

# Band FAQs for students and parents

## **What is the function of the DHS Marching Band?**

As well as playing at home football games, the Marching Band represents DHS at the regional marching band contest held in Amarillo during the fall season. The band also participates in local events and various pep rallies during the fall. Scheduled performances are mandatory. Non-attendance will effect your grade and possibly your enrollment in the band program.

## **When does the band practice?**

Band is a daily class held during the school day at DHS. Once school is in session, the students also rehearse on Monday evenings in the Fall from 6:00 to 8:00 pm until Marching contest. There is a MANDATORY, very intensive seven-day summer band camp in August (August 1-4, and August 7-9).

In the Spring, we will have rehearsals on Monday evenings starting in February until after Concert and Sight Reading contest in April. For a complete listing of rehearsals, please see the calendar.

## **How does the regional marching contest work?**

Bands compete in one of 5 groups based on the number of students at the school. DHS is a 5A band. UIL judges score all bands based on aspects of performance including the music and the drill (the visual interpretation of the performance). The final rating is determined, and the highest rating a band can receive is a "1".

If the band earns a 1st division at regional marching contest, we will advance to the Area Marching contest in Odessa, TX at Ratliff Stadium. We will not know until the following Monday morning what time we will compete at Area Contest.

## **How should I behave in the stands at regional marching contest?**

1. It is not proper to enter or leave your seat in the middle of someone's performance or during a game unless you need to use the restroom. If so, you must take someone with you, as we always move about in pairs, and see Ms. Martha for a bathroom pass. Please wait until the performance is completed before entering or leaving your seat.
2. Eating in uniform is **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!** Students will receive bottled water in the stands. Going to the concession stands is not allowed, and if a student disobeys this rule, consequences will occur.
3. The time to talk and comment is in between performances and definitely not while a band is performing.
4. It is proper and expected that all spectators will applaud for all of the performers.
5. Let it be known that air horns, cow bells and any other noise making devices in the stands can actually be a detriment to a band's performance. If the judges can not hear the band perform, they can not give proper credit.
6. Students must be in full uniform at all times, unless the band is in "half uniform" (fully uniformed except for the jacket, which will be folded properly at all times).
7. Students may not wear ear rings or other jewelry while in uniform, and girls with long hair must have their hair up and out of their eyes.

### **What is the color guard?**

The Color Guard provides a visual picture alive with message and meaning. Guard members use flags, rifles, sabers and dance as part of the routine that they perform while the band members play. Being a guard member requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, feet and legs. Their performance adds color, fashion, flair, excitement, sophistication and pizzazz to the field show. Band members can participate in color guard if they play an instrument that is not used in the field show, or with the director's approval (oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone sax, etc.) . No more than 1 person from each of the brass sections maybe selected.

### **What is the Pit Crew?**

The Pit Crew is made up of band supporters (family members, friends, and former band members) and it assists the band by moving drums and other pieces of percussion equipment and props on and off the performance area. Because competitions are a timed performance with penalties assessed for exceeding the allotted time, the Pit Crew plays an important and necessary role in supporting the band.

### **What can band members expect on Regional Marching Contest day?**

Band students will have a fun but busy day on contest day. An expected schedule will be released prior to contest day. We usually have a dress rehearsal at the high school before we leave for contest. Students usually bring money to competitions to buy snacks from the concession stands. The district will supply a meal as per district policy.

### **What is the Battery and Front Ensemble?**

The battery is the marching part of the percussion section. The battery consists of snare drums, multi-tenors, bass drums, and cymbals. The Battery will consist of Percussion students. The Front Ensemble consists of the stationary instruments of the percussion ensemble. It consists of marimbas, vibraphones, xylophones, bells, chimes, crotales, cymbals, concert bass drums, a synthesizer, and various other stationary percussion instruments. The Front Ensemble (The Pit) will consist of percussionists, band members that play an instrument that don't march (oboes, bassoons, etc.) and possibly students from the students body with special permission for the director. Both sections are extremely valuable to the marching band.

### **How can parents support the band program?**

The band is a busy program that needs the support of parents, families and the community to excel. Our organization is responsible for raising band funds. We do this through band fees and a variety of fundraisers throughout the year. Your time is welcome and useful for a variety of needs including fitting band uniforms, assisting with the Pit Crew, and participating in or even heading one of the fund raisers.

Most importantly, your support and encouragement of your child and the other students in the band program is essential to a strong band program. Volunteering and fund raising are just some of the many ways that parents can help support our band program. The Dumas Band Boosters is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the Dumas Band Boosters are tax-deductible. The Band Boosters run the concession stand at football games any and all help would be greatly appreciated.

### **How can I stay informed about the band?**

The Band Boosters organize all the supportive band activities. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the concession stand at the stadium during marching season, and at Dumas High School after marching season in the band hall. Meetings are open to all and are a good way to stay informed and to voice your opinion on Boosters' activities. You will also want to be a member of our Dumas Demon Band email group. Whether you have email or arrange for phone updates, it is important to have a means of communication through which you can receive current information. Please email Mrs. Carter at [rebecca.carter@dumasisd.org](mailto:rebecca.carter@dumasisd.org), and put your email address in the subject header of the email, and we will add your name to the distribution list.

### **What other band opportunities are available at DHS when marching band ends?**

DHS students have numerous opportunities to participate in band-related activities throughout the school year. Some of these programs are held during the regular school day while others are extracurricular.

These events may include Wind Ensemble, the Screamin' Demon Jazz Ensemble, All-Region Band, All-Area Band, All-State Band, regional solo & ensemble contest, and state solo & ensemble contest. You can learn about these activities by following this website, joining the Dumas Demon Band email group, as well as by information provided by the school and Mrs. Carter.

A trip to New York is being planned for Spring Break 2018. Marching band, concert band, jazz band and indoor guard members are eligible to go. Students will get to see the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Central Park, Time Square, see Wicked and Phantom of the Opera, plus other great sites. The cost of the trip will be between, \$1600-1800. The cost of the trip can be brought down with fundraising opportunities during the year.

Is attendance at Summer Band at DHS mandatory, or can I just show up the first day of school? Band camp attendance is mandatory. In order for a student to get a spot in the marching band field show, you must be present at summer band for at least 90% of the time. At summer band, we determine the number of students that we write the drill for (the marching forms and pictures we create on the field). If someone makes the mistake of choosing to miss summer band, they will not get a co-ordinate on the field, hence they will not have a set place in the show. They will be part of the group as part of the ex-crew.

The ex-crew will have a place on the field and will be expected to come to rehearsals and perform with the marching band at football games during half-time, and marching contest. Who shows up at summer band is who we go with for marching band. Summer band is held here at DHS in preparation for the marching season!

If you tend to go on vacation or leave the country during the summer, **YOU MUST BE BACK FOR SUMMER BAND IN AUGUST!!!!**

Mrs. Carter has spoke with all of the coaches who coach a fall sport, and they are aware of summer band, we have worked it out so you can do both. Check with Mrs. Carter if you have any questions. If you work during the summer (on a farm, at Sonic, at the community pool, etc.), it is your responsibility to ensure that your employer knows that you are simply unavailable during the day for summer band. **YOU** are responsible to communicate effectively with your employer

to ensure that they do NOT schedule you to work at any time during summer band. Summer band rehearsal ends no later than 4pm. If you live in an outlying community, such as Cactus, please let us know, and we will arrange for a bus to pick you up in the morning for summer band, and to drop you off in the evening. I must know if you need the bus to pick up up at least a week ahead of time.

In other words, there is no excuse for missing summer band if you want to be a full member of this organization.

### **How does eligibility affect my participation in band?**

If you have a grade below 70% in any given class, you are considered ineligible, and cannot participate in any school-related extra-curricular activities. This includes football games, and regional marching contest etc. Therefore, it is CRUCIAL that you are responsible for keeping your grades up, or else we will have "holes" in the marching drill, and it truly affects our performance as an organization.

Once again, ESPECIALLY if you are an incoming freshman, it is CRITICAL that you turn your work in ON TIME, complete all assignments, and study. If you need any tutoring help, it is available for you. Additionally, if you are ineligible during the last 6 weeks of the marking period of the previous year (last 6 weeks of school from last year), you will be part of the ex-crew to start until you earn a spot in the field show.

### **What should I wear to concerts?**

Tuxedos and Long black concert dress will be ordered at the beginning of the year. They will be checked out through our uniform captain and Mrs. Carter.

### **What does my band fee cover, and do I have to pay it?**

The annual band fee pays for several things. For the 2017-18 school year, the band fee will be \$85.00, and that will pay for marching shoes and t-shirts that each member will need to purchase as well as the students lyre and flip folders.

It is due during summer band, as our first performance is in August, and we need to get the shoes ordered immediately! So, please plan accordingly, and save your pennies. You can make a check out to DHS band, and give it to Mrs. Carter or Mr. Sedlacek.

Fee break down:

- \$15.00 T-Shirt
- \$30.00 Shoes\*
- \$20.00 Flip folders and music lyre\*
- \$20.00 New Polo Shirt if needed

Fees maybe paid in installments but must be paid by September 15th.

Fees may be less if a student does not need a shirt, a lyre etc.

We will have fundraisers to help you reduce the amount you owe. Use someone else's money to help you pay your fees.

\*Yours to keep, if you lose it additional fees will apply.

### **Sticks, mallets, reeds and accessories**

Each DHS band student needs to purchase their own reeds, marching sticks, drum set sticks, battery percussion mallets, valve oil etc. We have a supply here for your convenience, but they need to be purchased by the students.

This includes oboe and bassoon reeds. Students may charge up to \$15.00 or 2 reeds for oboes and bassoons.

### **Behavior in the stands at football games.**

It is important that we all follow the rules for everyone's safety and enjoyment of the game. We all need to understand the marching band is in full view of the public at all times. Our conduct tells everyone what kind of group we want to be.

1. Be in complete uniform at all times. Before you get off the bus, the jacket should be on and zipped. Your hat should be in its hat box.
2. Brass and Percussion cases should be left in the designated place, closed and latched! Woodwinds should take the instrument out of the case and take it into the stands. We do live in the panhandle of Texas, the weather can change in a matter of minutes in the Fall.
3. You will be assigned a seat in the stands. This will happen during summer band. You are to stay in your seat and in your section!
4. You will need to be ready to play a moments notice. The Fight Song and the next announced song needs to be ready. Our job at the game is to entertain the crowd and pump up the team.
5. Please be advised cell phones are not allowed in the stands at all.  
I see it, I hear it, I take it. PERIOD!!
6. You are NOT to go to the concession stand for food or drink!
7. Restroom passes are acquired from Mrs. Martha. She only has 8 passes so we need to be quick. Abuse the privilege and you lose it!
8. The drums are for Percussionist only! Don't touch!
9. Friends and family need to understand they cannot bring food or drink to you or come and visit during the game.
10. You are required to be at the whole game.
11. If you are cleared to leave the game early with your parents, you are responsible for your instrument and uniform. Leaving a game early is to be discussed no later than Wednesday the week of the game. We must have a phone call or email, and a note from your parents! You can only be released to a parent. We cannot release you to your siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins etc. Please do not ask!