will usually be expected to arrive 30 minutes before the performance to prepare. This will be announced during the week of the performance. **You might want to take this page out and put it on your fridge.**

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008** 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band Parents Meeting.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** Cookie Dough fundraiser starts. Details to follow.

**Football Games** Concert Band members may be invited to perform at home football games, unless on the school team or on the school cheerleading squad or dance team. Students should be at school by 4:30 PM on game days and will be released at approximately 6:45 PM. Dates of games will be announced on the band website as soon as I have them.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>.** 6:30 PM Christmas Concert. All Bands required to attend. Concert location Dutchtown Middle School Gym.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>.** Christmas Parade. Bands meet at DMS and will be bussed to the parade. Time will be announced.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>.** 6:30 PM. Spring Concert and Awards Night. Location DTHS Cafeteria. All students required to attend.

**Please detach, sign and return this and the next page.**

Student Information Form

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's work phone(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Cell\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email address\_\_\_\_\_

I have received the band handbook and I fully understand the content within. By signing this form I agree to follow the rules stated and fulfill the duties required of me.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_