

2018-2019



DAMONTE
R A N C H
Band

BAND HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO THE DAMONTE RANCH BAND PROGRAM!

You are now a member of one of the most outstanding programs at Damonte Ranch High School.

WE BELIEVE:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's development emotionally & intellectually.
- Band develops self-discipline, positive work habits and group skills necessary for success in life.
- By achieving a high-quality standard in Band, high quality standards will transfer into all other areas of the student's lives.
- Band offers creative & aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Student's social skills, self-esteem and positive attitude are developed through band.
- Band gives an emotional & expressive release during the day.
- Band teaches students to strive for excellence in all areas – a major goal of education.

**Remember,
everything you do in the Band program is important,
which in turn makes you important.
Excellence is attained through this attitude
and it is this attitude that is the
basis of our program.**

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**The forms contained at the back of the Handbook
need to be filled out completely
and turned in by
July 27, 2018**

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Membership in the Damonte Ranch High School Band carries with it the responsibility of attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances.

If you know your child is to be absent, fill out the Excused Absence Form found at the back of this Handbook and on the Band website by the appropriate date. Additional forms may be printed off of the Band's website, *www.drhsband.org*, as needed. A large portion of the student's grade in Band is earned through positive progress at rehearsals and participation at all performances, thus the requirement for attendance. Poor attendance or excessive tardiness will result in a student being placed in alternate status (*see page 5*), a failing grade in the course, or possible referral to the Damonte Ranch High School Administration. A student that has perfect attendance to all Marching Band rehearsals and events will be given the opportunity to "skip" one scale playing test this year.

GENERAL CONDUCT

All students are to abide by the guidelines as established in the Washoe County School District Code of Conduct, the Damonte Ranch High School 2018-2019 *Student Agenda* and this Handbook. Failure to comply could result in a student being referred to the office, placed in alternate status, a failing grade in the course, or possible removal from the program.

REHEARSAL CONDUCT

- ☐☐ Be on time (*early*). All members are to be seated with their instrument, music, and prepared to play when the Director, Staff, Drum Major, or designated leader of the group steps on the podium. All members should be on the practice field at the time designated.
- ☐☐ **Talking will be kept to a minimum.** Failure to comply with this rule will result in deduction of attendance credit and in extreme circumstances, possible dismissal from the rehearsal (*see Grading Policy, page 9-10*). This rule cannot be compromised. *We must rehearse in the same manner as we perform.*
- ☐☐ **No gum, candy, food, or beverages are allowed in the Band Room or on the practice field at any time, without prior permission!** The second offense will result in after-school detention to be served in the Band Room with the Director. Water is acceptable.
- ☐☐ **No playing out of turn.** Extraneous sounds added when the conductor stops are not acceptable. Not playing or not being ready to play when the Director indicates is not acceptable.
- ☐☐ **For field rehearsals, you must be in low-top tennis shoes,** for the marching style we use requires the foot and ankle to move freely. You will be asked to change into proper footwear before you are allowed to rehearse.
- ☐☐ **All members are required to have a three-ring binder with 50 clear 8 1/2 x 11" sheets to insert drill pages into. The student's dot book must always be in their possession during marching rehearsals.** If you do not know what a dot book is, you will be instructed of its purpose as soon as it is deemed necessary.

PERFORMANCE CONDUCT

- ☐☐ Band members are to be in the Band Room, dressed for the performance, and ready to play at the call time set by the Director. **The Director has the right to hold any player that has not pre-arranged a late arrival from the performance, resulting in an unapproved absence for that performance.** (*see "Grading Policy", pages 9-10*)
- ☐☐ **Non-Band members are not permitted to sit with the Band** (*excluding Booster parents*).

PERFORMANCE CONDUCT (continued)

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- ☐☐ Once the performance is complete, properly put away all equipment. If equipment trailers are being used, all students should stay to help unload. **Attendance will be taken when all equipment is properly stored. Once attendance is complete, you may turn in your uniform.**
- ☐☐ **Non-Band members are asked to remain outside of the Band Room both before and after the performance.** Please remember that there are a lot of us. We need all the room we can get.
- ☐☐ While in the performance venue, be considerate of other groups or ensembles that may be performing on the same program. Be attentive, considerate, and respectful. We expect them to do the same.
- ☐☐ Once you are seated you are to remain there. If you absolutely must use the restroom, **do not leave while a group is performing!**
- ☐☐ **NO CELL PHONES OR HOMEWORK WILL BE PERMITTED ONCE CALL TIME HAS ARRIVED.**

INSTRUMENTS

We are not in a situation where we can tolerate the mishandling or abuse of equipment. **Anyone** found to have mistreated, damaged, or destroyed facilities, instruments or equipment will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. The Damonte Ranch High School Administration will handle any case of destruction of Band equipment by students.

- **Do not handle another Band member's instrument or equipment.** A general rule is "you break it, you buy it." If it is not yours, do not touch it!
- ☐ Many everyday supplies, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc., need to be purchased through local music merchants. Some items, such as mallets, drum sticks, or items similar in nature will be purchased through the director.
- ☐ District owned instruments become the responsibility of the students to whom they are issued. Privately owned instruments are the responsibility of their owners. **Damonte Ranch High School and the Washoe County School District is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**
- ☐ All students are expected to have their instruments and equipment at all rehearsals unless instructed otherwise by the Director.



During Band Camp, the Section Leaders will check music out to you. This is your music for the stands and the marching show. You will have a printed list of all the music you are responsible for. If you are missing any of the music on the list, fill out a "Music Request" form and hand it to the ensemble Librarian. Please have all music at every rehearsal, even when it is memorized.



PREPARATION OF MUSIC

The most important thing to realize is **if you have a piece of music in your folder, you are responsible for being able to perform it** in rehearsal in a manner that is not detrimental to the progress of the entire ensemble. Practice. The Director of Bands and the Band Staff do not have the time or the resources to give every student a private lesson when we are meeting as a group. This waste times. Do your Band homework...practice. The objective of rehearsal is to learn everyone else's parts and come prepared with your part learned. Please ask if you are struggling!

The assignment of all wind parts may be completed through a brief audition process prior to Band Camp. You may be asked to play a few scales and a chromatic scale for the range of your instrument. Additionally, you may be asked to play a section of the music issued. Percussion parts will be assigned either during the Mini-Camp, Percussion Camp, or the main Band Camp by the percussion instructor and/or the Director.

You will be required to memorize the music that is performed on the field for marching band. Your assigned staff member or section leader will test you on your knowledge and performance quality during rehearsals. You will be tested on a pass/no-pass system. If you do not know your part, you may potentially be benched for a performance. Everyone needs to give 100% for success.

CONCERT UNIFORM INFORMATION

Wind Ensemble will have their first concert as early as October. Female Students should wear nice black pants and full or ¾ sleeve blouse, or a knee---length black dress or skirt (velour is acceptable). The clothing should not have embellishments, and no distracting accessories. Shoes, shoes or nylons should be black. Hair should be neatly styled. Male students should wear black slacks, long sleeved black dress shirt with black shoes and sock, tie (black) is optional. (No hats can be worn). No jeans, jeggings, or leggings. **Appropriate attire must be worn or the student will not be allowed to perform.** This is non-negotiable.

MARCHING UNIFORM INFORMATION

- When you are in uniform, you are no longer an individual, but a representative of our Band, school, and community.
- No consumption of any food or drink while in uniform.** Water is OK.
- Uniforms must be completely worn at all times. The 2018 marching uniform includes white shoes, white socks, black gloves for wind players, headgear with plume, pants, jacket and *completely* white undergarments. Everyone is to wear the designated Band shirt under the uniform jacket.

MARCHING UNIFORM INFORMATION (continued)

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- Students will check out their uniform prior to each performance. Each student will return their uniform after attendance has been taken. The uniform should be hung properly on its hanger ready to be inspected by the Uniform Moms. **Nothing but uniform parts should be left in the uniform garment bag.**
- **Nail polish, jewelry, baseball caps, hats, etc. are not to be worn with the uniform.**
- Anyone drawing attention to themselves or distracting from the group (*excessive piercing, dyed hair, unruly facial hair, etc.*) will be asked to remove or alter such distractions.
- **When in uniform, a student's only option is to be at the designated performance site.**
- Every Band member is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of their own personal uniform parts (*socks, shoes, undershirts, etc.*).
- **Anyone with hair longer than the back of the headgear is to have it put up in hairpins or a hair net.** All Color Guard and Front Ensemble members will wear their hair in a fashion to be decided by the Director and staff for each particular performance.
- **Behavior that does not positively represent the group, especially in uniform, will not be tolerated** □□
□i.e. Public Displays of Affection, Profane Language, unprofessional behavior, etc.)
- We are lucky to have dedicated parents who give long hours in the upkeep of our uniforms. Do everything you can to assist these parents in their work. Be cooperative. A simple "thank you" does wonders!

STAFF AND CHAPERONE COURTESY

The Damonte Ranch Band staff is a direct extension of the Director. *Anyone asked to step in front of the Damonte Ranch High School Band, you, or your section is to be treated with the utmost courtesy and respect.*

Chaperones are also an extension of the Director. We could not travel without our dedicated chaperones. They work very hard to make your trips as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. The chaperone's only pay is when offered a polite "thank you."

If you find yourself in disagreement with a chaperone or staff member, please **do not argue**. You are to do as instructed and immediately **inform the Director of any problem**. If a staff member or chaperone finds it necessary to report a student to the Director with due cause, that particular student risks disciplinary action. If the staff member or chaperone is in error, the Director will handle the situation in an appropriate manner. This policy will be strictly enforced.



TRAVEL GUIDELINES

When we travel, you are an ambassador to Damonte Ranch High School and the city of Reno. Every decision you make will reflect Damonte Ranch High School, the Band, and your community. Be advised as to your higher responsibility when we travel.

All students are to abide by the travel guidelines as established in the Washoe County School District Code of Conduct, the Damonte Ranch High School 2018-2019 *Student Handbook*, and this Handbook. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the student being reprimanded, sent home at the parent's expense, or in an extreme case, being handed over to local law enforcement authorities.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES (continued)

- Follow all rules placed before you by bus companies, hotels, airlines, or any place of business.
- Respect all facilities we use and visit.
- Respect all private property on buses, planes and in hotels.
- Remain in your assigned seat while the bus is moving and do not switch busses without permission.
- When attendance is being taken on your bus or plane, keep quiet to make the process as quick and accurate as possible.
- Absolutely no playing of instruments or beating of drumsticks/mallets while on the bus or plane.
- Musical devices with headphones are permitted.
- As a general rule, be considerate of those around you.
- Do not get off the bus until you are given instructions to do so from the Director.

ALTERNATES

Students who display habitual tardiness or poor attendance at rehearsals, do not show improvement through a sincere effort of practice and effort, or do not attempt to achieve the highest performance level possible will be put into alternate status. Attendance policies are still in effect for alternates. However, alternates lose any individual responsibility in future performances until they can demonstrate a true desire to be a contributing member of the Damonte Ranch High School Band.

Those students who work hard to better themselves will be rewarded by being a part of the activities that make the program a rewarding experience. Students who do not work to better themselves and those around them will not be rewarded for lack of effort or poor attitude! If everyone strives to exceed the highest expectations of themselves, we will not have to worry about this policy.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACCOUNTS

More commonly referred to as an ISA, students in the Band have an account to keep track of their personal fundraising efforts and financial activity within the Band Program. Records are kept in the same fashion as a bank statement with debits and credits to each account. Students may receive money into their account either by direct deposit (*personal check*) or by participating in various fundraisers. **Any funds placed into an ISA through Band fundraising activities or sales are not refundable.**

ISA accounts are used to track the various out of pocket expenses that students incur while in the band, including meals on trips, transportation, school instrument rental fees, or other miscellaneous expenses such as the Band Banquet or Band apparel.

ISA balances are available through your Charms account
(<https://www.charmsoffice.com/>)

REMITTANCE OF MONEY

NO CASH. NO CASH. NO CASH. Any fee payments or money earned through Band fundraising projects should be turned into Ms. Blahnik or deposited in the Band Office door mailbox slot.

The Director and the Band Boosters cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen money.



FAIR SHARE

All band students will pay a \$650 fee to participate in marching band. The fee includes payment for transportation, equipment, music, drill, choreography, contest entry fees, folders, additional staffing. **Payments may be made in three installments due on**

July 27... \$250
August 21... \$250
September 18... \$150

All students and parents are required to sign the 2018-19 Fair Share Payment Contract.

It is important that every student purchase the following items at the beginning of his/her first year of marching band. EVERY STUDENT IN MARCHING BAND IS EXPECTED TO HAVE THESE ITEMS IN HIS/HER POSSESSION AT EVERY MARCHING BAND FUNCTION. If a student is missing pieces that student must purchase the missing items again.

- MARCHING BAND SHOES \$40 *(purchased through the Band)*
- BAND SHOW SHIRT *Included in fees*
- BLACK BAND GLOVES *Included in fees*

Miscellaneous Expenses

- ~ Guard equipment expenses *(costuming and possibly a rifle and/or saber)*
- ~ Winter Guard and Winter Percussion expenses *(for participants only)*
- ~ Apparel costs *(band jackets, shirts, travel bags, etc.)*
- ~ School instrument usage fees *(if applicable)*



FUND RAISING

Every student and parent is expected to make an effort to contribute to the success of fundraisers that are undertaken by the program.

In some instances, requirements will be set on the quantity of items sold or time spent working towards the successful completion of a fund raising project.

In almost all cases, a percentage of funds raised may be deducted from the student's ISA balance due.

COURSE OFFERINGS

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The DRHS Band program is comprised of the following large ensembles. All courses may be repeated for credit. **Students may pre-register for any of these courses but Wind Ensemble, which is by audition and/or Band Director approval. Fees are required and vary from year to year.**

WIND ENSEMBLE

A yearlong PAC only music course designed for group instruction for students who have successfully completed a prior course in an instrumental music program. This course will provide *advanced* instruction, theory and practice in wind instruments. Except for *extreme* extenuating circumstances, **Wind Ensemble members are a part of the Marching Band for the first 11 to 12 weeks of the school year.** The primary focus is on concert literature. **All students** are required to participate during scheduled rehearsals and performances beyond the normal school day.

CONCERT BAND

A yearlong music course designed for group instruction for students who have successfully completed a prior course in an instrumental music program. This course will provide instruction, theory and practice in wind instruments. Except for *extreme* extenuating circumstances, **Concert Band members are a part of the Marching Band for the first 11 to 12 weeks of the school year.** The primary focus is on concert literature. **All students** are required to participate during scheduled rehearsals and performances beyond the normal school day.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band is a yearlong course that meets **from 2:35-4:10 on alternating days** and is designed for group and small ensemble instruction of Band students who have successfully completed a prior course in an instrumental music program. This course will provide advanced and intermediate instruction, theory, and practice in the various jazz genres. Except for extenuating circumstances, members **must be enrolled in in another large instrumental ensemble.** **All students** are required to participate during scheduled rehearsals and performances beyond the normal school day.

COLOR GUARD (1st semester) -- WINTER GUARD (2nd semester)

Color Guard is a fall semester course that **meets from 2:35-4:10 on alternating days** and is designed to introduce and develop a student's knowledge and skill in fundamental and advanced dance and auxiliary equipment techniques and performance. **During the first 11 to 12 weeks of the school year, students will participate in shows, contests and football games with the Damonte Ranch Marching Band.** For the remainder of the year, the focus will shift to Winter Guard. **All students** are required to participate during scheduled rehearsals and performances beyond the normal school day, as well as those that occur during the summer, some weeknights, and occasional weekends. Students will also be required to attend camps at the school prior to the beginning of the school year.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

A yearlong music course designed for students who wish to develop individual and group skills in the performance and study of percussion instruments. The instructor(s) will teach techniques in percussion performance and marching through individual, small and large group instruction. **All students** will be expected to participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the normal school day. Both marching and concert percussion idioms will be addressed. In addition, students may be involved as participants with the Band as assigned at the Director's discretion. Except for *extreme* extenuating circumstances, **members are a part of the Marching Band for the first 11 to 12 weeks of the school year.** For the remainder of the year, the focus will shift to Percussion Ensemble.

YOU CAN TAKE BAND AND STILL GRADUATE!

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PRIORITIZE: First and foremost, to take music throughout your high school years, prioritize it and make up your mind that you *will* find a way to take it. Hold yourself to that priority when planning and you will discover that you can be in a music class every semester. If you place music on your schedule first each year and leave it there, you will most likely find that the other blanks will be more than sufficient to meet your needs. You must determine if music is important in your life and work other classes around it.



ELECTIVE SYNDROME: “I want to take this and this and that and this and this and that and that and this.” After studying the requirements to graduate and talking with many juniors and seniors, it has come to our attention that the “Elective Syndrome” can affect decisions as a freshman. It is more than possible to take band every year and still include all of the other electives that you wish to take. Membership in even more than one Band is possible! The cure to this “syndrome” is to plan for the long-term rather than the short-term. Talk to senior band members about scheduling. Ask for help with your four-year plan.



OTHER ACTIVITIES: No one should be excluded from music courses, especially on the basis that students are involved with other activities (*sports in particular*). To make this happen, the Director will be in constant contact with all coaches and club leaders. It is merely an issue of planning and commitment. The myth that students involved with sports cannot be in the Band Program is just that, a myth. If there any questions concerning conflicts, see Ms. Blahnik immediately. Every concern or conflict will be handled on a person-by-person basis.



PLAN! Plans can change but changing and adapting your plans is better than aimless wandering. Take charge of your future by plotting out your four-year course of study. Each year, re-examine your plan and see if it is doing what you want it to do. Once your plan is in place, feel free to change it intelligently. Do not make snap decisions about classes. Look at all sides of every issue pertaining to classes in which you are planning to enroll and be flexible with your decision processes.

GRADING POLICY

Attendance, attitude and performance quality will be the main factors in determining grades. The expectations are very simple; be on time (*early*) to all scheduled events, have perfect attendance, maintain a positive and healthy attitude, and play (*and march*) with high quality at all times.

Tardiness: “Early is on time. On time is late. Late is unacceptable.” BE EARLY! General rule: 10 minutes prior to start time, you are at the correct location completely warmed and ready to perform. For rehearsals, the fourth unexcused tardy will result in the lowering of the overall grade one grade level (e.g. A becomes A-). After the first three, the next two result in loss of one additional grade level. Beyond that every single tardy will result in the lowering of the overall grade one grade level. For performances, every tardy will lower the overall grade one grade level.

Absences: For rehearsals, every unapproved absence results in the lowering of the overall grade one full letter grade (e.g. A becomes B). **For performances, one unapproved absence is grounds for failure in the course.**

Excused: There *is* such a thing as an excused absence or tardy. If an individual has a legitimate reason for being absent or tardy, that member can obtain permission to be excused through prior approval by the Director only. This request must be made to Ms. Blahnik in writing or in person significantly in advance of the date of the requested tardy. Please allow at least two days for the director to consider your request. An excused absence may be obtained by completing the form at the back of this handbook in the time frame listed. Generally, serious personal illness, medical emergencies, family emergencies and religious events are excused. All performances and rehearsals will be on the calendar months in advance.

Attitude: This is often difficult to quantify, but in general terms, an uncooperative attitude will result in a lowering of the grade and/or dismissal from the group.

Ms. Blahnik wants all students to be successful. One’s grade in band is reflective of the effort that is put forth into their progress. Students should constantly strive to reach their potential by always putting forth 100%. Students are graded on participation, rehearsal etiquette, assignments, playing tests, performances, and merit. Students should always take advantage of assistance provided to them and ask questions if there are struggles or concepts that lack clarity. Ms. Blahnik is always happy to provide assistance; however, students need to be proactive and ask for help when needed.

Appointments for help can be made after school, during lunch, and during IC.

Basketball Pep Band:

All students will sign-up for Pep Band A, Pep Band B, or both (if they are mega committed to band). Each Pep Band will be responsible for half of the home basketball games. This process is designed to share the responsibility between the two pep bands to give students a break in their schedule.

Football Games:

All students will participate in all scheduled home football games. Students will be required to stand and play/participate with the cheers in the student section for the 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarters. If students behave appropriately, they will receive 3rd quarter off and be allowed to sit in various parts of the band stands with their friends. The only request is that students are ready to play for touchdowns. Students may use this time to use the rest room and socialize. Students will be expected to be in uniform for all games and will likely play their competitive show at every game whether it is before the game, during half time, or after the game. No cell phone use or homework will be permitted during 1st, 2nd, or 4th quarter.

GRADING POLICY (continued)

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Rehearsal and performance participation will constitute 45% of the student's grade, playing tests and competencies 25%, and daily class attendance will make up 10% of the nine-week grade. The semester final exam constitutes 20% of the grade, per WCSD policy. Points may be deducted, if necessary, from the student's 10 daily attendance points for inappropriate behavior or a poor attitude in the classroom.

Students are assessed on the following:

- Scale Tests
- Honor Band Playing Test
- Wind Ensemble Audition Playing Test
- Reflections and Journaling
- Concerts or Contests
- In-Class Projects
- Football Games
(Pep Band AND half time Performance)
- Written Tests
- Solo & ensemble contest
- Basketball Band
- Attendance at night rehearsals
- Concert Literature/Marching Band Pass-offs
- Sectionals
- Pep Band (school assembly)
- Classroom daily participation
(every class w/ instrument, tuner, music & pencil)

Points will be **deducted** for the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No instrument - class or rehearsal | Loss of attendance points
(same as an absence) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gum, food or drink in rehearsal | 5 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate uniform wear or care | Director's discretion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improper care of equipment | Director's discretion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate attitude or conduct | Director's discretion |

EXTRA CREDIT

To reacquire points that were lost a result of an **excused** absence, students can do any of the following for a one-time addition to their point total.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private lessons (must get approval from director) | 30 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a concert outside of school. (bring program to Ms. B) | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typed two-page report/critique of a solo or band recording | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typed four-page biographical report on a composer | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doing odd jobs for the betterment of the program
(e.g. filing music, cleaning in the Band Room) | TBD |

AWARDS

Our program recognizes the outstanding achievements of some of its members each season as the band staff and students select people for the following awards. Names of the recipients are displayed on plaques in the Band Room. The awards are presented in May of each year at the annual Band Banquet.

Participation Certificates will be awarded to all members of the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Color Guard, Winter Guard, Winter Drumline, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Bands.

In addition, individual awards are given to members who display excellent musicianship, character, leadership, dedication, and attitude throughout the year. Some of these include, but are not limited to:

- John Philip Sousa Band Award
- Louis Armstrong Jazz Award
- Outstanding Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, and Color Guard
- Most Improved Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, and Color Guard
- Outstanding Class Members
- Outstanding Marcher
- Section Awards
- Best Attitude
- Outstanding Student Aide
- Student Leadership Award(s)
- Drum Major Award(s)
- Honor Band Awards
- All State Award



Students at Damonte Ranch High School can earn a school letter award through their participation in Band. Earning a letter is not easy and signifies achievement that is above and beyond the standards of excellence that are established in the Band program. Students earn points toward their letter for successful participation in a variety of activities. Points accumulate from year to year and are awarded based on the following criteria:

Damonte Ranch High School Bands						
Name _____						
Year _____			Class _____			
	Activity	Points	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
1	Band Class (<i>per class, per semester</i>)	2				
2	Marching Band	5				
3	Student Leadership	4				
4	Private lessons (<i>per quarter</i>)	3				
5	Music Camp (<i>per camp</i>)	2				
6	Audition for All-State/Honor Bands	2				
7	Perform in an All-State/Honor Bands	5				
8	Solo & Ensemble Contest (<i>per event</i>)	3				
9	Winter Drumline/Winterguard	5				
10	Pit orchestra for musical	3				
11	Basketball Band	up to 5				
12	Other (<i>assigned by Director</i>)	up to 5				
13	Concert attendance (<i>must be approved by Ms. Blahnik</i>)	up to 3				
45 points = Letter 90 points = 1-pin 135 points = 2-pin 180 points = 3-pin		TOTALS				

Students earn a Letter Award for accumulating 45 points. After each additional 45 points students are awarded decorative pins to signify receiving a Letter Award multiple times. In the instance that a senior in the Band Program has received a Letter Award and three subsequent pins, a unique and distinguished Senior Band Letter will be awarded upon the successful completion of their fourth full year in the Band Program at the Spring Band Banquet. Students can be awarded points toward their letter for other extracurricular musical activities at the discretion and with the approval of the Band Director. The Band Director also reserves the right to deduct letter points for inappropriate behavior, missing performances, excessive absenteeism, or other conduct inconsistent with the ideals of the Band program.

DRUM MAJOR

Each spring auditions for the following season's Drum Major(s) will be held. The selected students will begin their duties as soon as the results are announced. The Drum Major position is responsible for taking attendance during rehearsals, assisting the Director and Staff during rehearsals and correcting individual errors during marching fundamentals. Drum Majors may be asked to attend some Staff and Booster meetings on an as needed basis. Special workshops will be conducted each spring to provide training for those who wish to prepare for the Drum Major audition. Attendance of a summer Drum Major Camp is a requirement.

SECTION LEADER

The Section Leader is quite simply a student instructor for their respective wind, percussion or color guard sections. They will be asked to often lead sectionals. They are chosen at the end of the current school year and announced at the Band Banquet for the following year. The selections will be based upon performance and teaching abilities. Each Section Leader is responsible for reporting absentees to the Drum Major(s) at the start of every rehearsal and performance. Section Leaders may be asked to attend a leadership camp.

BAND COUNCIL

The Band Council consists of approximately six to eight veteran wind, percussion and color guard members who show outstanding loyalty and imagination. This Council will meet twice a month from August to November and once a month thereafter. In the fall, they discuss band issues such as the group's progress, morale, gripes, and other miscellaneous issues and report directly to the Director. Applications for the Band Council are submitted in the spring for the following school year.

BAND COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Members of the Band Council elect the Band Council President. He/she supervises meetings and leads discussions. The Band Council President reports the results of these meetings to the other band members. The President will greet incoming guests to our school and concerts, organize and take part in assembled committees, organize concert workers, and attend all concerts where the Damonte Ranch High School Band Program is represented. The Band Council President also will attend all Band Booster general meetings.

BAND COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT

Members of the Band Council elect the Band Council Vice-President. He/she helps to supervise meetings and assist the President as needed. This person's main duty is the complete supervision and organization of the Band Room. The Vice-President will be responsible for assembling a team to assist in the Room maintenance. Additionally, this responsibility entails maintenance of all chairs and stands.

BAND COUNCIL LIBRARIAN

This person is in charge of all music for the Band Program. The amount of time needed to complete this position successfully will differ from person to person. The music for each Band member must be passed out, collected after it is performed, sorted, and filed away. There will be times when a great deal of work is required and those where there may be nothing to do whatsoever. Multiple librarians are a possibility.

BAND COUNCIL SECRETARY

This person is responsible for submitting all meeting minutes to the Director and posting information for the band on a need-to-know basis.

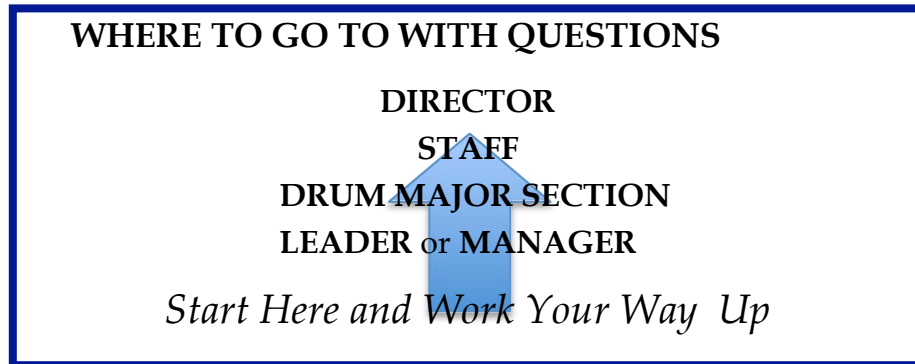
BAND COUNCIL HISTORIAN

This person is going to have the project of cataloging the band's awards and history. This will also be the contact person for the Yearbook Staff to go to for photos and any pertinent Band program information.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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The Director's position is one that often seemingly requires her to be in more than one place simultaneously. Since this is impossible, we are fortunate to be able to bring in some very talented individuals, many experts in their fields, to work with our Band. Please always treat them with respect and know that your success is in their best interest.



BAND BOOSTERS

Band functions require numerous volunteers involved in a variety of functions to be successful. These volunteer duties include fundraising coordinators; chaperones; assistance with the loading of props, instruments and other paraphernalia; uniform fitting and maintenance; the general care and feeding of the students; and numerous miscellaneous responsibilities.

Band fund raising activities are planned and carried out by the Boosters on an as needed basis. Plans have been made for a number of different fund-raising events this year. Additionally, the organization strives to create and foster better channels of communication among all Damonte Ranch Band parents.

General membership meetings are held on one Wednesday of each month throughout the year as per the calendar. Meetings are held in the Band Room starting at 6:30pm. Dates may be seen on the calendar at www.drhsband.org.

The DRHS Band Program has several means of relaying important information to students and parents. Each of the following is an important link between Ms. Blahnik, the Band Parents and the students. Please make note of each of the communication lines so as to stay better informed. *Email is the best way to get in touch with Ms. Blahnik.*

Band Office

If you need to contact Ms. Blahnik or any member of the Damonte Ranch Staff, the DRHS Main Office will get you a connection directly to the Band Office. Additionally, an answering machine is on this line. Please, do call if your student cannot attend a practice or performance due to unforeseen circumstances or an emergency. However, this is to be used only after email and cell phone.

Band Website *www.drhsband.org*

The Band has a fabulous website that is updated almost **daily** with a yearly and weekly calendar, current events, announcements, downloadable forms, Booster details, and a host of other important information. We hope you utilize this tool to its maximum potential. Please, check the site often.

Parent Liaisons

From time to time, we will activate a group of parent volunteers to call home to pass along information or seek volunteers for an activity or fundraiser when time is an issue.

Twitter

The Band has a page on the social network. Be sure to follow us!

Facebook

The Band has three pages on the social network. Check them out for fabulous photos, informative posts and events. They are: Damonte Ranch High School Band, Damonte Ranch High School Winterguard and Damonte Ranch High School Winter Drumline



The following are questions you may have regarding the Band Program at Damonte Ranch High School. Our goal at Damonte Ranch is to keep parents and students well informed and to make the transition from middle school to high school a safe and comfortable one for all involved.

✚ WHY IS BAND IMPORTANT IN HIGH SCHOOL?

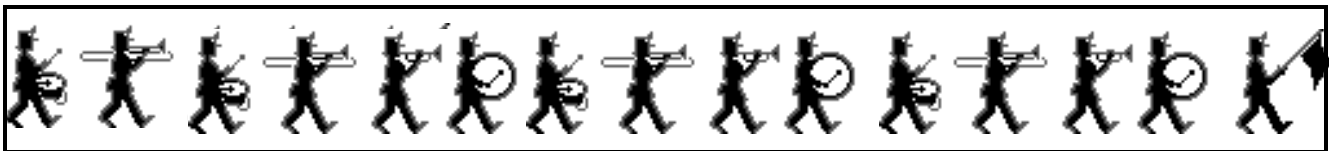
In these uncertain times, parents are even more interested in providing a well-rounded education for their children. High School is one of the most critical times in a student's social and intellectual development. Music is an integral part of a student's growth both intellectually and emotionally. In order for students to succeed in life they need to feel secure, loved, challenged, and proud of their achievement. Band fulfills all of these needs. As a matter of fact, you will find many of the best students at Damonte Ranch participating in Band. That kind of success is found in the Band Room because we strongly believe:

- ❖❖ Students in Band develop discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- ❖❖ Band offers creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- ❖❖ A student's social skills, self-esteem, and positive attitude are developed through Band.
- ❖❖ Music is one of the few skills that last a lifetime and improves with age.
- ❖❖ Band teaches students to strive for excellence. In a highly technological, materialistic society, we need the special pleasures that music can provide to help us establish the *quality* of our life in a world preoccupied with *quantity*.

✚ I HAVE HEARD THAT BAND TAKES A LOT OF STUDENT'S TIME. WHAT COMMITMENTS ARE INVOLVED?

Some parents are concerned that their student will be over involved, will not have time to study, or will not budget his or her time well. Band does provide the students with a lot of activities throughout the year, but we would not have it any other way! Band teaches students to budget their time effectively. Band does not limit students, because the majority of our members are active in other organizations. One important factor is that Band students can participate in sports as well as Band. This is a major concern for some students. **It is proven statistically that students work best when they are active and doing things that challenge them and that they enjoy!**

Marching Band starts the year off with an exciting Band Camp before school begins. We then rehearse during the school day, some weeknights and occasional weekends. All additional Marching Band rehearsals cease about 2.5 months after school begins. After Marching Band, Symphonic Band performances, competitions, and festivals occur throughout the school year.



✚ WHAT IS BAND CAMP?

Because rehearsal time is limited when school is in session, we meet in June and July before school begins with additional staff to help students learn their music and marching fundamentals. It is very similar to why the fall sports teams begin practice prior to the start of school.

Additionally, this is a "get acquainted" time for Band veterans and an orientation period for the freshman. During Band Camp, we also try to hold several social events for the students and their parents that will further develop the much-desired camaraderie that our Staff desires. All dates and times are on the calendar located at www.drhsband.org.

HOW LONG DOES MARCHING BAND LAST?

Marching Band is active only a small portion of the school year. The last commitment of the Marching Band is usually toward the third weekend or so in November. At this time, the whole group is dispersed amongst our smaller ensembles. See *Course Offerings* on page 8.

IN WHAT WAYS CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

There are many ways to get involved with the Band Program. What a great way to get involved with your student's education! At the first meeting of the year we will give you a chance to sign up for involvement in many of the Band's activities. There is never any pressure. It is simply a lot of fun and a great feeling to work with students and be a part of the Damonte Ranch Band Program.

HOW ARE TRIPS CHAPERONED?

The Band travels to certain festivals and competitions throughout the year. There may be an additional trip in the spring if funding allows. Parents will be informed of any additions to the calendar in a more than timely fashion. The Band Boosters have a member on its Board of Directors who plans the trips and provides sufficient chaperones (*usually at a ratio of one parent to every 6-8 students*). Trips are carefully organized and rules are strictly enforced. We try to take as many parents on trips as space will allow. Fill out the Volunteer Form on the website if you even think you will be involved.

WHAT ARE THE BAND BOOSTERS?

The Damonte Ranch Band Boosters is a support group for the Band Program at Damonte Ranch High School. Meetings are held monthly. Issues are discussed and the fundraising projects are organized through these meetings. See the Band Booster heading on page 15.

HOW WILL I BE KEPT INFORMED OF PERTINENT BAND INFORMATION?

This Handbook is the main body of information for the school year. The Band calendar, located at www.drhsband.org, is updated regularly. Trip itineraries are given to students in advance. General parent meetings are held regularly throughout the year. Band Booster board members can be contacted at any time in order to receive the information that you may need. Also, during the school year the Band publishes newsletters containing important information about upcoming events and trip itineraries.

WILL MY SON OR DAUGHTER BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE ALL OF THE REQUIRED CLASSES AND TAKE BAND AT THE SAME TIME?

YES! Even with our block schedule, there are many students who not only take a Concert Band class and Marching Band, but also are concurrently in Jazz Band, Music Theory, Choir or Orchestra. The most important thing, of course, is careful planning. You can take Band with your required classes and still have room for other electives if you sit down and plan for it during the student's first year of high school. Your student's counselor is an excellent source of help for program planning. Students have also been able to participate in sports concurrently with the Band Program; **we exclude no one!**

MY CHILD IS INTERESTED IN OTHER THINGS THAT DAMONTE RANCH HAS TO OFFER. WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREEING UP ELECTIVES?

If other electives look attractive to your student, there are many options for students that will be discussed with them during their freshman year. Planning long term is the key. However, careful time management, summer school, and challenge tests are all viable options to create more space in their schedules.

✚ IS IT DIFFICULT TO BE IN BAND AND SPORTS AT THE SAME TIME? -18-

This is perhaps one of the most frequently asked questions. The best way to find out how well this works is to talk to a student that is currently doing both. The sports coaches, the Athletic Director and the Band Staff will sit down in the spring and work out any foreseeable conflicts. Unforeseeable conflicts always will occur, but we will try very hard to work it out with the coach and student. We want students to feel they can try many things as long as they are committed to doing them all well. If there is a problem we will discuss it with the student and try to reach a viable solution that makes the student feel uncompromised.



✚ YOU SAY THAT YOU CAN DO OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE SAME TIME AS BAND, BUT I NOTICE ON THE CALENDAR THAT SOMETIMES EACH ONE HAS AN EVENT ON THE SAME DAY. WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THESE CONFLICTS?

All activities are important, but a hierarchy of importance exists. If one group has a practice and the other has a game or performance, then the game or performance takes precedence. If both have a performance or game (*unusual*), then the most important event takes precedence. This will be discussed and decided upon by the Director of Bands and the involved supervisor, coach or Athletic Director. **If both groups have rehearsals or practices, then the time should be split equitably among the two activities.**

We have had dozens of students each year participate successfully in Band and sports as well as their church youth groups. It just does not make sense for a student to have to abandon their enjoyment of music for sports or visa-versa. The students that participate in more than one activity are often some of the best academic students at Damonte Ranch. Winter and spring sports rarely, if ever, conflict with a Band activity. We will do whatever it takes to offer music to our students!

✚ MY SON/DAUGHTER SEEMS TO BE UNINSPIRED ABOUT BAND. WHAT CAN I TELL THEM ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT MIGHT HELP MOTIVATE THEM TO GIVE BAND A TRY?

Try this analogy: Band is like ice cream. Although ice cream is all located in the same section of the grocery store, there are hundreds of different flavors and types. High school Band is a completely different flavor and consistency than middle school band. The level of performance increases, the quality increases, and students get to travel to new and exciting places. Even though they feel unmotivated or burnt out about Band, as soon as they see what the high school program is about, they cannot help but be motivated about Band, school, and life!

Giving up on music could also be compared to the painful process of building a house only to never complete the roof! You are never going to realize the potential of the house because it was never completed. Beginning Band can be compared to the foundation of the structure. Middle school Band is the walls. High school Band is the roof. It is also important to point out how many parts of the roof there are. There are many, many components to this one part of the whole house. Only by going through the complete construction process will your student be able to fully understand and appreciate the experience. Build the whole house and find out what true living is all about!

Schedule of MANDATORY Events:

Marching Band

See Calendar

Concerts:

Fall Concert - October 24, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Winter Concert - December 11, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Zone Concert - February 27, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Festival Concert - TBA *Solo & Ensemble Superior Ratings may be featured here*

Spring Concert - May 30, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

ImPACt Concert - June 1, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Other Events:

Solo & Ensemble - February 2, 2019

Honor Band/Honor Jazz Auditions - November 28, 2019

All-State Band/All-State Jazz Auditions - January 2019

Honor Band Concert - February 12, 2019

Honor Band Rehearsals - TBA

Honor Jazz Band Concert - January 18, 2019

Honor Jazz Band Rehearsals - TBA

Jazz in Schools - February 9, 2019

WCSD Band Festival - March 19, 2019

All-State Band/Jazz Band in Las Vegas - April 4- 7, 2019 *DURING BREAK*

Reno Jazz Festival - April 25, 2019

Graduation Performance - TBA

Other Performances - TBA

These dates do not include Winter Drumline, Winter Guard, or additional Jazz Band Performance Demands

Ms. Blahnik can be contacted on Remind 101. See hand-out for details

Damonte Ranch High School Main Office: 775.851.5656 (phone)

775.851.5663 (fax)

Damonte Ranch High School Band Website: www.drhsband.org

Donations to the Band are tax deductible.