

Dallastown Area School District  
Intermediate School Band Program

## **Band Handbook**

For Parents and Students



**2011-2012 School Year**

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Instructors and Contact Information.....	3
The Basics.....	3, 4
The Instruments.....	4
Goals of Lessons and Band Rehearsals.....	4, 5
Expectations for Parents and Students.....	5
Attendance and Grading Policy.....	6
Band Schedule and Rehearsal Times.....	6, 7
Morning Band Rehearsals and Jazz Band Intramurals.....	7
Webpage and Moodle Page Information.....	7
Dates to Remember and Concert Dress.....	8
Method Books to Purchase.....	8
FAQ's.....	9

## Introduction

Welcome to the Band Program in Dallastown Area School District. Our band program continues to enrich the lives of many students and has brought joy and fine music to the community for many years. As your child continues or enters this program, he or she will have the opportunity to become a part of a long-standing tradition of musical excellence in our school system. It is a challenging journey from the first beginning lessons to performing with the high school band. This handbook is a guide to help your child achieve their greatest musical potential. It will serve a resource to answer many of your questions and concerns that arise during this exciting learning process.

## Instructors

Currently, there are three instructors teaching band instruments at DAIS with many years of experience. Mr. Auen is the primary band instructor. Miss Nace teaches instrumental lessons and music classes in the red community. Mrs. Foreman teaches instrumental lessons for two days and music classes in the yellow community. These instructors have specialized training in teaching band instruments to beginning students. You may contact these teachers through e-mail or voicemail by the following:

**Mr. Auen – [richard.auen@dallastown.net](mailto:richard.auen@dallastown.net); ext. 1726**

**Miss Nace- [leah.nace@dallastown.net](mailto:leah.nace@dallastown.net); ext. 1345**

**Mrs. Foreman- [cecelia.foreman@dallastown.net](mailto:cecelia.foreman@dallastown.net); ext. 1145**

## The Basics

School band instrument lessons are offered to students in grades 4, 5 and 6 held once in a 6-day cycle. Lessons are 30 minutes in length and are offered in small group format (from 2 to 6 students). Students may miss part of an academic class to attend the lessons; **it is their responsibility to make up missed classwork or tests.** In addition to these lessons, students need to attend full band rehearsals held over recess time (also once in a 6-day cycle). Grade 5 & 6 full band will begin in September. Grade 4 full band will begin in January. **Students in grade 5 who begin an instrument must meet certain criteria in order to join 5<sup>th</sup> grade band before the concert.**

\*Any interested student in 6<sup>th</sup> grade who wishes to begin an instrument must begin with private lessons outside of school before entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade program.

Students who already play an instrument will participate in two band concerts held at the intermediate school. Beginning students most likely will participate in one concert.

**\*Choosing to participate in band is a commitment. Your fellow band members are counting on you to be prepared and achieve your full potential. One student makes an enormous difference—we need you. Only under extreme circumstances will a student be given permission to discontinue. These will be reviewed after the December and May concerts.**

## **The Instruments**

Instruments offered to be taught in the band program are the flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and bells/snare drum. Larger instruments (such as tenor or baritone saxophone) will be taught to more experienced students who wish to double during band rehearsals. Auxiliary and mallet percussion instruments will be taught during lessons and rehearsals.

Most parents rent instruments through Menchey Music Service (located in the Queensgate Shopping Center). The district deals exclusively with this company. They provide high quality student instruments at a reasonable cost and a representative visits the school each Tuesday to take care of repairs, returns and other issues. Please view their website at [www.mencheymusic.com](http://www.mencheymusic.com) for more information. You are not obligated to rent from this company, but if you choose to rent an instrument elsewhere, please make sure it is of good quality. **Be aware of poor quality instruments and bargains on the internet!** The school district does provide larger school owned instruments like snare drums, baritones, trombones, and tubas to ease on transportation issues. Other school owned instruments may be provided if circumstances warrant. However, the success rate is much higher for students who have their own instrument.

## **Goals of Lessons and Band Rehearsals**

### Lesson Goals:

- To develop a love and wider appreciation for music.
- To gain a thorough understanding of his/her chosen instrument.
- To develop the coordination and skills to read, play, and listen intelligently according to his/her own individual interests and abilities.
- To learn responsibility and patience through music.

### Band Rehearsal Goals:

- To give students the opportunity to perform in a large ensemble setting.
- To help the student understand their individual role within the group.
- To apply techniques learned in lessons.
- To perform repertoire beyond that offered in the method book.
- To enhance their confidence and self-esteem.

#### Fifth Grade Eligibility for Band:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> year player OR
2. Effectively play in the "Sound Innovations" book **to Level #3**. Percussion students will need to perform on both mallet and battery instruments.

#### Sixth Grade Eligibility for Band:

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> year player OR
2. Have private lessons and effectively play in the "Sound Innovations" book **to Level #4**. Percussion students will need to perform on both mallet and battery instruments.

### **Expectations for Students**

Students who decide to play a band or string instrument should be doing solid academic work in the classroom. Please realize that since lessons are during the school day, students will be missing class time. Remember, most of the music learning happens at home during practice time! Students must realize that music is a slow process; the rewards will come. Students should:

- Be on time and attend all concerts and rehearsals, with instrument, music, and a pencil.
- Develop a daily practice routine and prepare for lessons.
- Keep instrument well maintained.
- Help and encourage other students—we are a team!
- Seek help from an instructor as soon as you have a problem or question.
- Have a positive attitude. 😊

### **Expectations for Parents**

- Encourage and supervise practicing, proper instrument care and schedules. Mark lesson days, special practices and performances on the family calendar. Please contact an instructor if you are unsure of these dates.
- Encourage your child to set the instrument out with their backpack the night before the lesson. This includes the method book and band folder. Forgotten instruments will not lead to a successful musical experience for your child.
- Establish ground rules for consistent practice. Show excitement at the smallest progress!
- Help your child use the CD and DVD from the method book; they are useful.
- Attend your child's concerts.
- Take your child to other musical performances; both in and out of the district.
- Refer to this handbook regularly and check e-mail and the district website for additional information.

## **Attendance and Grading Policy**

Students will receive a band grade for instrument lessons at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marking periods. Evaluations consist of the following areas:

- Lesson attendance
- Band attendance
- Rhythm and Counting
- Tone Quality
- Tonguing
- Fingering, Positions or Stickings
- Posture
- Note Reading
- Practice/Preparedness
- Attitude

Student grades will be calculated and posted on e-school for parents to view. Students will lose points from their grade for unexcused absences from lessons AND rehearsals. Students are allowed one unexcused absence from a lesson and one excused absence from a rehearsal each grading period with no penalty.

All else is considered non-excused and will result in the following:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> absence: email sent to parents
- 3<sup>rd</sup> absence: phone call to parent
- 4<sup>th</sup> absence: phone call to parent and conference requested to discuss child's continuation in the program.

Students get a clean slate after the second marking period.

Excused Lessons and Rehearsals:

- Absence from school
- Involvement in a school function such as an assembly or field trip
- Class or standardized testing

## **Band Schedule and Rehearsal Times**

School lessons for band students will not conflict with special or encore subjects. However, band rehearsal will be held over recess time before lunch. It is of utmost importance that **ALL** students attend the practice each week. These will not conflict with orchestra or chorus rehearsals, which are held on different days.

Grade 4 Band (begins in mid-January): **DAY 1 from 11:25 until 12:05**

Grade 5 Band (begins in September): **DAY 5 from 10:40 until 11:20**

Grade 6 Band (begins in September): **DAY 6 from 12:10 until 12:50**

Morning band rehearsals will also be a part of your child's ensemble experience, but are held in addition to the times above. It is suggested that students attend them. Please see "MORNING BAND" below.

### **Morning Band Rehearsals**

It is highly recommended that every student in band attend morning band practices. Since in-school rehearsals are limited, the morning rehearsals are vital to quality performances. Morning band will be held from 7:40-8:15am on the same day as their band day (5<sup>th</sup> grade- Day 5; 6<sup>th</sup> grade-Day 4) Fifth grade morning band will begin on October 18, and Sixth grade morning band will begin on October 17. Morning band rehearsals will be held until the December concert and will resume in March. If your child is unable to make these rehearsals, we understand; there is no penalty for missing the morning rehearsal. These rehearsals will simply improve your child's confidence and enhance their musicality in preparation for the concert.

### **Jazz Band Intramurals**

Jazz Band is offered by invitation to advanced students in fifth and sixth grade who play trumpet, saxophone, trombone, and tuba. Additionally, students who play piano, guitar, bass, or drum set are invited to audition. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays after school from 3:30-4:20. Rehearsals will begin in January and continue until the spring concert.

### **Webpage and Moodle Page Information**

Parents and students can access to find information concerning the program on the Intermediate School page. Find "Encore", then "Music", then click "Band" to the left of the staff picture. Here, as well as the Moodle page, you will find important dates, concert times, sample recordings, our handbook and important links. The Moodle page can be found on the District's main website. Find "Moodle" under "Students and Parents" on the top ribbon. Click "Intermediate School", then "Music" to find the band information. Both the webpage and Moodle page are updated frequently, so check them often.

## **Dates to Remember in 2011-2012**

**Friday September 9:** Instrumental sign-up forms due. All students must be registered.

**Week of September 26:** First year band students begin lessons.

**Week of October 17:** Morning band begins for grade 5 and 6 students at 7:40.

**Wednesday December 7:** Instrumental Holiday Program for band and string students @ 7:00pm in the DAIS auditorium. Grade 5 & 6 band and orchestra.

**Mid-January:** Band Instrumental grades issued to students and parents; Grade 4 full band begins on Day 1 at 11:25. Jazz band begins after school as an intramural.

**May 17:** Second annual Band Festival @7:00 in the DAIS auditorium. Bands for grades 4, 5, 6, and Jazz band will perform.

**June 5:** Tentative last day for students.

**June 25-29:** Band camp at DAIS for upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert. Information pending.

**July 3:** Dress rehearsal from 9:00 to 11:00am for concert band.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>:** Concert at the DAIS auditorium. Information pending.

### **CONCERT DRESS (daytime and evening):**

**Boys:** Dress shoes if possible. Black or dark blue pants. White dress shirt or sweater.

**Girls:** Dress shoes if possible. Black skirt or pants. White blouse or sweater. Please make sure that skirts are at least knee length.

### **Method Books to be purchased for beginning students:**

"Sound Innovations" Book 1 – All wind instrument students

"The Performing Percussionist" – All percussion students



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **I don't know anything about music. How can I help my child with practicing?**

The first step in good practicing is developing a consistent practice routine. Help your child find a quiet place to practice, and set a time when the child should practice. The method book is user friendly and comes with CDs and DVDs that are helpful learning aides. Ask your child to be the teacher and show you how to do some things they've learned. Contact your child's teacher for additional suggestions.

### **How will I know how my child is doing?**

Stay in close contact with instructors via email. If at all possible, visit and observe the lesson at school. Teachers will be in touch with you if there are major concerns. Report cards will be distributed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marking periods.

### **Do we really need private lessons for our child in addition to school lessons?**

Students who study privately excel beyond students who only participate in school lessons. One-on-one instruction benefits the student in many ways and exposes the student to musical opportunities beyond those offered in school. If interested, a list of private teachers is available through the school instructors.

### **My child now wants to quit. He says "It's boring." Should we let him?**

Probably not! As with all things, students don't realize how much hard work is involved in learning to play an instrument. Often, "boring," is a substitute for "I don't want to do the work." Remind your child that they have made a commitment to themselves and others to reach musical goals and reward one another with an exciting performance. Please contact your child's instructor so they are aware of your child's lack of interest.

### **How much should my child practice?**

In general, 1<sup>st</sup> year students should practice 100 minutes per week. This means that each practice session should last at least 15 minutes every day! 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students should practice 150-200 minutes per week. This means their practice session should last at least 20 minutes every day! Of course, busy schedules always make things difficult, but students should be able to find at least 15 free minutes of every day. Practicing for an hour the night before the lesson is not going to allow the student to be successful. Consistency is key! You will need to encourage your child to practice; very few children are motivated to practice without reminders.