

Welcome!

The purpose of this handbook is to provide all students with as much information concerning our band program as possible. In addition to the many policies of the band, I have provided a schedule of rehearsals and concerts that should be saved for future reference. I hope that providing a schedule AT SUCH AN EARLY DATE will alleviate conflicts during the year.

You have joined the most active organization at Drury High School. I hope you will find this to be an exciting, worthwhile experience - but how worthwhile depends on you! If you work hard you will take great pride in this group.

Remember: YOU are the band!

Everyone knows how difficult the first semester of the school year is, but I know that with a sincere dedication by ALL involved in the program, we can guarantee a successful start to the year. I ask that all problems and suggestions be brought to MY attention and discussed openly. I am sure that you will agree that this is the only way to deal fairly with matters that concern the entire band.

When you all began an instrument, progress was faster and more easily noticed. After all, everyone would say, "he or she's never even played an instrument before." We all need to realize that to make improvement at this stage requires more effort and that the progress may not be as noticeable. That need not discourage us! The potential of this year's band is large indeed! I hope you enter into the year with an open mind, ready to be challenged and willing to work hard and have fun making the BEST MUSIC we can...together. We must not become complacent and live on past work and our excellent reputation...There are those who are anxious to surpass our accomplishments! I am prepared to take whatever steps are necessary, to facilitate the performance of excellent music in an excellent manner, are YOU? I have evaluated my role in making the band better and I challenge EACH ONE OF YOU to do likewise! A countless number of people have worked to make this a great band - take pride in it and contribute to its "Tradition of Excellence"!

For many reasons I am anticipating this school year and concert season with great excitement. Last year our exceptional musical achievements at concerts, in Montreal and at M.I.C.C.A. provided us with many wonderful musical experiences. It is for that exact reason that it is so important for us to become determined and to once more get busy pursuing that excitement and pride. For me – and for you – band makes many memories. Activities, friends and trips all make band a very special class – but for me it's the concerts too! There are many obstacles we as a group must learn to overcome each year. I see three hurdles we must all face. 1) We are a very YOUNG band. We will only be successful if EVERYONE STEPS UP! 2) Doing more to improve in the area of INTONATION AND 3) Creating an atmosphere and expectation of "improvement". "Okay" is NOT good enough! We must learn to ALWAYS be inclusive with all newcomers to our band. Please place a high importance and enthusiasm on performing this year. I trust that in the years ahead you will reflect back on your years in the Drury Band and among other things remember the concerts and exciting music we have the opportunity to make *together*.

**Remember: Rehearsal is NOT where you
"Learn" Your Part!!
What do you all say ~
"LET'S WALK the TALK"**

GRADING SYSTEM

All members must meet the responsibilities as outlined in the handbook. Factors that will determine your grade will be: 1) attendance at all performances and rehearsals, 2) your contribution to the spirit of the band (pride), and 3) your contribution to the MUSICAL growth of the band. A sincere effort while marching is expected and will be graded! Periodic testing of musical knowledge will also be part of your grade. Musical terms, knowledge of key signatures and scales will be included. Successful completion of a **“Listening Project”** is also required. Twice each year you will be tested INDIVIDUALLY on major scales – Percussionists will be required to learn drumming rudiments. Each student will receive a packet of scale requirements within the first month of school. The key word concerning scales = PROGRESS!

REQUIREMENTS

During football season, marching practices will be held EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. In order for us to do an outstanding job at the Fall Foliage Parade, and in the stands during games, it is imperative that each member of the band solve any conflicts with the rehearsal and performance schedule immediately. Conflicts will be heard BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL, **NOT** during 7th period. Conflicts will be settled on a CASE BY CASE basis. Organization is the key word in a successful band program. Each member of the band must organize his or her thoughts as to goals and responsibilities. Then they must DISCIPLINE themselves towards the accomplishment of these goals. It all boils down to PRIORITIES. Each member joining the band assumes the following responsibilities to the organization so we may function with a minimum number of conflicts.

1. TO ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES DURING AND AFTER SCHOOL unless excused by the director for reasons of illness or parental request. Excused absences occur PRIOR to the rehearsal not the next day! Unexcused absences hurt your grade. The director decides what constitutes an excused absence. **You MUST be in school to participate in any evening event (rehearsal or concert).**

2. TO MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO LEARN THE MUSIC every member must have enough pride to care what the band sounds like if it is to be successful. Feel free to ask for help anytime you need it. A HIGHER PRIORITY will be placed on this expectation this year.

3. TO GIVE 100% ATTENTION IN EVERY REHEARSAL. Rehearsal time is limited and we must make the most use of the time we have if we are to accomplish our goals. Be ready to play when required and don't be a hindrance to those playing while resting.

4. TO TAKE PRIDE IN THE IMAGE OF THE BAND

- a. Keep all parts of the uniform cleaned and pressed for every performance.
- b. Act maturely and responsibly in rehearsals and performances. Remember, the public is quick to condemn the entire group for the irresponsible acts of a few students.
- c. Take pride in the band room by keeping all equipment AND music where it belongs when not in use, and by throwing garbage in the wastepaper basket.

5. **TO ATTEND ALL GROUP LESSONS** A rotating schedule will be established, providing students with instruction on a 4-week rotation. (No class will be missed more than once every 3 weeks) Individual and group attention can only be done in this way. When the full band is rehearsing, individual attention robs group rehearsal time. Make arrangements for tests and missed class work. If problems arise TELL ME AHEAD OF TIME!

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – C. P. CREDIT

Those students electing (with the directors permission) to take band for College Prep. Credit must successfully complete these additional requirements as well:

1. Additional Listening Assignment (Total = 1 Verbal & 2 Written)
2. Scale Requirements – higher level of musical proficiency = 1 level above that required in the Comprehensive Level
3. Performance Requirement – Minimum of one – may be fulfilled by playing in out of school performing groups (W. District, Community Ensembles, Solo & Ensemble Recital)
4. Additional Intonation and Theory Requirements – successfully complete various levels on the computer software program “Auralia” in the areas of Intonation, Interval Recognition, Interval Singing, and Rhythm.

MISSING LESSON POLICY

1. Lessons missed (while in attendance at school) MUST BE MADE UP! - (Even if your lesson falls in a Lunch Period)
2. Lessons made up with a similar group = full credit
3. Lessons made up on your own = 75% credit
4. Missed lessons due to absence need not be made up unless they constitute more than 25% of the lessons that semester.
5. Lessons NOT made up = 2 points per lesson off your grade

GRADE CALCULATIONS

1st MARKING PERIOD

- 50% Music Preparation & Performance
- 20% Marching Performance
- 10% Attendance & Level of Participation (Practice)
- 10% Attendance - Performance
- 10% Uniform Inspection

2nd MARKING PERIOD

- 60% Music Preparation & Performance
- 10% Key Signature Tests
- 10% Intonation Graph
- 10% Attitude
- 10% Attendance & Level of Participation

3rd MARKING PERIOD

- 60% Music Preparation & Performance
- 10% Attitude
- 10% Auralia Project
- 10% Attendance & Level of Participation
- 10% Intonation Graph

4th MARKING PERIOD

- 60% Music Preparation & Performance
- 10% Attitude
- 10% Key Signature Tests
- 10% Intonation Graph
- 10% Attendance & Level of Participation

FINAL GRADE

- 20% 1st Marking Period
- 20% 2nd Marking Period
- 20% 3rd Marking Period
- 20% 4th Marking Period
- 20% "EXAM GRADE" consisting of:
 - 10% Yr. Long Listening Assignments
 - 10% Performance Exam

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

As members of the Drury High School Band we have earned various rights and titles through effective performances and musical contributions to the community. We must temper these rights and privileges with several areas of responsibility.

1. We owe ourselves the benefit of proper equipment and proper lessons. Whenever possible, you should avail yourselves of the best possible quality instrument you can afford and endeavor to take private lessons. Group lessons at school can only provide you with a moderate amount of attention. YOU have a responsibility for learning and contributing your talent to the group.

2. The school district provides the necessary setting and facilities for our performances and some of the larger more expensive pieces of equipment. The Band Parents Assoc. also purchases many large items for our use. We therefore have the obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school, community, and citizens of our area. This means, you agree to GIVE UP SOME OF YOUR FREE TIME ON HOLIDAYS AND VACATIONS FOR THESE PERFORMANCES. IT ALSO MEANS THAT IF THE SCHOOL OWNS YOUR INSTRUMENT YOU ARE WILLING TO TREAT IT PROPERLY OR PAY FOR ITS REPAIR.

3. You have the responsibility to respect the rights of others. Anti-social behavior will only breed the same from others and bring unwanted trouble. Excessive talking, rumor, bad manners, etc., are all examples of anti-social behavior. Please respect the rights of others, both in and out of uniform, and treat others as YOU wish to be treated.

4. Promptness and commitment are two essential factors vital to the success of the organization. Many times we leave the area to perform. It is obvious that if you are late you are left behind. YOU must arrange your schedule - thus enabling you to honor your commitment to this group.

5. We must be responsible for the costs of the uniforms and equipment and maintenance of equipment. While we receive financial support from school committee funds, it is not enough to support the program to the extent that the community and the members themselves deem necessary. We have a very active and supportive band booster organization. (HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE!) This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. I encourage your parents to join this group and help with its activities. The band members are responsible for several fund-raising events each year. It is reasonable to expect each member to participate equally in these projects or to donate an amount of money equal to the profit that would be generated had they participated.

PROMPTNESS

Band Period begins at 1:18 (with few exceptions) and rehearsals will begin at 1:25. Frequent lateness will deter musical progress, disrupt rehearsals and will result in some form of appropriate discipline. NOTE: SEVEN minutes is given to get to the band room AND to get ready to play. Don't arrive in the band room at 1:25. **PLEASE DON'T ABUSE THIS SCHEDULE!** If you are not ready to play AT 1:25 it means you are LATE! Detentions will be the result.

BAND OFFICERS

In addition to the above responsibilities that everyone shares, the band organization will consist of the following elected / volunteer / appointed officers who will have additional responsibilities as listed below:

BAND OFFICER CRITERIA

PRESIDENT

- Head of student phone committee
- Developing fund-raising ideas in conjunction with the DHS Band Parents
- Attending band parent meetings (when needed)-
- Attending all band officers' meetings
- Planning for the annual band picnic

VICE PRESIDENT

- In charge of poster committees for the advertisement of all events
- In charge of the stage crew
- In charge of uniform distribution and collection
- In charge of the "C Wing" Display Case

SECRETARY

- In charge of attendance at all functions, and notifying the director as to unexcused student musicians
- Correspondence with other schools and writing letters on behalf of the band

TREASURER (NOT AN ELECTED OFFICE)

- In charge of the collection of ticket and fund-raising monies
- Helping select assistant treasurers
- Seeing that accurate records are kept and assist with Financial Updates
- Attending Band Parent Meetings (when needed)

BAND FRONT REPRESENTATIVE

- In charge of keeping ALL band front members up to date on all functions (rehearsals, performances, meetings, and fund-raising obligations)
- Assisting the advisor with whatever they deem necessary
- Establishing a band front phone chain

FRESHMEN REPRESENTATIVE

- Helping with uniform collection, distribution, & maintenance
- In charge of lockers and locks
- Assist the VP organizing a stage crew

~2007 - 2008~
DRURY HIGH SCHOOL BAND OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Chris Milanesi	
VICE PRESIDENT:	Nate Brule	
SECRETARY:	Andrew Rosenberg	
HEAD TREASURER:	Niralee Shah	
DRUM MAJOR:	Chris Milanesi	
TREASURERS:	Chris Mowe	Jared Ralys
	Olivia Milanesi	Brian Dowling
	Ben Carlson	Dave Button
	Mike LaRocca	Brittany Shepard
	Eli Coniglio	
BAND FRONT REP.:	Jamie McNary	
FRESHMEN REP.:	Kyle Peters	Anuj Shah

BEING A BAND MEMBER

Since there are many extras that are provided and since MUCH extra work is involved with the band program, we expect that each member will do **their fair share**. From time to time during the year everyone will be asked to help with such things as stage set-up / break-down, selling at the concession stand, cleaning the popcorn machine, and other various tasks. Although these tasks may involve extra time and effort, we feel it is only fair that everyone share in these tasks since everyone shares in the benefits of these projects.

PERCUSSIONISTS TAKE NOTE:

Due to the nature of the instrument YOU SELECTED many years ago, it will be necessary for you to aid with the setting up & breaking down of the percussion section DAILY! This amounts to keeping music IN A FOLDER (w/ your name) and putting away instruments, equipment, mallets, sticks, etc. and covering equipment DAILY - **just like everyone else!** From time to time you WILL be asked to help change drum heads, clean the percussion cabinet or other duties that might be looked upon as special to the percussionists. These tasks are necessary to help maintain equipment that you are using but did not purchase! If you wish to be treated like everyone else you must act like everyone else! Frequent folder checks will occur this year. Be Prepared!

THE USE OF THE MUSIC AREA

It is the responsibility of every member of our organization to see to it that these facilities remain in top condition. The key to accomplishing this goal is that every student must constantly demonstrate a great deal of pride concerning the use of these specially equipped rooms. An enormous number of students will be sharing these relatively small areas every day and it is imperative that the following set of guidelines be understood and followed at all times.

- 1. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO EAT ANYWHERE IN THE ENTIRE MUSIC AREA.** This includes the practice rooms as well as the outdoor areas near the music suite. The school has provided you with a cafeteria that will be available for meals during the day.
- 2. USE OF THE PRACTICE ROOMS -** a) students may use the practice rooms on a first come first serve basis. b) There must not be more than three people in the Practice Room (five in the Ensemble Room) at a given time and each person must be practicing the same piece of music.
- 3. WHEN NOT IN USE, ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE PUT AWAY IN THE SPECIAL AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.**
- 4. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SPACE IN REHEARSALS, STUDENTS SHOULD BRING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF BOOKS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS TO REHEARSALS.** Plan your locker stops so you will not need to carry all your books all day.
- 5. EVERY STUDENT SHOULD REPORT ALL ACTS OF VANDALISM OR THEFTS OF SCHOOL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY IMMEDIATELY.** If we all take the responsibility for maintaining order in our area, everyone's rights will be better protected.
- 6. THE BAND OFFICE IS NOT TO BE USED AS A SHORT CUT TO THE BANDROOM, OR AS A CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE TO USING YOUR LOCKERS!**
- 7. ONLY ASSIGNED LOCKERS WITH LOCKS (issued by the director) MAY BE USED FOR THE STORAGE OF PERSONAL MUSIC EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS.** Unauthorized use of other cabinets will result in the loss of these items or punitive measures. Lockers are to be used **PRIMARILY** to keep musical instruments safe, not as a "catch all" for personal belongings! Those people not keeping their area neat will be asked to vacate their locker. Exhibit some pride in **YOUR (our) band room.** Locks not returned at the end of the school year must be paid for, before grades or credit may be received.