

DRHS Band Parent Survival Guide

Welcome!

Your child is an important member of one of the most successful music programs in Nevada as well as one of the most outstanding programs at Damonte Ranch High School.

As a parent of a developing musician, you have been an important part of your child's growth and witnessed their joy of participation in band!

Now, your consistent supportive actions will provide them opportunities for ongoing development of life skills, self-esteem and creative expression. Hopefully, this guide will answer your questions and provide guidance to not just survive as a band parent – but enjoy the wonderful experience of band!

Events & Meetings:

Monthly Parent Meetings --- Band parent meetings are on a Wednesday, held at 6:30pm in the Band Room or Theater. It is important that you attend. The meetings are informative, productive, entertaining and offer opportunities for your involvement and service. Your voice and participation are important to the ongoing success of DRHS Band! Check the calendar for more details!

Marching Camps & Rehearsals – There will be a ***Mini Camp*** for 4 days after schools is out, Monday through Wednesday June 11 - 13 – please see the online calendar at www.drhsband.org. There are sectionals that occur one night a week, beginning in July. The ***full band camp*** will be 2 weeks before school begins, it is scheduled to begin in the afternoons.

Drop off: Being on time means the students are at the practice area with music and instrument and ready to go. *“Early is on time. On-time is late.”* ***Pick-up:*** Please be on time. Ms. Blahnik works hard at getting the students released on time. It is hard when students' rides are late and staff has to hang out until the ride arrives. Every effort is made to have the students released on time, however, clean up may run things over, so your patience and help is greatly appreciated.

Supplies needed for all rehearsals & Camps: Instrument(s), music, water, water, water (It can be very hot during rehearsals, it is recommended to send a large or gallon size bottle that is half frozen.), a dark-colored towel to put their things on, shoes (they must have a tennis type shoe that will roll, no skate shoes), comfortable clothing, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, snacks, lunch for full practices and a positive attitude.

Marching Competitions – The marching band will perform many times throughout the fall season. The most important times are at competitions. All students are required to attend. If for any reason a student cannot attend a rehearsal or competition, please see the www.drhsband.org (*downloads*) for the form that needs to be submitted prior to the event. There are local and out of town competitions. The out of town competitions may require one or two nights in a hotel. Parents are invited and encouraged to travel and provide support. Parents are needed to help move equipment on and off the field, as well as feed the students, help them to dress and anything else to make the trips successful. Please look at the calendar to see the scheduled competitions and plan ahead to attend!

➤➤ ***The Damonte Marching Invitational (DMI)*** – We host a marching contest! Typically, around 12 schools come to participate, so there is a very large crowd. We sell concessions, manage parking and have a great time. We raise about \$5,000 from this fundraiser. This *event is held* in October. *We need a lot of parent volunteers for this event, please come out and be part of the team!*

- **Festivals** --- These are regional events and are usually held at a school or UNR. Parents are always welcome to watch; there may be a small entrance fee, but many are free.
- **Band BBQ** – This is usually held on a Saturday in September. It is a chance for the families to come and watch the students perform and to get to know one another. The band supplies the meat for burgers and families are asked to bring drinks, dessert or a salad.

Band Days – All band students are **required** to attend. Three times a year the band members, in uniform, go door---to---door in Damonte Ranch zoned neighborhoods and ask for donations. If no one is home, an envelope is left and many are returned with a donation. Many parent drivers are needed for this event. It is a nice way to get to know some of the students. This fundraiser is quick and easy and earns greater than \$12,000 annually. Not bad for three ½ days effort!

Craft Fair – 1st Saturday of December. We use Reno Crafters website to rent booths. We use the hallways of the school. We sell concessions and raffle tickets. Typically, this fundraiser raises approximately \$4,000.00. We collect a fee from each vendor to rent the booth, as well as collecting a raffle price from each. This gives a huge selection of raffle prizes. Students help set up vendors and some parent volunteers are needed. It is a lot of fun!

December Holiday Meeting--- This is our “Parent only” social meeting, held at a parent’s home. Parents bring food to share and something to drink. It’s a lot of fun with a little business.

Winter Band Programs---

- **Drumline** –The season runs the end of November through March. There are Fair Share fees for participation. This is an extracurricular activity. Uniforms and travel are involved. As the season draws near there will be information on the website and Charms.
- **Winterguard** – The season runs the end of November through March. There are Fair Share fees for participation. This is a class that runs from 2:35pm to 4:10 on A days, plus evening rehearsals. Uniforms and travel is involved. As the season draws near there will be information on the website and Charms.
- **WCSD Honor Band & Concert** – Auditions are in November and the concert is in February; sign up with Ms. Blahnik.
- **WCSD Honor Jazz Band & Concert:** Auditions in November and the concert is in January. Sign up with Ms. Blahnik.

Band Banquet – This is held in May. This is a time for parents and students to come together for a meal and for the students’ to be recognized. There are annual awards given out and it is a time to say goodbye to the seniors. There is usually a picture video and other reminders of the year. The food is great, the meal is free to band students and it’s a time to visit.

Uniforms

Marching Band Season---

Base layer: Needed for under the uniform. The base layer is a thermal under garment. It can be called *Base Layer*, *Under Armor*, but not Long John’s, we DO NOT want waffle pattern, it is undesirable. The “Base Layer” needs to be **white and long**, for both pant and shirt. There are two purposes for this item, 1) warmth, and 2) so that the students can change into their uniforms without being uncomfortable because they change in the band room, all together. There are no dressing rooms to change in. No brightly colored or printed underwear, it can show through the uniform.

Battery and Wind Sections: wear a white bibber (pant) and white jacket. Each year a new sash is sewn to complement the show! *Gauntlets* are attached at the wrist and go part way up the arm, they trim

out the uniform around the gloves and sleeves and give the marcher a trimmed look. The *Shako* is the hat they wear and a *plume* (tall feathered feature) is attached at the top just prior to a performance. *Gloves* are either black or white, depends on the gauntlet color and show design. The *shoes* are white Vipers. New students buy them through the uniform parent. They usually cost \$40 per pair; this is above the cost of the share fair fee. *Socks*, each student must provide and wear long white socks for each performance. They CANNOT be ankle socks.

This year, a system for laundering the uniforms will be initiated. Students will sign-up to be responsible for washing of their section's uniforms to share the responsibility of taking care of our uniforms! Mrs. Parlane, our incredible Uniform Coordinator, will be providing more information.

Pit members: Depending on the show, pit members may wear a white bibber and jacket uniform or a costume matching the theme of the show. There may be an extra cost for shoes, above the fair share cost.

Guard members: The guard members wear a costume that matches the theme of the show. There may be an extra cost for shoes, above the fair share cost.

Concerts--- Wind Ensemble will have their first concert as early as October. **Female Students** should wear nice black pants and full or $\frac{3}{4}$ 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)

Parent Involvement:

Payments--- Charms system is used for account inquiries and other valuable band information.

Payments need to be paid directly to the band treasurer/box on Ms. B's door, and not the bookkeeper. Credit card payments can be taken by the school bookkeeper. There is 2.75% to you for payments made with a credit card. The lock box on Ms. B's door is an easy way to drop payment off. If you need a receipt, Ms. B or the treasurer can provide one. **Band fees are not optional.**

Unfortunately, band costs are high. For example, the 2013 marching band traveled to Las Vegas, it cost \$27,000 for the buses, hotel, the cost of gas to get the equipment there and each contest had an entry fee. Actual Marching Band costs are about \$900.00 per student! However, your child is only charged for a "**fair share**" amount. Typically, the student's out---of---pocket cost is about 60% of the total cost; the rest is raised through general fundraising. Important to know --- there are fundraising opportunities for your child to pay their own fees and provide funds to the band. **Assistance with Payments:** If needed, discuss with the treasurer or Ms. Blahnik early to learn about ways to meet your financial support for your child.

Fair Share Payment Fundraising---* 100% goes towards your child's fair share/student fees.*

*Every band student has opportunities to earn **all or part** of their Fair Share!*

Here are some ways:

Z---books – coupon book sales (Fall Marching Season)

Chocolate Sales--- winter

Cookie Dough Sales – Spring

Baskin Robbins/Port of Subs – 2x a year

Goodies Lemonade Sales – Parents and/or Band members, 16 years and older can volunteer for Lemonade sales during certain Reno events, and Hot August Nights and several others.

Script – Gift card purchase program, percentage varies. Sign up at ShopwithScrip.com. Family enrollment code is: 23B5A8D2424L3 *Check it out, easy way to earn towards fair share!*

****Excess of these fees CAN be carried over to the next band year but are not refundable.**

Fair Share/Band Fund Fundraisers – 25% goes to the band, 75% towards fair share fees***

Sponsorships: Company or business donations sponsor the band. Our sponsorship program raises

several thousand dollars. We have students/parents who solicit donations from area businesses. This can easily raise \$15,000 or more, 25% of the money collected goes towards the student's fair share fees. See the DRHS Band Website for more information and brochures.

****Excess of the 25% sponsorship fundraiser towards Fair Share fees CANNOT be carried over to the next band year.*

Aces: the band takes on up to 30 games a season to work booth 1.

****Excess of the 75% towards fundraised Fair Share fees CAN be carried over to the next band year.*

Other General Band Fundraising – 100% of profit goes to the band (nothing towards your student's fair share portion). These events are crucial to earn funds to support the functioning of the band and include: The Damonte Marching Invitational, Band Aid Days, Craft Fair, Festivals and Grocery Store programs: Raley's, Save Mart, Smith's and Safeway. Please sign up today at these stores!

Non---profit Volunteer Opportunities--- Parent help is always needed, so please volunteer regularly. Some parents don't because their child does not want them, well **we do!** There is always something to be done – so every parent is capable to help. Make sure you are **getting regular emails** through Charms. The charms calendar has volunteer requests and signups. All emails are sent through Charms. You can create adult contacts for your student. Charms login: charmsoffice.com, School: DamonteRanchBand, Passcode: your student's school ID #. Make sure your email address and telephone number are correct. If you still are not getting emails when school begins, send an email to Ms. Blahnik and we will get that taken care of.

Many service opportunities exist for parents – here's a few:

Providing Food & Care – At certain times and events, meals are provided to the band. Parents are asked to cook, buy, or serve and donate items.

Costume Making: Typically, we work during rehearsal times at the start of Marching and Winter seasons. Parents meet in the band room. There are many things that need to be done; cutting fabric, machine and hand sewing, ironing and other easy tasks. Experience is helpful, but not required!

Show Equipment – Parents are needed to build and create props. Each show requires set props to enhance the performance. These props need to be built, stored, moved and transported. The DRHS Band Trailer requires at least a ¾ ton truck to tow. We also need drivers with a Class A, semi driver's license to drive a semi---truck and trailer. Let us know if you can help ☺☺

Drivers – Parents are needed to drive students around on the Band Aid Days. Simply fill out Washoe County School System paperwork for *volunteering* and *transportation of students'* forms. Forms are on the website, DRHSBand.org

How to Communicate---

www.drhsband.org – the band website with the **calendar** is always being updated for many months out. If you need to know the Christmas schedule, there may be things scheduled already! Facebook, Charms, Email and our Website are the primary sources for information. *Facebook sites:* Damonte Ranch High School Band, Damonte Ranch High School Winter Drumline, and Damonte Ranch High School Winter Guard.

Charms: Charmsoffice.com, School: DamonteRanchBand Passcode: your student's ID # _____

Texting: sign up with Remind. Information is on the DRHSband.org website. Your student and you can sign up. There are different sign---ups for each program, class or group.

Contact information is on the website: DRHSband.org

*******PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP! Parent involvement is crucial to the success of our students! *******

