

Desert Hot Springs High School Band Program
Student Handbook
2018-2019
Matt Ingelson, Director of Bands



Mission Statement

Desert Hot Springs High School Band

The mission of the Desert Hot Springs High School Bands is to provide the student musicians who comprise the Desert Hot Springs High School Band Program with a balanced, holistic, and well-rounded music education.

Description of Program

Desert Hot Springs High School Bands

Marching Band

The DHSHS Golden Eagle Regiment is the largest ensemble in Desert Hot Springs High School Band Program. This is comprised of the following groups: all winds (brass and woodwinds), marching drumline, percussion front ensemble, and color guard. Members of this group are required to audition, attend band camp, compete, and perform at football games and local community events.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is an instrument specific ensemble, specializing only in percussion music. The aims of this class is to provide percussionists a foundation in technique on all basic percussion instruments and techniques. Members of this ensemble are required to perform multiple times throughout the year at percussion ensemble concerts. Additionally, members of this ensemble are highly encouraged to join the DHSHS Indoor Percussion Ensemble in the second semester. The Indoor Percussion Ensemble competes throughout the Spring and meets two times per week outside of class and occasionally on weekends.

Concert Band

Concert Band is an introductory band course in which students will focus on the mechanics of music making in order to prepare them for the rigors of Wind Symphony in subsequent years. Students in 9th grade are required to take this course, though some exceptions (dealt with on a case by case basis) are able to be made. Members of this ensemble are required to perform multiple times throughout the school year at school concerts or local concert band festivals.

Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony is a serious, performance-oriented ensemble aimed at developing the student as an artist. This ensemble focuses on very high quality literature that is meant to be played at a very high level. Members of this ensemble are required to play multiple concerts and concert band festivals throughout the school year. The aim of this group is performance tours.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is a serious, performance-oriented ensemble aimed at educating the student in the history, theory, and performance practices of jazz as an art form. Students are expected to have higher competencies on their instruments as they will be expected to improvise daily and often play in more extreme registers of their instruments. The jazz ensemble often serves as the face of the DHSHS Band Program when community performances are requested. Students in this ensemble are required to perform publicly as needed.

The Desert Hot Springs High School Band Unified Grading Policy

In order to provide a clear, fair, and precise assessment of each student's progress as a member of the Desert Hot Springs High School Bands, the following grading guidelines are in effect. The overall purpose of this grading policy is to hold students to a high standard of performance practice- whether it be showing up on time and dressed well, or physically performing on the instrument. While exceptionally necessary for the the success of the music, these policies are intended to prepare students for life. Every effort will be made to ensure each band student has the opportunity to receive the highest grade possible while a member of the DHSHS Bands.

1. **Rehearsals and Class Preparedness (50%):** Students of the Desert Hot Springs High School band program are expected to attend all rehearsals. Each class represents at least an hour of rehearsal and rehearsal is a shared experience. Therefore, there is no "make up" for rehearsal. Additionally, participation points will be awarded for completing certain tasks and assignments. Failure to complete or turn in an assignment will result in loss of grade.
 1. Due to the competitive nature of the marching band, any student that misses more than 8 rehearsals will forfeit their position in the band to a student in the pit crew. There are no exceptions to this policy. Students receive a calendar of all rehearsals and performances in June of the year prior to the current marching season. Additionally, a performance calendar can be found on the next page. It is expected that all appointments and job commitments are planned around these rehearsals.
2. Students must have all required materials daily for full points in class. Material checks will be conducted randomly- failure to have ALL supplies will result in loss of participation points. Certain consumables (reeds, valve oil, slide grease, etc.) are *not* provided by the DHSHS Band Program. For information on materials, please access the next section of this handbook.
3. **Performances:** Performances are 100% mandatory and comprise a cumulative of the student's grade regardless of the ensemble he/she belongs to. A missed performance can result in a grade reduction. Only in extreme circumstances (emergency, extreme

illness, etc.) will performance absence be excused. A doctor's note is always required for excusal. Additionally, students must be dressed and on time for performance as prescribed by the uniform policy found later in this handbook. Failure to comply will result in loss of performance grade.

4. **Class Tests:** Students will complete tests in class. Students who fail to attend class the day of a test will have one week to complete that test. Failure to complete the test within one week will result in a grade of 0% on that test.

Materials

The bands of Desert Hot Springs High School are very proud to offer our students many necessary materials/services. These include:

- (In most cases) An instrument
- Sheet music
- Musical posture chairs
- Music stands
- Complete marching band uniforms
- Marching shoes
- T-Shirts
- Clinicians
- Practice pads
- Mallets
- Instrument repair on school owned instruments
- Transportation to events outside the Coachella Valley

It is the expectation of the staff of the DHSHS Band Program that all students fundraise a minimum of \$50/student to offset the cost of the materials.

Cumulative, the band program spends close to \$200 per student annually (excluding the cost of the instrument). While ideally everything that the student needs could be provided, the reality of our funding disallows for the purchase of necessary consumables. These are materials that are ONLY to be used by the student and if cared for properly, do not need to be replaced very regularly. Of course, if any of these cause undue financial burden, please contact Mr. Ingelson and arrangements can be made.

A list of materials can be found here:

-Pencils

Necessary instrument supplies

- * Flutes: Cleaning rod and cloth
- * Clarinets: Reeds (a box is preferred) and a reed guard
- * Saxophones: Reeds (a box is preferred) and a reed guard
- * Trumpets, Tubas, and Euphoniums: Valve oil and slide grease
- * Trombones: Spray bottle, slide cream (or Slide-o-mix), slide grease.
- * Percussion: Stick bag, wood tipped snare drum sticks, and front ensemble mallets.

All instrument materials can be purchased online through Amazon ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)) or Woodwind Brasswind ([wbw.com](https://www.wbw.com)).

For questions about specific material brands or models, please contact Mr. Ingelson at mingelson@psusd.us.

Rules

The rules governing students in the DHSHS Band program are broken into two parts- social rules and facility rules. Social rules govern all interpersonal activity in the band room and facility rules cover the specifics of respecting band room property. Failure to comply with rules will result in loss of privileges up to and including the privilege of being a member of the DHSHS Band Program.

Social Rules

1. Take care of business.
2. Everybody loves everybody.
3. Practice with intent.
4. Leave it better than you found it.
5. Just make music.

Facility Rules

1. No food or drink in the band room. Water is fine.
2. Music stands must be respected and treated with care. This includes:
 1. Fully racking all stands at the end of class.
 2. Not using them for any other purpose than holding music.
3. Percussion instruments may be played only by percussionists. After use, all percussion instruments should be covered and stored.
4. All members of the ensemble are responsible for their own chair and stand, which means all chairs and stands that are used must be put away.
5. Students are not permitted in the band room or office unless Mr. Ingelson is present.
6. Practice rooms/color guard room/drum line room must not be misused. This includes:
 1. Lights remain on when in use.
 2. The rooms remain *entirely* free of trash and clutter.
 3. The rooms remain free of vandalism. If caught, students who vandalize will be removed from the DHSHS Band Program.

Uniforms

These are organized by ensemble. All uniforms (except the marching band uniforms) are provided by the students- again, if this causes undue financial burden, please contact Mr. Ingelson and arrangements can be made. The uniform is chosen with the intention that students may wear this in their own future professional life. Additionally, students in multiple ensembles need only buy one set of clothes. Students do not need to have their uniform purchased until Thanksgiving.

Students in **Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Wind Symphony, and Jazz Ensemble** wear:

Men

- Black dress shirt (collared, long sleeve, and fully buttoned up)
- Any color tie
- Black dress pants/slacks
- A black belt
- Black dress shoes (or marching band shoes, if desired)
- Black socks
- A black jacket is **OPTIONAL**
- No vests, please.

Women

- Same as men

OR

- A black blouse/shirt
- A black skirt (knee length or longer)
- Black flats or low heels (one inch or less)

OR

- A black floor length dress.
- **NOT PERMITTED:** Strapless dresses, thin straps, low cut shirts, or skirts that stop before the knee. As a rule: if your outfit requires constant maintenance, your performance will suffer.

Band Lockers.

DHSHS Band Students are given a locker and a combination lock. This is to spare all students the rigor of carrying an instrument, binder, and music from class to class. This is a privilege awarded **ONLY** to band students. Failure to comply with rules will result in the loss of locker privileges.

1. Lockers are for the storage of instrument(s), music, binder(s), textbooks, and marching band clothes (if necessary).
2. No food or drink (including water) is to be stored in lockers.
3. When storing instruments, locks should be locked.
4. Money or valuable electronics should **NOT** be stored in lockers.
5. No unapproved lock is to be used. Mr. Ingelson may access student lockers at anytime without warning.

Instruments

We are fortunate to currently have the resources to offer most students the instrument of their choice. As such, any student using a school owned instrument must take special care to maintain these instruments. This is a privilege afforded to our student. Failure to take appropriate care of school owned instruments will result in loss of instrument privileges.

1. All students will sign an instrument care contract. Students who provide their own will sign this contract and indicate that they are providing their own instrument.
2. If maintenance is required on the instrument, The Director of Bands is to be notified immediately. The student is **not** to attempt to do the work themselves, or seek an outside repair site to do the work.
3. All repairs that are not due to normal wear and tear or aging will be charged to the student directly. This includes (but is not limited to) pads falling out, corks aging, torn pads, and dissolved soldering. Bent keys, dents, extremely stuck mouthpieces, and stuck slides represent misuse of a musical instrument and will be repaired at the cost of the student.
4. Instruments are **not** to be left unattended, or played by someone who is not assigned to that instrument.
5. All instruments are to be stored in their assigned case. Placing an uncased instrument in a locker or cabinet is unacceptable, and may result in that student losing their instrument privileges.
6. If a school owned instrument is lost or stolen, it is the student's responsibility to replace the instrument with a BRAND NEW instrument. Please note: the school district does not have an insurance policy on our instruments, and it is encouraged for parents to take out their own policy covering their child's school owned instrument.