

**DE SOTO HIGH SCHOOL  
WILDCAT BANDS**



**BAND  
HANDBOOK**

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*Updated August 2024*

# WELCOME!

Dear DHS Wildcat Band Members and Parents,

Welcome to the De Soto High School Wildcat Band Program! We are pleased that you have chosen to be a part of the proud and successful musical tradition of the Wildcat Bands and we sincerely hope that you have a positive and meaningful band experience. As the directors of the DHS Bands, it is our mission to help every DHS Band student grow as a person and a musician through their experiences in the band.

Learning to play a musical instrument is a challenging and enjoyable task. Through musical study, students build individual confidence, creativity, and an improved work ethic. By participating in a musical ensemble, students build teamwork, leadership, and social skills, while opening connections with people and events of the past, present, and future through the music they perform. Every band member gains friendships and experiences that benefit them for the remainder of their lives.

Band is a musical opportunity open to all students. Students often ask, "Can I participate in band and athletics or other activities at the high school level?" The answer is a resounding YES! Around 80% (or more) of band students choose to also participate in athletics (many of them in multiple sports), dance, or cheerleading, as well as other academic activities such as debate, STUCO, and many others. I believe that every other extracurricular activity, club, and sport offered at DHS is represented by at least one student in the DHS Band.

Each school year brings many new musical and personal challenges and opportunities. In addition, the dramatic growth of our district and school contributes both challenges and opportunities. As the DHS Band strives to meet these new challenges and take advantage of new opportunities and growth, it is essential that each of us understand what it means to be a good band member, band director, and band program.

Every band member, parent, and teacher plays a critical role in achieving musical success. To help reach our goals, this handbook has been designed to give understanding of all details and expectations of participation in the band program. Adherence to the expectations and policies laid out in this handbook will ensure that the band experience at DHS is the best it can possibly be for all involved with the DHS Bands!

Musically Yours,

*Mr. Bradford and Philip Kaul*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# SECTION 1: PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

## A. Program Philosophy

The De Soto High School Wildcat Band Program strives to develop musical creativity, critical thinking, individual responsibility, and cultural appreciation in its students while providing exciting performances and a source of pride for DHS, USD 232, and the De Soto Community.

## B. National Standards

In 2014 the National Association for Music Education, the professional association for all music educators, published the National Standards for Music Education. These standards were developed as a guide to help all people understand “What Every Young American Should Know and Be Able to do in the Arts.” These standards are the basis of the USD 232 music curriculum. Daily rehearsals and music concerts are designed to help implement these standards. The National Standards for music focus on the following areas:

1. The Creation of Music
2. The Performing of Music
3. Responding to Music
4. Making Connections through Music

## C. The WildCAT Way

The WildCAT Way emphasizes that successful students should be Committed, Accountable, and Thoughtful. It is the strong belief of the DHS staff that developing these virtues in each student will lead to success in the classroom and in real world experiences. Every member of the DHS Band will be challenged to develop and embrace the WildCAT Way through all band activities.

## D. DHS Band Mission Statement

*Building an inclusive community to promote personal growth, musicianship, and De Soto Pride, on and off the field*

The DHS Band Program can be a home to every student, regardless of ability level, and students can push themselves to whatever level they choose. At the same time, the overall musical level of the band is dependent upon the efforts of every single member. Set the standard high and never settle for less than your best!

## SECTION 2: EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING POLICY

### A. Expectations

Compared to many other classes, band is a unique learning environment. Students must demonstrate a high level of personal responsibility and a cooperative work ethic at all times. All members of the De Soto High School Wildcat Bands are expected to:

1. Be **on time** and **prepared** with their instrument, music, pencil, and other equipment at every rehearsal and performance.  
*See attendance and tardy policies on page 7.*
2. **Listen to** and **follow instructions** of the director, drum majors, student leaders, administrators, and other staff the **first time** they are given.
3. **Make** every **rehearsal** a **positive** and **productive** experience.  
*Talk only when asked to do so.*  
*Focus on the music, not on distractions.*  
*Give your best **effort** 100% of the time.*
4. **Respect** the property of others.  
*Use instruments and music for their correct purpose.*  
*Do not touch what is not yours without permission.*  
*Clean up after yourself.*
5. Serve as a **positive example** to others through your thoughts and actions.  
*Will your words or actions do good or harm?*  
*Will your words or actions reflect positively or negatively on you, the band, or the school?*  
*Wearing a uniform is a privilege. Wear it with pride!*
6. Abide by all special policies and rules of the Wildcat Bands, De Soto High School, and USD 232.

### B. Consequences

Should a band member fail to meet the above expectations, the following actions may be taken:

1. Verbal warning or reminder with possible grading consequences.
2. Private conference between the student and director.
3. Detention or assigned service time.
4. Suspension from a performance or special activity. Possible Loss of Eligibility for Academic Letter.
5. Conference with student, director, and parents to discuss behaviors and expectations.
6. Referral to counselor and / or principal for appropriate consequences.

Put very simply, those who follow the expectations and give their best effort will help the band reach its potential!

### C. Grading Policy:

At DHS, band is a co-curricular course. This means that students will receive points for work done in class and for extracurricular performances. Students' grades will be based on both elements, as well as on additional assignments.

#### Rehearsal Attendance and Etiquette (20%)

Students will earn points for contributing positively to rehearsals, including evening rehearsals. Failure to contribute positively (attitude, unexcused absence, missing materials, etc.) may result in a grade reduction.

#### Concert Attendance (40%)

All performances are graded (see attendance policy on page 7) and unexcused absences cannot be made up. Points are allocated as follows:

Major Concerts (football games, Winter Concert, Midwinter Concert, Spring Concert, etc.): 100 points each

Pep Band: 25 points per required game

Other Required Performances: 50 points each

Students earn points for performances by being on time (20 percent), being dressed in the required uniform (20 percent), and upholding all performance expectations with appropriate effort (60 percent).

#### Performance Assessments and Assignments (40%)

Students will have several performance assessments each quarter. These can take the form of a sight-reading quiz, an excerpt from pieces to be performed on a concert, memorization pass-offs, required sectionals or small ensemble rehearsals, or other material as assigned. Assignments will usually be submitted via Canvas and can be resubmitted for a better score until the end of each grading period. Late assignments will be accepted until the end of the grading period but will be entered in the gradebook as a zero until made up.

### DHS Grading Scale

A +	97.55 – 100	C +	76.55 – 79.54
A	92.55 – 97.54	C	72.55 – 76.54
A -	89.55 – 92.54	C -	69.55 – 72.54
B +	86.55 – 89.54	D	66.55 – 69.54
B	82.55 – 86.54	D -	59.55 – 62.54
B -	79.55 – 82.54	F	59.44 and below

### D. Individual Practice

Students are expected to practice regularly to become better musicians. Just as students are expected to spend time working on material for other classes at home, students are expected to put time into improving on their instruments outside of school. A good target is 30 minutes of productive practice time, five days per week.

# SECTION 3: GENERAL POLICIES

## A. Attendance Policy

Band is a co-curricular/academic class. This means that some class activities occur during the school day (rehearsals) and some activities are outside the school day (performances). Both of these count toward credit in that class.

- **Rehearsals.** During the Fall Semester, **Marching Band** meets during **Green 1** and **Fall Concert Band** meets during **White 2**. During the Spring Semester, the band will be split into **Concert Band (White 2)**, **Symphonic Band (Green 4)** and **Wind Ensemble (Green 1)**. Band is a class and attendance is required. It is very difficult to effectively rehearse a band when parts are missing. While it is inevitable that students will miss class for illness, activities, field trips, etc., please avoid scheduling conflicts with regular rehearsals as much as possible.
- **Performances.** For our performances to be successful, ALL band members need to be present at ALL performances that they are involved in. Failure to attend a scheduled performance will result in an unexcused absence and a serious grade reduction for a student. Please refer to the calendar at the end of this handbook for a list of required events. *Any unexcused performance absence disqualifies a student from eligibility to earn a letter in band.*

In special circumstances a band member may receive an excused absence from a performance. Students may also be required to complete an alternative assignment to earn credit. Those circumstances may include:

1. The student is ill and absent from school the day of a performance.
2. The student is attending another school-sponsored activity AND the student has made prior arrangements with **BOTH** sponsors in advance.
3. There is an **IMMEDIATE** emergency or illness with the student or student's family and the director receives a phone call or email *prior* to the start of the performance if possible. The director has the final say regarding what constitutes an emergency. Note: work, vacation, no ride, and shopping **NEVER** constitute an emergency.
4. Other circumstances approved by the director. A written request is required and should be received at least ONE WEEK prior to a performance. Circumstances may include, but are not limited to, weddings, funerals, and graduations. Work, vacations, and parties will likely not be approved. *A written request does not guarantee an absence will be excused.* A student may be required to complete a project equivalent to the time missed to receive credit for this type of absence.

## B. Tardy Policy

Regular band class begins at the stated start time for that class period. Students are to be in the correct rehearsal space with all necessary supplies before the tardy bell rings. Students who arrive late to class will need to get a tardy admit from the office or pass from a teacher. For more details please consult the DHS Tardy Policy as outlined in the DHS Student Handbook. For outdoor marching rehearsals, students are to be on the practice field with all necessary supplies no later than **7:00 AM**.



## C. Tuesday Night Rehearsals

During marching season, the band will have rehearsals each Tuesday night to keep up with the heavy performance demands of this time of year. In addition, these rehearsals enhance the development of the band while elevating the band's overall performance level. **Tuesday night rehearsals are 6:30 PM–8:30 PM and are required and graded for all Marching Band members.** Occasionally, conflicts arise with Tuesday Night Rehearsals. Please read the attendance policy below to understand handling of such conflicts.

1. Attendance is *required* for all Marching Band members at all evening rehearsals.
2. Excused absences will be granted for illness and family emergencies. Parental and/or doctor's notes may be required to excuse an absence. Notification of such an absence should be given *prior* to the start of the rehearsal.
3. Excused absences will also be given to students who are members of a DHS athletic team that has a game or competition which conflicts with an evening rehearsal. For any home athletic event which ends between 6 and 7:00, students will be asked to eat dinner after the event and report to evening rehearsal as quickly as they can. Students who have normal sports practices will need to make arrangements to attend and be on-time to all evening rehearsals.
4. Students who are absent from school on the day of an evening rehearsal are not allowed to attend the rehearsal. Arrangements will be made for students to make up the rehearsal on an individual basis.
5. Other excused absences can be granted on an individual basis. If an absence is to be excused and does not fall in one of the categories above, Mr. Bradford or Mr. Kaul must receive communication no later than Monday prior to the Tuesday evening rehearsal.

## D. Special Rehearsals and Sectionals

Occasionally there will be a need for special full band rehearsals in addition to the regular class time. Special rehearsals or sectionals will typically be announced at least one week in advance and can be held before or after school or during seminar. Students will be required to attend all special rehearsals and sectionals. Students with a conflict need to speak with the director prior to the rehearsal.

## E. Summer Rehearsals

In order to meet the performance demands of the fall semester, the Wildcat Bands will host a series of Summer Rehearsals in late July and early August. Drumline members, student leadership, and Color Guard usually have additional rehearsals. These rehearsals are extremely important, as the band must be ready to perform very early in the school year. Rehearsal dates are available in the early spring. All band members are expected to attend these rehearsals. Failure to attend rehearsals may result in a loss of performance privileges until material can be made-up.

## F. Eligibility

Band members may perform in home performances (concerts, football games, basketball games) regardless of their KSHSAA eligibility. However, students that are ineligible will not be able to perform in KSHSAA events, including marching festivals, honor bands, State Large Group, and Regional and State Solo and Ensemble. Coaches and sponsors will monitor student grades; however, it is the student's responsibility to stay current with all assignments and exams.

Students that are ineligible will not travel to any events that take place during the school day, but will still be required to attend outside-of-school performances. They may also be required to complete a makeup assignment to earn back missed performance points.

## G. Make-up Work

Some band performances occur during the school day. Students are responsible for completing any coursework missed during that time. As band students know their schedule in advance, they should check with their teachers **at least** one week prior to the performance.

## H. Seminar

The seminar period at DHS is an opportunity for students to get assistance from teachers and for clubs and other organizations to hold meetings. Band students are encouraged to use the seminar period for individual, sectional, or small ensemble practice. To practice or get help with music during the seminar period, band members must notify Mr. Bradford or Mr. Kaul during band class or before school.

## I. Instruments

Students must furnish an instrument in good playing condition. This includes maintaining an adequate supply of reeds (at least 4), oil, cleaning supplies, etc. Certain large instruments may be checked out from the school. A rental fee may be charged for use of school instruments. All instruments must be stored in a **locked locker** when not in use. If a school owned instrument needs repair, please inform the director as soon as possible. Students may be required to pay for repairs and regular maintenance of school owned instruments.

## J. Percussionists

DHS owns most percussion instruments. Percussion students are required to provide their own stick bag, drum sticks, mallets, and a drum key. Students may order these supplies from the school or through local music dealers. A locker will be provided to each percussionist if needed. Students wishing to bring larger instruments and equipment (personal snare drum, drum set, etc.) need to make storage arrangements with Mr. Bradford.

## K. Equipment

In addition to various instruments, there is a large amount of school owned equipment in the band room. Electronic equipment, microphones, school instruments, etc. are to be used only with the director's permission.

## L. Music

Each student will be issued a marching folder and a concert folder. Throughout the course of the school year students will receive music. Students are responsible for the condition of the music and will be required to pay for any missing or damaged music at the conclusion of the school year. Replacement costs for music will be **\$5.00 per song title** and **\$15.00 per warm-up book**. Students are to store music folders in the storage cabinet or in their locked music locker.

## M. Lockers

Every band member will be issued a locker, located in the Fine Arts Hallway or in the Band Room. Students must use a school-issued lock. These lockers are to be used only for the storage of instruments and music during the school day. During rehearsals, students may store backpacks, gym clothes, etc. in the lockers. Lockers are to remain locked at all times. Students who store additional items or fail to lock their locker may lose the privilege of using a band locker.

## **N. Food and Drink**

Due to heavy use, the band room must be kept clean at all times. Food or drink (except water) are prohibited during rehearsal time. Outside of rehearsal, any food or drink should be cleaned up after use. Gum is not permitted during rehearsal.

## **O. Band Fee**

USD 232 assesses a materials fee for all participants in the band program from grades 6-12. Students in grades 6 and 7 pay \$10 per year. Students in grades 8-12 pay \$20 per year. At the high school, this fee is used to pay for marching uniform cleaning/maintenance and a band t-shirt to be worn as part of the uniform.

## **P. Band Donation**

In order to provide a superior band experience to all students, the band requires additional funding beyond that which is provided by the district. Each spring, the DHS band puts on a Donation Drive to raise money for additional instructors, music, drill, and other materials that benefit every student in our program. Participation in this fundraiser is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged as a way to continue to support the band. More information on this fundraiser will be distributed in the spring.

## **Q. Fundraising and Trips**

By participating in band and other music activities, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of performances. The costs associated with the majority of these performances are considered part of the band's instructional budget. However, the band program also seeks out unique performance opportunities for students during their four-year career. These performances often involve travel and expense beyond the normal scope of the school budget. In order to participate in these events, students may be asked to help raise funds for their portion of the costs. **At no time** will a student be required to participate in a fundraiser for band trip payment; however, a student would need to find alternative means for contributing toward the trip cost. It is also the DHS Band Program's policy that no trip or event will be taken unless it is financially possible for **all** band members to participate. Students may also use fundraising earnings to help pay for the cost of supplies, marching shoes, band t-shirts, and other special events.

## **SECTION 4: PERFORMING ENSEMBLES**

### **A. Concert Band**

The concert band serves as the primary instrumental music performing ensemble and instructional course for De Soto High School. There are three concert bands at DHS: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. All three bands are auditioned groups, with students placed based on where they will have the best opportunity to grow as musicians.

During the first semester, students may perform in the Fall Concert Band or in the Marching Band. Students who perform in the Fall Concert Band will perform on concerts in October and December. Students in the Marching Band will play in a concert band setting in December. The concert bands perform at the Winter Concert in December, Mid-Winter Concert in February, and the KSHSAA State Large Group Music Festival and Spring Concert in April or May.

The concert bands occasionally travel outside of Kansas to perform and have given performances in Colorado, Texas, Washington, D.C., Illinois, New York, Louisiana, and Florida. Additionally, local university band directors are frequently invited to work with the concert bands. Students will have the opportunity to participate in individual festivals and competitions at the Regional and State level through both KSHSAA and KMEA that allow outstanding students the opportunity to meet musicians from other schools, improve their playing, and receive recognition for their hard work.

Enrollment in the concert band is open to any student at DHS who successfully participated in band the previous year or who demonstrates through audition an appropriate level of musical skill as determined by the director. Wildcat Marching Band and Fall Concert Band (Fall) and Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band (Spring) are each 0.5 credit courses. All band students must enroll in at least one Fall course and one Spring course. All five courses will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

### **B. Marching Wildcats**

The Marching Wildcats are the largest and most visible student group at De Soto High School. All students may elect to participate, beginning rehearsal in late July and continuing through November, depending on the football schedule. The Marching Wildcats perform at all home football games, the De Soto Days Parade, and 2-3 regional marching festivals. The Marching Wildcats have a tradition of excellence, regularly placing at area marching festivals each year.

Many opportunities exist during Marching Season for students to develop leadership skills in addition to their instrument technique, and students have the opportunity to audition and perform with the DHS Color Guard, which enhances performances with color guard work and choreography.

## C. Jazz Band

The Jazz Band meets during the school day as a regular class. Students in the Jazz Band will learn to play music in a variety of styles, including swing, bebop, Latin, funk, and rock. Students will also learn jazz theory, jazz history, and improvisational techniques. The Jazz Band performs at all band concerts; in at least one regional adjudicated jazz festival; and performs for various community functions as requested.

Enrollment in the Jazz Band is by audition and/or by permission of the instructor. Jazz Band members must also be enrolled in a Fall and a Spring band class. Exceptions may be made for players of certain instruments and students with scheduling conflicts. The schedule of rehearsals and performances will be made available to students at the start of the school year. This course can be taken for either 0.5 or 1 credit and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

## D. Chamber Music

Throughout the year various small ensembles will be formed based upon director and student interest. Ensembles may perform for concerts, community events, and at the KSHSAA Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Rehearsals will occasionally occur during band class; however, the most rehearsals will take place before school, after school, and/or during seminar. Performing in a chamber group is a fantastic way for students to develop their playing skills and confidence. Further information is available during the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

## E. Green and White Basketball Pep Bands

During the basketball season, the DHS Band will divide into 2 pep bands: **Green** and **White**. Each student will be assigned to one of the pep bands, and performance duties for each basketball game will be equally distributed between the bands. Students are welcome to perform in as many pep band performances as they wish; however, they must perform in their pep band's assigned games. Pep band performances will count as a performance grade during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters. Special arrangements will be made with all basketball players, cheerleaders, and other winter sports participants to fulfill their performance obligations.

The Pep Band schedule can be found below:

### DHS Pep Band Schedule 2024-25

Dec. 6	F	5:00	Home v. Topeka West	DHS Gym
Dec. 9	M	TBA	Home Tournament (Boys)	DHS Gym
Dec. 10	T	TBA	Home Tournament (Girls)	DHS Gym
Jan. 7	T	5:00	Home v. Shawnee Heights	DHS Gym
Jan. 10	F	5:00	Home v. Turner	DHS Gym
Jan. 23	Th	6:15	Home v. Seaman (Girls)	DHS Gym
Jan. 31	F	6:15	Home . Seaman (Boys)	DHS Gym
Feb. 7	F	5:00	Home v. Basehor-Linwood	DHS Gym
Feb. 11	T	5:00	Home v. Leavenworth	DHS Gym
Feb. 21	F	5:00	Home v. Piper	DHS Gym
Feb. 25	T	5:00	Home v. Lansing	DHS Gym
Mar. TBA	TBA	TBA	Possible Sub-State Basketball	TBA

## **SECTION 5: OTHER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES**

### **A. Choral Music**

There are a wide variety of choral ensembles and courses available to DHS Students. Unlike middle school, students may freely participate in both band and choir. Many of our successful band students participate in choir and band for their entire high school career. Interested students should contact the choral director.

### **B. Applied Instrumental Music**

Applied Instrumental Music is a semester- or year-long course open to students in grades 9-12. It is an independent study course for students to enhance their musical performance skills through guided practice. Students will have individual time with the instructor and will have time to practice their instrument on a regular basis. This course is ideal for students preparing for solo and ensemble festivals, auditions, and for students learning a new instrument. This course is taken for 0.5 credits, can be repeated for credit, and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

### **C. Music Theory**

Music Theory is a semester-long course open to students in grades 9-12. It is designed to give students a basic understanding of the principals of Western harmony. Elements covered may include note and rhythm reading, notation, key signatures and scales, an introduction to harmony, and more. Students with no background in Music Theory who may be interested in studying music at a higher level or are interested in taking Composition or AP Music Theory in the future are encouraged to sign up for this course. This course is taken for 0.5 credits and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

### **D. Advanced Placement Music Theory**

Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory is a full-year, upper-level course open only to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have previously completed Music Theory. AP Music Theory covers the equivalent of the first semester of a collegiate Music Theory program. In the class, students will gain an advanced understanding of the principles of Western harmony. Course topics will include notation, harmonic analysis, rhythmic and harmonic dictation, aural skills, keyboard skills, and basic composition. This class is part of the JCCC College Now program and can be taken for college credit. Students may also choose to take the AP exam in May. This course is taken for 1 credit and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

### **E. Composition**

Composition is a semester-long course open to students in grades 9-12 who have previously completed Music Theory or AP Music Theory. This class builds on the principals introduced during Music Theory while introducing new concepts, including advanced notation and the use of notation software, more advanced harmonic concepts, and skills in writing and developing melodies. This is a hands-on class that will culminate in a final composition project at the end of the semester. This course is taken for 0.5 credits and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

## **F. Multi-Media Audio & Music**

Multi-Media Audio & Music is a semester-long course open to students in grades 9-12. In this course, students will gain a better understanding of music through the use of music technology. Although this course is geared towards students who do not participate in band or chorus, many unique aspects of modern music-making will be explored through various technologies and media. The majority of the coursework will be project-based with a hands-on approach. No experience with music is necessary for this course. This course is taken for 0.5 credits and will satisfy either the Fine Arts or Technology requirement for a DHS Diploma.

## **G. History of Rock & Roll**

History of Rock & Roll is a semester-long course open to students in grades 9-12. In this course, students will study the history of the pop-rock music era from 1950 to the present. The class uses curriculum materials from the Rock and Roll Forever Foundation and is heavily supplemented by videos, recordings, and print media. Students will understand popular and rock music and the role of music as a reflection of the evolution of society. This course is taken for 0.5 credits and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

## **H. Class Piano for Beginners**

Class Piano for Beginners is designed for beginner piano players or those seeking music literacy skills. It is comprehensive and will cover theory, technique, guided practice, and performance aspects of playing the keyboard. This course is taken for 0.5 credits and will satisfy the Fine Arts requirement for a DHS Diploma.

# SECTION 6: UNIFORMS

## A. Marching Uniform

Every marching band member will be issued a marching band uniform. It is their responsibility to ensure that the uniform is kept clean for each performance and properly stored in the band room following each performance. Marching uniforms are not to be removed from the school except in special circumstances. The table below outlines the proper parts of the marching uniform and how they are to be worn. *Note: Items marked with \* are to be provided by the student.*

<b>Shako (hat)</b>	<i>Should fit snugly on the student's head. No hair should be seen and student should be able to place two fingers between their nose and the brim of the shako.</i>
<b>Coat and Gauntlets</b>	<i>Should reach to the student's waist. Sleeves should reach to the top of the student's wrist when arms held down at sides. Coat should fit snugly but not hamper the student's ability to turn their torso. <b>Gauntlets can be added for a different look.</b></i>
<b>Pants</b>	<i>Pants should be hemmed to reach the student's anklebone. The top of the pants should extend above the student's waist and are worn beneath the coat.</i>
<b>DHS Wildcat Band Shirt</b>	<i>Worn beneath the marching uniform or alone as a warm-weather uniform.</i>
<b>*Black socks</b>	<i>Should be <b>BLACK</b> and reach at least mid-way up the student's calf. Ankle socks are unacceptable.</i>
<b>Black gloves</b>	<i>Black Gloves can be worn to give the band a different look. The school will provide the gloves the first time. Students will be required to purchase gloves if they lose them.</i>
<b>*Dinkles Marching Shoes (Ordered in August)</b>	<i>These shoes are specially designed for marching bands. Tennis shoes or other footwear may <b>not</b> be substituted.</i>
<b>* Black Shorts</b>	<i>Worn under the marching pants or with the Band Shirt as part of the summer uniform.</i>

## B. Uniform Checkout / Check-in

Marching Uniforms will be kept in the band room between performances. Students are expected to arrive early enough to check out their uniform and get dressed. In the event a student must leave early from a performance it is their responsibility to return their uniform to its proper storage location before leaving the performance. At the conclusion of each marching performance, students are to follow the instructions of our uniform helpers to get uniforms properly hung up or laid out to dry.

## C. Inclement Weather

As most marching performances occur outside it is important to be prepared at all times. If it is cold / snowing, etc. make sure to dress in layers and wear appropriate protective headgear and gloves! Hats and sunglasses may be worn during outdoor rehearsals.



## D. Uniform Care

There are several tips to keep your uniform looking (and smelling) great!

1. **DO NOT** wash the uniform or hand clean it. Uniforms **MUST** be dry-cleaned.
2. **DO NOT** use any type of spot cleaner, spot remover, deodorant, etc.
3. **DO NOT** iron, blow dry, or tumble dry any part of the uniform.
4. **ALWAYS HAND** and **AIR-DRY** the uniform **EVERY** time you wear it.
6. If you stain the uniform and it needs cleaning, please contact Mr. Bradford or Mr. Kaul ASAP.
7. Every student will be assigned a specific uniform. If changes need to be made, please see Mr. Bradford.

## E. Concert Uniform

All items are to be provided by the student.

<b>Boy's Concert Black Uniform</b>	
<b>Black Dress Shirt</b>	<i>Plain, black, button-down, long-sleeve dress shirt with a collar. Shirt should always remain tucked-in.</i>
<b>Black Tie (optional)</b>	<i>Plain black necktie.</i>
<b>Black Dress Pants</b>	<i>Black slacks or pants. Jeans are not acceptable.</i>
<b>Black Belt</b>	<i>Black belt.</i>
<b>Black Shoes</b>	<i>Black dress shoes or marching shoes.</i>
<b>Black Socks</b>	<i>Plain black socks that extend mid-way up the calf.</i>

<b>Girl's Concert Black Uniform</b>	
<b>Black Dress Shirt or Blouse</b>	<i>Shirts/Blouses do not need to be collared as long as they are dress shirts. No spaghetti straps or low-cut tops.</i>
<b>Black Skirt, Dress, or Dress Pants</b>	<i>Black Skirt, Dress or Dress Pants. Skirts and dresses must extend below the knees when seated</i>
<b>Black shoes</b>	<i>Black dress shoes or marching shoes.</i>
<b>Black Hose or Socks</b>	<i>Black hose if wearing a skirt or dress. Black socks that extend at least midway up the calf if wearing dress pants.</i>

Concert Uniform Notes:

- These are *REQUIRED* uniforms. If you choose to show up to a performance out of uniform, you will be asked to go home and change and your performance grade will be lowered accordingly.
- If you are unsure if your attire is acceptable, ask Mr. Bradford or Mr. Kaul before the date of the concert.
- Ladies – Please strictly observe the length requirements for your uniforms. Band concerts are formal occasions, and short skirts and sleeveless shirts/dresses are not acceptable. If ladies are found in violation of uniform length requirements, a temporary uniform will be provided for the performance in question and students will be expected to acquire a correct uniform by the following performance.
- If you have financial difficulties, contact Mr. Bradford. Don't break the bank finding a high-dollar outfit!

## F. Pep Band Uniform

Pep band uniform will consist of a DHS Band shirt. Students are to wear this uniform at all pep band performances during basketball season.

# SECTION 7: FOOTBALL GAME EXPECTATIONS AND SCHEDULE

## A. Football Pre-Game Rehearsal

The band performances at DHS football games begin with a pre-game rehearsal approximately 1 hour before kick-off. All Wildcat Band students except varsity and junior varsity football players **must** attend the pregame rehearsal. The rehearsal is a final opportunity to review the drill and music before that evening's performance. Students should make sure to clear their transportation arrangements so they arrive at rehearsal in enough time to be dressed in uniform and ready to play.

## B. Game Expectations

1. After the game begins, remain in your seat with your section unless given permission to move.
2. Watch the drum majors and be ready to play.
3. Uniforms are to be worn at all times in the proper manner. This includes breaks.
4. The band seating area is for band members only. Significant others, family members, and friends need to sit outside of the band area.
5. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, students may leave to use the restroom or access concessions on a rotation as assigned by the director.
6. Play your instruments only when the full band is playing. *This is a KSHSAA state rule.* Percussionists may play with the cheerleaders on cheers.
7. In order to earn credit for the game you must stay until dismissed by the director after the game. If you need to leave early, you need prior approval from a director.
8. The band has a large responsibility in promoting school spirit at football games! We can accomplish this by cheering with the cheerleaders, playing exciting music, and by showing PRIDE in ourselves!
9. Before leaving you need to be sure that all instruments, uniforms, and equipment have been returned to their appropriate storage location.

## C. Sample Game Day Schedule

- 5:30 PM Band room opens – Begin changing into your uniform.
- 5:45 PM Drumline and equipment crew take equipment to stadium.
- 6:00 PM Call time for all students. Please Check-in with your section leader. Warm-ups begin.
- 6:30 PM Finish warmups
- 6:35 PM Move to stadium
- 6:45 PM Line Up for Run-on and Pregame.
- 6:50 PM Pregame Performance.
- 7:00 PM Kick-off
- 7:40 PM Approximate time of our half-time performance.
- 9:30 PM Approximate ending time of the game and dismissal.

**\*\*\* Times are approximate and subject to change – a schedule will be posted the week of the performance. \*\*\***

## **SECTION 8: SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND AWARDS**

### **A. Leadership Positions**

One of the goals of the DHS Band Program is to help students develop leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their lifetime. Each position has unique responsibilities and aids the overall success of the band. Each spring, students may apply/audition to take on one of the following leadership positions.

**Drum Majors:** Drum Majors are the field conductors of the marching band and also serve as conductors of the two pep bands. The drum majors are responsible for directing performances of the Marching Wildcats, assisting in the teaching of marching fundamentals, and assisting the directors in maintaining a positive rehearsal environment. Drum majors are selected each spring through an interview and audition process.

**Section Leaders:** The position of section leader is very critical to the success of the marching band. Section leaders are responsible for helping freshmen adjust to high school, teaching marching fundamentals, listening to music pass-offs, and ensuring that their section is prepared for every rehearsal and performance. Section leaders are chosen through an application process each spring.

**Equipment Managers:** The equipment managers assist the band directors in checking out instruments. The equipment manager will also be responsible for checking out lockers, keeping the band room organized, transporting equipment to the stadium, setting up the rehearsal room, and organizing crews to set-up for concerts. This is a position selected by an application process each spring.

**Librarian:** The librarians are responsible for the organization and distribution of music for the band. The librarians are selected by an application process each spring.

**Secretaries:** The secretaries assist the directors with day-to-day running of the DHS band program. Duties include taking attendance at rehearsals, keeping the band calendar updated, and other assistance as necessary. The secretaries are selected by an application process each spring.

### **B. Musical Opportunities and Honors**

Musicians in the DHS band have several opportunities for performance outside of the DHS band program. Please see Mr. Bradford or Mr. Kaul if you would like more information on any of these.

#### **KMEA-All District and All-State Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra**

All students may audition for the Kansas Music Educators Association East Central District honor ensembles in November each year. Students who are selected for and perform with an East Central District ensemble are eligible to audition for the KMEA All-State Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra in January. Audition material includes selections from a solo, scales, and sight reading.

Being selected to the All-State band is one of the highest honors a band member can achieve, comparable to being named All-State in football or basketball. All eligible students are highly encouraged to audition.

### **Kansas John Philip Sousa Jr. Honor Band**

Students in grades 6-9 are eligible to audition for the Kansas John Philip Sousa Jr. Honor Band in early- to mid-October. Students prepare a solo excerpt and scales, record themselves performing, and send in the tape for the audition. Students that are selected spend a weekend rehearsing and performing a concert with a nationally-recognized conductor. This is another All-State group for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and is a fantastic way to prepare for All-District and All-State auditions later in your high school career.

### **KSHSAA Regional and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals**

These are available to all band members, regardless of age. Students can prepare either a solo, a small ensemble (flute trio, brass quintet, percussion ensemble, etc.), or both to take to Regional Solo and Ensemble Competition for a rating. Students earning a "I" rating (Superior) will move on to the State competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to perform on their own or with their friends, get feedback on ways that they can improve, and earn lettering points. All band members are HIGHLY encouraged to participate.

### **Kansas City Youth Symphony**

This ensemble is open to any Kansas City metro high school music students interested in expanding their musical experiences. Membership in these ensembles is by audition, and information is mailed to band directors before the start of the school year.

### **University Concert Band Festivals**

Several universities across Kansas and across the country sponsor concert band festivals where students meet for a weekend and rehearse music under well-known conductors and composers. Some in Kansas include the Prairie Winds Festival at KU, the Kansas State Concert Band Clinic at KSU, the Four-State Band Festival at Pittsburg State, and the Baker Honor Band Festival at Baker.

### **Band and Color Guard Summer Camps**

There are many summer camps sponsored by universities across the country that allow students the opportunity to meet other band students, learn new music and new skills, and have fun.

### **Drum and Bugle Corps**

Many cities around the United States and Canada sponsor these competitive marching groups every summer. A somewhat costly activity, but it provides a lifetime of memories and experiences!

## **C. Band Awards**

At the end of each school year the band recognizes students who have gone above and beyond over the course of the year. Below is a list of awards given by the band each year. Others may be presented as deemed appropriate by the director.

### **John Philip Sousa Band Award**

The John Philip Sousa Award is presented each spring to the most outstanding senior musician in the band. This is a nationally recognized award and the recipient's name is placed on a permanent plaque outside of the band room.

### **United States Marine Corps Semper Fi Award**

This award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated a high standard of musicianship, leadership, and character during their high school music career.

### **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award**

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award is presented each spring to a senior band member who has distinguished themselves through jazz performance and leadership. This is a nationally recognized award, and the recipient's name is placed on a permanent plaque next to the band office.

### **Johnson County Shooting Stars Scholarship Program**

The Johnson County Shooting Stars Program recognizes the top arts students from Johnson County High Schools in a variety of different categories, including instrumental music performance. DHS is allowed one nominee per category, and the nominee will compete against other high schools' nominees for a scholarship. All finalists are recognized in a special Gala Awards Ceremony in the spring.

### **Service and Musicianship Awards**

These awards are presented each spring to students that have demonstrated exceptional service to the band and/or outstanding musical accomplishments throughout the school year.

## **D. Varsity Letter**

Every DHS band member is eligible to receive a varsity letter. Students who letter more than one year will earn a service bar. Varsity letters are earned for participation and effort in the band program. In order to earn a letter, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Have no **unexcused** absences from any performance.
2. Have had no major discipline problems in band.
3. Maintain a B average in band each semester.
4. Earn 50 points in any category listed in the table on the following page, or earn over 60 points total.

## Lettering Categories/Points

### Commitment

- Years in HS Band: 10 points / year
- Jazz Band: 5 points / semester
- Participate in other Music Class (including choir): 5 points / semester
- DHS Summer Band Camps: 2 point / day
- Summer Sectionals (including Drumline): 2 points per event/ max of 5 events
- Lessons: 5 points / semester
- Attend a University summer band camp: 5 points

*Note: All points except the "years in HS Band" are awarded based on commitment during the current school year*

### Leadership

- Student Leader Position: 10 points
- Interview / Audition for leadership: 2 points

### Service

- Fundraiser: 5 points per event
  - Volunteer Project: 5 points per event
  - Tutor Elementary or MS band student: 2 points / hour
- Note: Volunteer and other Service Projects Must be approved by the band director*

### Performance

- Optional Pep Band Performance: 3 points per game
  - Optional Band Performance: 5 points per event
  - Church or community Performance: 5 points per event
  - Pit Band: 10 points
  - Attend other band concert (HS or College): 3 points
  - Attend other concert: 2 points
- Note: Students must provide a concert program to earn lettering points for attending a concert*

### Achievement:

- Solo and Ens. Participant: 10 points per level
  - II Rating at KSHSAA Regional: 5 points per event
  - I Rating at KSHSAA Regional: 10 points per event
  - II Rating at KSHSAA State: 5 points per event
  - I Rating at KSHSAA State: 10 points per event
  - KSHSAA Regional Piano Participant: 5 points
  - II Rating at KSHSAA Regional/State Piano: 5 points
  - I Rating at KSHSAA Regional/State Piano: 10 points
  - Sousa Honor Band: 20 points
  - Audition for District Band: 10 points
  - KMEA-EC All-District Band Member: 20 points
  - First Chair All-District: 10 points
  - KMEA All-State Band: 30 points
- Other Extra Musical Ensemble Participation: 5 points per non-band, 10 points for each band.

*Other points may be awarded at the director's discretion for musical/band activities not listed in this chart. To earn such points, students must submit a typed request to the band director within 2 weeks of the activity's completion.*

# SECTION 9: PARENT INFORMATION

## A. Preface

Parent involvement is essential to the continued success and growth of the DHS Wildcat Band Program. From handing out water to organizing fundraisers, parent help enables the band program to enhance its tradition of success and student achievement. Communication among parents, students, and teachers is critical for any organization to thrive. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in the various parent groups at DHS as well as take advantage of our many communication tools.

## B. Parent Opportunities

### DHS Band Boosters

The DHS Band Boosters organization exists to promote and support the De Soto High School Wildcat Band program. The DHS Band Boosters are made up of the many adult volunteers who support the band in any way. The president and vice president of the DHS Band Boosters work closely with the Band Director(s) to ensure that the boosters are operating in the best interest of the De Soto High School Band Program. If you would like to volunteer or have more information about the DHS Band Boosters please email Mr. Bradford at: [mbradford@usd232.org](mailto:mbradford@usd232.org). The group will hold general meetings twice a year if needed.

### Volunteering

If you would like to volunteer to assist with any activities of the band please feel free to contact Mr. Bradford or the Band Booster President. Please check the Band Update (details below) for upcoming volunteer opportunities. Additionally, each August band parents have the opportunity to sign up for various volunteer positions at the Sneak Peek Concert.

### Cat Booster Club

The Cat Booster Club is the official parent group of De Soto High School. Any parent may join. Membership information is available each fall at enrollment. The Cat Booster Club runs several fundraising events each year and provides numerous special activities as well as support for all DHS teams and academic activities.

### Band Information, Updates, and Website

There are many methods for getting up to date band schedules and information. **The first and best is the Band Email Group – through CutTime.** Mr. Bradford sends out reminders and other information via CutTime throughout the year. To subscribe to the list please update your CutTime account or email Mr. Bradford at [mbradford@usd232.org](mailto:mbradford@usd232.org)

The band website is also updated throughout the year with schedules and other details regarding all of the DHS Band activities: <https://dhs.usd232.org/activities/band>

### Family Access

The Skyward Family Access system allows parents to check on their student progress in all courses. Information on registering for this service is distributed at the beginning of the school year. If you have additional questions, please contact the main office at DHS.

## De Soto High School Wildcat Bands – 2024–2025 Schedule

UPDATED 8/13/24

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Performance</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Who</i>
July 22–26	M–F	6:30–8:30 PM	Drumline Rehearsals	DHS	DRUMLINE
July 23	T	8 AM–12 PM	Leadership Training	DHS	LEADERS
July 24–26	W–F	7:30 AM–4:00 PM	Summer Band Camp Week 1	DHS	Wildcat Band
July 29–Aug. 2	M–F	7:30 AM–8:30 PM	Summer Band Camp Week 2	DHS	Wildcat Band
Aug. 2	F	6:30 PM	18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Sneak Peak Concert and Social	DHS	Wildcat Band
Aug. 5, 6, 8	M/T/Th	6 PM–8 PM	Mini Camp Rehearsals	DHS	Wildcat Band
Aug. 13, 15	T/Th	6 PM–8 PM	Mini Camp Rehearsals	DHS	Wildcat Band
Aug. 14	W	7:30 AM	Freshman Day Pep Rally	DHS	Wildcat Band (10–12)
Aug. 20–Oct. 22	T	6:30 PM–8:30 PM	Tuesday Night Rehearsals	DHS	Wildcat Band
Aug. 30	F	TBA	DHS Fall Fest	DHS	Wildcat Band
Aug. 31	S	10:00 AM	De Soto Days Parade	DHS	Wildcat Band
Sep. 6	F	5:30 PM	Home FB v. Topeka West	DHS	Wildcat Band
Sep. 18	W	TBA	DHS Homecoming Parade	DHS	Wildcat Band
Sep. 20	F	5:30 PM	Home FB v. Piper (Homecoming)	DHS	Wildcat Band
Sep. 21	S	All Day	DHS Band Mattress Sale	DHS	VOLUNTARY
Sep. 21	S	All Day	KC Championships @ Blue Springs South	DHS	Wildcat Band
Oct. 4	F	5:30 PM	Home FB v. Shawnee Heights (Band Day?)	DHS	Wildcat Band
Oct. 5	S	All Day	Olathe Marching Invitational	CBAC	Wildcat Band
Oct. 9	W	7:00 PM	Fall Jazz/Concert Band Concert	DHS PAC	FCB/JAZZ
Oct. 18	F	3:00 PM	Marching Band Rehearsal	DHS	Wildcat Band
Oct. 18	F	5:30 PM	Home FB v. Blue Valley SW (Senior Night)	DHS	Wildcat Band
Oct. 19	S	All Day	KBA Marching Championships	Emporia St. Univ.	Wildcat Band
Oct./Nov. TBA	F	5:30 PM	Potential Playoff FB–Details TBA	TBA	Wildcat Band
Nov. 9	S	All Day	ECKMEA District Honor Band Auditions	Gardner-Edgerton HS	VOLUNTARY
Nov. 13–17	T–Su	7 PM	DHS Fall Musical	DHS Theater	VOLUNTARY
Nov. 21	Th	6:30 PM	USD 232 Night of Jazz	DHS PAC	JAZZ
Nov. 22	F	TBA	Baker Jazz Festival	Baker Univ.	JAZZ
Dec. 5	Th	7:00	Winter Band Concert	DHS PAC	FULL BAND
Dec. 6	F	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Topeka West	DHS Gym	Green Pep Band
Dec. 7	S	All Day	ECKMEA District Honor Band	Blue Valley HS	SELECT
Dec. 7	S	5:45 PM	De Soto Mayor’s Tree Lighting	De Soto City Hall	VOLUNTARY
Dec. 9–10	M–T	TBA	Home BB Tournament	DHS Gym	W and G Pep Band
Jan. 7	T	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Shawnee Heights	DHS Gym	White Pep Band
Jan. 10	F	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Turner	DHS Gym	Green Pep Band
Jan. 11	S	All Day	KMEA All-State Band Auditions	Salina	SELECT
Jan. 17–18	F–S	All Day	John Philip Sousa Jr. Honor Band	Univ. of Kansas	SELECT
Jan. 17–19	F–Su	All Day	K-State Concert Band Clinic	Kansas St. Univ.	SELECT
Jan. 23	Th	6:15 PM	Home BB v. Seaman (Singleheader)	DHS Gym	White Pep Band
Jan. 31	F	6:15 PM	Home BB v. Seaman (Singleheader)	DHS Gym	Green Pep Band
Feb. 7	F	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Basehor-Linwood	DHS Gym	White Pep Band
Feb. 7–8	F–S	All Day	Prairie Winds Festival	Univ. of Kansas	SELECT
Feb. 8	S	All Day	KSHSAA Regional Piano Festival	Baker Univ.	VOLUNTARY
Feb. 10	M	7:00 PM	Midwinter Band Concert	DHS PAC	FULL BAND
Feb. 11	T	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Leavenworth	DHS Gym	Green Pep Band
Feb. 21	F	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Piper	DHS Gym	White Pep Band
Feb. 22	S	All Day	KSHSAA State Piano Festival	Wichita St. Univ.	SELECT
Feb. 25	T	5:00 PM	Home BB v. Lansing	DHS Gym	Green Pep Band
Feb. 27–Mar. 1	Th–S	All Day	KMEA State Music Convention	Wichita	SELECT
Mar. TBA	TBA	TBA	Potential Sub State/State Basketball	TBA	TBA
Mar. 6	Th	TBA	KBA Jazz Championships	TBA	JAZZ
Apr. 5	S	All Day	KSHSAA Regional Solo & Ensemble	MVHS	WE/SB/Voluntary
Apr. 9	W	All Day	KSHSAA State Large Group Festival	TBA	WE/SB
Apr. 9	W	6:00 PM	Spotlight DHS	DHS	WE/SB
Apr. 26	S	All Day	KSHSAA State Solo & Ensemble	TBA	SELECT
Apr. 28	M	7:00 PM	Spring Band Concert	DHS PAC	FULL BAND
May 1	Th	All Day	Kansas City Jazz Summit	KCKCC	JAZZ
May 5	M	6:30 PM	Band Banquet	DHS PAC	FULL BAND

**FULL BAND** = These are full band performances and are **REQUIRED** of all band members.  
**Wildcat Band** = Competitive marching band made up of 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade students  
**Fall Concert Band (FCB)** = Concert band in the fall made up of 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade students  
**WE/SB/CB** = Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Concert Band (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)  
**VOLUNTARY** = These are optional performances or events and students may **VOLUNTEER** to perform.  
**SELECT** = These are optional performances or events and students must be **SELECTED** by addition to perform.  
**JAZZ** = These are performances for all **JAZZ BAND MEMBERS**.  
**GREEN / WHITE** = Basketball Pep Band Performance. Each Band Member is assigned to one of the two pep bands.  
**LEADERS** = These events involve **STUDENT LEADERS** Only.