

East Davidson High School Band Handbook

Welcome to the East Davidson High School Band Program! Thank you for taking time to read through this handbook. Your understanding and support of its content will be essential as you support the musical education of your child, which in turn will contribute to the success of the East Davidson Band.

These are the ways you can help provide the best musical and life experience we can give to the kids as follows:

- *Try to take in some concerts and performances of other performing groups.
- *Help your student secure and follow through with private lessons.
- *Do your share on fundraisers. One of the MANY expenditures we have is for hiring professional musicians to come in and work with the kids, which is a HUGE benefit!
- *Volunteer for jobs (concessions, sewing, props, equipment, etc.)
- *Help the kids meet their responsibilities, which are listed in this handbook.

It is no secret that the success of this band program is due in large part to the support we get from the parents! NO band of this quality does it without BIG parent help! This handbook addresses requirements for ALL students. Honors credit students will get an additional letter detailing the extra requirements.

Proud to be Director of Band at East Davidson,

David Deese

ddeese@davidson.k12.nc.us This is the best way to contact me! Leaving a message on the band phone number will not get quick results, as I get about 30 messages a day and rarely check them.

General Student Responsibilities Practice- As in other classes, band students are expected to do their homework, in our situation, this means PRACTICING YOUR INSTRUMENT! The only way our band will continue to grow musically is through persistent, diligent practice.

Band is a subject in which each day's lesson is based upon the previous day's work. To be successful in band, regular school day attendance is imperative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up after an absence from school. If a student does not keep up on their own, they may be expected to stay after school until all music is learned. Individual help will be available from section leaders.

Instruments- All students are expected to keep their instruments in top playing condition: this includes school owned instruments as well as student-owned instruments. Should an instrument need repair work, first notify the director, and then have the repair done as quickly as possible. It is impossible for students

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to perform well in band without an instrument in top playing condition. There is no charge for the use of school instruments: however students MUST take care of school property. Any students using school owned instruments must check the instrument out first through the Instrument Coordinator. There is a form which should be completed by the student and the parent and turned in. Most repair shops are in Greensboro (Moore Music) or Winston (Jackson's Music).

*Clarinet, saxophone and double reed players are expected to have four good reeds at all times. Each day, they should play a different reed so that they always have a good reed that is broken in with them in case they break the one they are using. Never play a new reed in class or in a concert! Break in your new reeds at home. If you are unprepared to participate in class because you do not have a good reed, your grade will be affected.

Rehearsal Attendance- One of the reasons for the success of our band program is that our students and parents know that unlike other classes in a public school, band class demands that each student be a contributing member of the ensemble. To do this, each student must be present in class, on each after school rehearsal, and at all performances. Unlike other classes, an absence from rehearsal affects every member of the ensemble.

Excessive absence will require making up the time, but may also involve additional assignments, and may lead to loss of performance privileges.

Please arrange for doctors appointments and other controllable appointments to occur outside of rehearsal time. Do your part for the band by insisting that controllable events do not interfere with rehearsals.

Performance Policies- Music is a performing art, and therefore an extremely important facet of band instruction involves performance. Each student has a responsibility to participate in band performances: therefore, all band performances are mandatory. Excused absences include those for sickness or family emergencies, and should be brought to attention BEFORE the performance. Students missing any performances unexcused will lose points and risk losing performance opportunities. Full credit for performances is only given to students who participate in every performance. Missing a performance without being excused can lead to loss of performance privileges.

Students arriving late to performances may not be allowed to perform (depending on circumstances, how late, etc.) and will have to stay after school the next week at the very least.

Grades

Major Works - 60% including;

1. Performances - This was addressed above, and the dates are on the overview

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2. Tests - Students will take tests based on their music and/or scales with notification in advance. It should come as no surprise that you will have to learn your concert music! Students failing playing tests or otherwise not performing their concert music at standard will be able to stay after school to retest by setting a time with the director. (The day before the concert is not good enough!) Performing in the band is a privilege that must be earned by keeping up with concert music! Students needing help have to simply ask and I will arrange for a tutor, or help them myself!

3. Honors Credit - Those students enrolled for honors credit will have research and or/ concert papers in this category as well.

4. Chair Auditions - Semester grades involve a chair audition, which will be two major grades. 1. Scales (including chromatic and rudiments for percussionists) and 2. Solo and Sight-reading. The scale requirements and solos are the same as auditioning for All-County or All-District band, and are in-line with the NC standards for scales, solos, and sight-reading. All of these requirements are a routine part of class, and have been supplied to all students. The chair auditions will take place during regular band classes in December and in May/June!

Minor Works - 40%

1. Quizzes - I will listen to students play concert music or scales with no advance notice as needed. Call these “POP” quizzes if it makes you happy.

Participation/Classwork - Students must have the following in class at your seat each day: their instrument, ALL music, a pencil, and four GOOD reeds (woodwinds only). Participation also includes being fully engaged in the rehearsals. I rarely have discipline problems, but I have to say this anyway - serious misbehavior will likely involve immediate loss of performance privileges. Please be advised that each student has the right to the best music education possible in an atmosphere that promotes learning. Any behavior that prevents the director from teaching of the student from learning will not be tolerated.

Extra Activities - Every Student should include some activities OUTSIDE of the basic requirements in order to mature and grow as musicians and students of music. These activities include, but are not limited to: attending other concerts (bring the program) playing in jazz band or small ensemble, taking private lessons, performing in church, or simply getting together with others in your section for an after school practice session.

Sectionals - The nature of our band program demands time for students to be in sectional rehearsals. Full cooperation with section leaders is expected.

Band Trips Off-Campus

We will conduct ourselves with class at all times, REGARDLESS of what other bands may do! There will be many performances that require the band to travel - away football games, marching and concert festivals, All District auditions, etc. These trips will be fun for the students, for their safety is our primary concern. Keeping track of 100 students is a responsibility that we take seriously. Anywhere we travel by

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bus, students will be required to ride to the event on the bus. However, they will be allowed to ride THEIR PARENTS if the parents provide the director with a note, and with the understanding that they must return to school to turn in their uniform and to help unload. School rules will be in effect on all trips! Anyone putting anything out of the bus window (hand, head, arm, trash, etc.) whether the bus is moving or stopped will automatically be assigned seats for the rest of the semester. Students must be on their best behavior while off-campus. They are representatives not only of our band but our school as well! Our band students are usually the best! However, if a student does have problems they may lose performances privileges or transportation privileges, or both.

Concert Dress and Uniforms

Marching Band Uniform - Students need to be prepared to change into and out of the uniform with modesty anywhere we go, even if we have to change in the parking lot. This has not been a problem so far. Also, when in the EDHS Marching Band uniform, we will remove ALL individual accessories such as jewelry. We will never wear the uniform with the coat unzipped, sashes undone, etc. If coats need to be removed for weather purposes etc. It will be done only upon notice from the band director. **BLACK SOCKS ONLY!** Our parents work **HARD** to secure what we wear during marching season and it is expected that each student takes care of his/her uniform!

Concert Attire will be ALL BLACK!

1. **For the ladies** - Black dress or skirt/blouse (dress and skirt length should be at or below the knee). Black slacks are great! Denim, regardless of color, is not allowed period! Black shoes please! If wearing dresses or skirts **STOCKINGS** or **LEGGINGS ARE REQUIRED** and should be **BLACK** as well.

2. **For the gentlemen** - Black pants, black shoes, black shirt, black tie! No short sleeve or golf shirts please. No denim! **BLACK SOCKS!** Marching band shoes are acceptable.

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We have read and understand the East Davidson High School Band Handbook and are aware of the attendance and discipline requirements.

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____