

DSA Band Program Commitment Form

Return this form to your band teacher by Friday, Sep. 1st.

I **have read and understand** the following criteria for members of this band program:

1. I will follow school rules and regulations as stated in the school and band handbook at all times.
2. As stated in the band handbook, I understand the importance of practice and will work hard to make my playing a positive contribution to the group.
3. I accept the obligation to attend all rehearsals and concerts. In cases where conflict is unavoidable, I will notify my director 2 weeks before the event or rehearsal.
4. I agree to mark the performance dates given to me at the beginning of the year in my home calendar and work to avoid conflicts.
5. I will respect all DSA directors/staff/substitutes and all of the equipment in the band room. I understand that if I cause damage to any instrument or equipment, I will be held liable for the charges for repair or replacement. **This includes all school instruments.**
6. I will participate fully during class. Not following classroom procedures and/or classroom expectations will result in an alternate assignment and/or a discipline referral/loss of participation in band activities.
7. I have read and understand the assessment process for progression through the DSA band classes. I understand that preparation for this assessment is essential throughout the year.

Student Signature _____

_____ Date

Parent Signature _____

_____ Date

Parent email (1) _____

Parent email (2) _____

Parent Phone(s) _____



Band Program Handbook
2023-2024

dsabands.weebly.com

400 N. Duke St.
Durham, NC 27701
919-560-3926
Band Ext. 23228

Introduction

The DSA band program provides students with many musical choices. Beyond the ensembles, the DSA band program strives to promote leadership, character, self-discipline, musicianship, teamwork, as well as excellence in performance. The DSA band handbook outlines the principals and procedures that allow the band program to be successful for all students. Please read the handbook carefully, understanding that our organization has high expectations for each individual student, whatever their potential may be.

Communication

Canvas and email will be our main methods of communication. Students and parents can find important information on our band website, including: band handbook, calendar, current activities and assessment information. The band website and individual course pages in Canvas will be updated throughout the year.

dsabands.weebly.com

Become a DSA Band Sponsor

Help contribute to the success of the DSA Band program by becoming a Band Sponsor. Your generous donation will be put to use to support the needs of our students. Money from band sponsors will help:

- ◆ Purchase new music
- ◆ Purchase books and instruments for students who need financial support
- ◆ Provide outside clinicians to work with our students
- ◆ Offer special programs and events

Band sponsor names will be listed in each concert program for the academic year the donation was received (donations received in the summer will be recognized the following school year).

Please make checks payable to DSA Band Boosters.

Sponsor Levels:

Blue Level Sponsor (\$1-\$25)

Black Level Sponsor (\$26-\$50)

Bulldog Level Sponsor (\$51-\$100)

Maestro Level Sponsor (\$101-\$199)

Corporate Sponsor (\$200 +)

DSA Band Boosters, Inc.

Parents, you are a part of the DSA Band Boosters, Inc. (DSABB)! Membership consists of parents/guardians of students enrolled in the DSA Band Program. There is no membership fee, and your participation is encouraged.

As stated in the bylaws, the DSABB is a voluntary, non-profit corporation comprised of persons who have an interest in promoting and maintaining a vibrant, high-performing band program at Durham School of the Arts. The DSABB will work to:

- A) Lend all possible support, both moral and financial, to the band program at DSA.
- B) Cooperate with and support the band directors and school administration.
- C) Build and maintain an organization which will help promote band endeavors at DSA and in the community.
- D) Support students in their quest to achieve the utmost quality music education & performance skills.
- E) This organization is organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please be on the look out for more information.

Thanks for your support!

Director Contact Information

Allen Amos

anthony_amos-ii@dpsnc.net

Beginning Band, Cadet Band, MS Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, HS Wind Ensemble, AP Music Theory

Keegan Couse

keeganr_couse@dpsnc.net

Beginning Band, Jazz Stage Band, Jazz Artistry, MS Wind Ensemble, Concert Band

Susan Townsend

susan_townsend@dpsnc.net

Beginning Band, Beginning Percussion, Cadet Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, HS Wind Ensemble

Grading

Grading for band courses:

Class Performance/Participation	30%
Playing/Written Tests	35%
Written Assignments/Classwork	10%
Performance Projects/Concerts	25%

DSA Band

Concert Deduction Rubric

Class Performance

Band students will not improve if they do not come to class prepared and ready to work. The class performance grade allows students to receive credit for their hard work on a daily basis. **Students will lose points over the course of the week by not being prepared for class.** For example, a student will lose points if they do not have their instrument, music, pencil, lack of engagement, or not following classroom procedures.

Playing/Written Tests

Playing tests are given on a regular basis. These playing tests are designed to demonstrate the skill level achieved by students within the band program. These tests can be given in various ways: solo performance, small group, separate room, or audio/video recording, We will use Canvas for some playing tests throughout the year.

Written Assignment/Classwork

Various forms of assessments are used to evaluate students' musical knowledge. Students will be asked to demonstrate skills and measure understanding through written assignments. These may include ear training exercises, music theory, music history, rhythm counting, and concert/performance evaluations.

Item	Point Deduction	Notes
Tardy	10 (6:11-6:20 pm) 15 (6:21-6:30 pm)	We take roll at 6:10 pm. If you are not in your designated area, ready to perform at this time, you will be marked tardy. *Be proactive and speak with a director if you have an issue/conflict with arrival time.
Shoes	10	All black, dress shoes. If you have a question, ask a director before the concert.
Socks	10	No white socks!!!
Dress pants/slacks/skirt	10	Needs to be "Sunday best" dress pants. No jeans, holes, etc. Skirt should be long, and go past your knees.
Dress shirt	10	Needs to be button-down and have a collar. White shirt!
No Vest	15	Needs to be a solid black vest.
No Bowtie	10	Needs to be a solid black bowtie.
Poor Concert Behavior <i>and/or</i> Leaving Concert Early	Varies	We have extremely high expectations for our students during concert performances. Be a good performer and audience member.

Example:

If you arrive at 6:15 and have white socks, the highest grade you can get for the concert is an 80.

2023-2024 Events /Performances

Date	Time	Location	Groups
1/31-2/1		Brogden MS	DPS All-County Band Clinic & Concert
2/29	6:30 pm	Weaver	Band Concert MSWE, Symphonic, HSWE, Artistry
3/1	4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Weaver	Band Concert BB, Stage (4 pm) Cadet, Concert (6:30 pm)
3/2		Atkins High School Winston-Salem, NC	All-State Band & All-State Jazz Auditions <i>Snow date 3/9</i>
3/12-3/14		Cedar Ridge High School	CDBA MPA-East
4/12-4/13		NC State University	All-State Jazz Clinic
4/18	School day	DSA	DPS Solo & Ensemble Festival
4/19		Millbrook HS Raleigh, NC	Jazz MPA
4/26-4/28		UNC-Greensboro	NC All-State Honors Band Clinic & Concert
5/20	4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Weaver	Band Concert BB, Stage (4:00 pm) Cadet, MSWE (6:30 pm)
5/21	6:30 pm	Weaver	Band Concert Concert, Symphonic, HSWE, Artistry
TBA		TBA	DSA Graduation Ceremony HS Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band

Performance Projects/Concerts

Performances are the culmination of all the hard work and musical study that precedes them. They represent student achievement and highlight the band's accomplishments. **Students are required to be at all performances and rehearsals in which their ensemble is involved. Please put band events on your calendars now and make transportation plans several weeks in advance. *Concert grades are based on presentation (being on time, dressed properly, and proper stage and audience decorum) and musical performance. If a student misses a performance with a valid excuse, he/she can make up the performance by playing the music individually for a grade. Valid excuses for missing a performance include; death in the family, serious illness (with doctor's note), or other extreme family emergencies that must be verified by a written note from the parent/guardian.**

**See rubric on page 13.*

Practice

To be a successful, contributing member of the band, you are expected to practice on a regular basis. In the same way practicing math problems builds math skills, practicing an instrument builds technical and musical skills necessary for mastery. Although practice is not part of your child's overall grade, practice will be evident in our weekly tests. Parents are encouraged to support daily practice. You can help your child by setting aside the same time each day, recording how long they play, and even asking them to play for you.

2023-2024 Events /Performances

Information will be updated as needed.

Date	Time	Location	Groups
9/1			Handbook commitment form due with parent signature.
10/5-10/6	School day	Weaver	Band Recordings for Online Concert
11/9	4:00 pm	Weaver	Band Concert Beginning Band, Stage Band
11/13	4:00 pm	Weaver	Band Concert CB, Symphonic, HSWE, Artistry
11/14	4:00 pm	Weaver	Band Concert Cadet, MSWE
11/15-11/18	TBA	DSA Black Box	Musical Performances
11/17		DSA	Last day to sign up for All-District Band Auditions!
12/19	School day	Weaver	DSA Winter Showcase— Performances TBA
1/6		Orange High School	CDBA All-District Band Auditions <i>Snow Date 1/13</i>
1/8		Shepard MS	DPS All-County Band Auditions (middle & high school)
1/9-1/12	School day	Band Area	Ensemble Placement Auditions for 2024-2025.
1/19-1/20		Panther Creek HS Cary, NC	Central Region Jazz Clinic
1/26-1/27		TBA	CDBA All-District Band Clinic & Concert <i>Snow date 2/2-2/3</i>

Concert Attire

Concert attire is an important part of performing. It instills in our students the responsibility to look professional as we perform for the public.

Beginning Band: Band t-shirt and black pants or skirt. Black dress shoes and socks.

All other Ensembles: Formal black and white with vest and bow tie.

Formal black and white is comprised of black dress pants/skirt, black dress shoes and socks, white button down shirt or top. No t-shirts, slippers, or tennis shoes!
Concert Dress Is Required!!!

Classroom Expectations

The DSA band program has a high level of expectations for our students. To be successful, all students have to strive to meet the same goals! In order to reach our goals, we have a few simple guidelines:

Be on Time: Be in class by the tardy bell, and in your seat ready to play one minute after the tardy bell.

Be Prepared: Have all class materials every day— Instrument, Binder, Music/book, Pencil.

Be Engaged: Participate fully each and every day!

Be Respectful: Strive to put the ensemble before yourself in all that you do.

No Food , Gum, or Drinks: No food, gum, or drinks in the band room at any time other than bottled water.

Commitment

Commitment is the fundamental ingredient of a successful band. Band goes beyond merely teaching music, building important life and teamwork skills. Commitment is an important aspect for any successful endeavor. How do you show your commitment to the band program? For students it is attendance at rehearsals, daily practice, and concert performances. For parents, commitment is joining us for concerts to celebrate your students' accomplishments and helping at events. **Band at DSA is a year-long course and a year-long commitment.** Students may only change courses at the end of each school year. Often times a student will experience a "writer's block" moment where they have difficulty progressing on their instrument. For some students, it feels easier to quit rather than to push forward and work through the slump. **It is important to remember that these slumps do pass, and the student will begin to make progress again. All musicians go through this; it is a natural part of growing in maturity and musicianship.** Our job as teachers, is to push and encourage them to stick with it. This is a great life lesson for students to see things through to the end, and develop their character and responsibility.

Consequences: Students who cannot follow classroom procedures and DSA behavior expectations are working against the success of the class. Minor disruptions, such as speaking without being recognized will receive a verbal warning. However, other infractions may result in a Tacet Seat assignment (or behavior reflection). All future issues will be handled by the DSA administration.

ALL school rules and policies apply in our band class. Major disruptions or infractions will result in a call home and an office referral. Students will not be permitted to disrupt or waste class instructional time.

Required Materials

In addition to an instrument in good playing condition, you will need to have the following materials for class each day:

- Black 1" three ring binder
- Pencil
- Method book if required for your ensemble
- Accessories (valve oil, reeds, slide grease, neck straps, etc.)

The band program cannot provide these materials!

School-Owned Instruments

School owned instruments are a limited resource. The school can provide large instruments such as tubas, baritone/euphoniums, bass clarinets, French horns, etc. All other instruments should be obtained by the student. School owned instruments are very expensive, and students who are using these instruments are responsible for repair and overall condition of those instruments throughout the year. Students renting a school instrument will have a \$60 fee for the year and must sign a contract. ***Only students who maintain a passing grade and participate fully in class, will be allowed to rent a school instrument.*** If you require a school instrument, please see a DSA band director for more information.

Lockers

Band lockers are rented for students to safely store their instrument during the day. Band lockers can be rented for a \$5 fee for the year. Students who use a DSA band locker are responsible for memorizing their combination and keeping the locker clean at all times. **No food may be kept in lockers at any time.** Locks must be returned at the end of the school year. There is a \$5 fee for lost locks.

Private Lessons

One of the best ways to improve as a musician is through private instruction on your instrument. Private lesson instructors serve as an ideal model and mentor to assist in your student's improvement in the areas of tone, technique, musicianship, and expert knowledge of the instrument. For more information about private lesson instructors, see one of the DSA band directors.

Class/Ensemble Placement

There are six levels of band at DSA: Beginning Band, Cadet Band, MS Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and HS Wind Ensemble (other courses are available, but not part of the band concentration pathway). Class placement in each ensemble is based on an audition process and instrumentation. Auditions consist of several progressive excerpts that increase in difficulty. The audition is designed to demonstrate a student's proficiency in range, tone quality, articulation, dynamic control, musicality, rhythm/pulse control, and other musical elements. Students will have only one opportunity to perform the audition. Auditions are held in January or early February. In general, students should expect to spend more than one year in one of the mid-range bands while students work to improve performance skills. A student's ensemble placement is not guaranteed from year to year. It is possible for a student to move down a level based upon not meeting ensemble expectations or audition requirements. To complete their area of concentration, students must successfully complete one year of participation in Concert/Symphonic Band/HS Wind Ensemble.

