



Junior High Band Handbook

2016-17 School Year

Dawson-Boyd Public Schools

Ms. Annie Zacho, Band Director

INTRODUCTION

This handbook serves as a guide and introduction to the policies, procedures, projects, and activities of the Dawson-Boyd Bands in conjunction with all school regulations and policies. The information provided in this handbook is subject to change at any time to adequately serve the continuous progress of the band program.

PHILOSOPHY ON MUSIC EDUCATION

An education in music offers students the opportunity to nurture self-discovery, learn self-discipline and create self-awareness. No matter their age, each student in the group is a part of something that is bigger than themselves. This partnership fosters growth and helps students to discover their true identity, musically and personally. Music teaching goes beyond the traditional curriculum, as students are expected to connect with their emotions and are constantly asked to reach their highest potential. Teaching a student about emotion is not included in the lesson plan. When a student makes music, they are asked to shape a higher understanding of themselves and others.

Every single student enrolled in the public school system is entitled to a high quality education in music. As a curricular subject in the school day, music will provide every student with a chance to collaborate and connect with others. This will impact the lives of students in the best way possible, by giving them a potential outlet to express their feelings. When students participate in music, they come together as one to create music and blend their different experiences, backgrounds and beliefs.

POLICIES

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

I. Respect

- A. Respect for self
- B. Respect for others
- C. Respect for equipment
 1. Equipment includes all instruments, music and other materials in the band room.
 2. **Percussion** – All sticks, music and instruments must be returned to their respective locations. Always leave the area the way it was found.

II. Conduct

- A. Band members are expected to follow the guidelines and policies as stated in the DBHS Student Handbook. In the interest of best representing our community and each other, none of the following behaviors will be tolerated and should they occur, will be addressed

using the existing school policy: violations to property, use of profanity, possession and/or use of contraband, gambling, knives or weapons, sexual harassment, bullying, hazing, theft, etc.

- B. Should a student exhibit inappropriate behavior during the curricular day, the following system will be utilized:
1. 1st offense – verbal warning
 2. 2nd offense – reduced participation points (at discretion of the director)
 3. 3rd offense – parent phone call
 4. 4th offense – student/parent conference
 5. 5th offense – referral to administration for further action

III. Attendance

- A. Above all, students must adhere to the attendance policy outlined in the DBHS Student Handbook, available on the DBHS website.
- B. Arrive to class on time and be ready to go as soon as the bell rings. As the saying goes, “if you’re early, you’re on time. If you’re on time, you’re late.” It is important to be prompt.
- C. Be sure to have all necessary materials ready for rehearsal. (i.e. reeds, valve oil, sticks/mallets, etc.)
- D. **Unexcused Absences** – “Students who are in grades 7-12 are allowed a maximum of six unexcused absences per quarter. Even though an absence may be considered unexcused, it is still the responsibility of the parent to notify the school that their child will not be in school” (DBHS Handbook). Absences due to illness must be followed up with a phone call/email/note from home, confirming the validity of the absence.
- E. **Performance Attendance** – students are expected to attend **all** scheduled performances, including concerts and large group contest. If an absence must occur, the request must be submitted **AT LEAST two weeks** prior. If an emergency situation arises, the director must be notified. Regardless of type of absence, the student will be expected to complete an assignment in place of the absence. The assignment type will vary.

IV. No gum, food or drink in the band room

- A. Water is acceptable, but other types of drinks, foods and gum can damage instruments and our environment.

V. Cell Phones

- A. Cell phones can be a great communication tool, but the use of cell phones in the band room is not allowed. The text you want to send or the status you want to post can wait.

VI. Seating

- A. Seating for the ensemble will take place at the beginning of the year. The initial seating is by no means meant to deter students from success, as they will strive on whichever part they are placed. Do not let the number fool you...third part is JUST as important as first! Parts will be rotated throughout the year.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

I. Instruments

- A. Students must be sure that their instrument has a **case** and a **nametag**. Many of the available lockers do not have actual locks on them, so it is important for students and parents to know that the director is not responsible for instruments lost, stolen or damaged. Students should keep their instrument in their respective assigned locker at the beginning of the year and not use space that does not belong to them.
- B. If using a personal instrument, be sure to keep the information on your instrument handy:
 - 1. Serial Number
 - 2. Manufacturer
 - 3. Model number
 - 4. Place of purchase
- II. Extra reeds, valve oil and other additional materials you may need for your instrument are very important to have...you never know when you will need them!
- III. School owned instruments are available to check out for a \$25 fee. This fee covers future maintenance/repairs. **Fees are due September 16th, 2016.**
- IV. Pencil
 - A. Writing in your music is an important part of what we do! Mental notes can only go so far...mark up your music, but ONLY with a pencil.
- V. Concert Dress Code
 - A. Unless otherwise specified, concert dress is as follows:
 - 1. MEN**
 - Black shoes/socks
 - Black dress pants
 - White dress shirt
 - Black vest and bowtie (school provided)
 - 2. WOMEN**
 - Black shoes
 - Black dress pants
 - White dress shirt (blouse, sweater, etc)
 - Black vest and bowtie (school provided)

- B. No accessories with excessive sparkles, shine, etc. that would detract from the performance.
- C. Failure to adhere to the dress code above will result in the student being sent home to change into appropriate clothing.

GRADING POLICY

GRADING SCALE

(as outlined in the Dawson-Boyd High School Handbook)

Grade	GPA/Percentage			
A	4.0/100	3.9/99	3.8/98	
A-	3.7/97	3.6/96	3.5/95	3.4/94
B+	3.3/93	3.2/92		
B	3.1/91	3.0/90	2.9/89	
B-	2.8/88	2.7/87		
C+	2.6/86	2.5/85		
C	2.4/84	2.3/83	2.2/82	
C-	2.1/81	2.0/80		
D+	1.9/79	1.8/78		
D	1.7/77	1.6/76	1.5/75	
Below 75% is an F				

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION – 70%

In-Class – 30%

It is essential for each student to attend rehearsal and actively participate each day. If students are unable to attend rehearsal due to a school sponsored activity or other circumstance that is accepted, the absence will be excused. Students will receive five participation points each day for attending rehearsal and being attentive and focused. If students exhibit disruptive behavior, points may be docked accordingly. If an instrument is forgotten on any given day, students must follow along with their stand partner and fill out a sheet about that day's rehearsal.

Performances – 20%

Concerts are our way of showcasing the hard work that we have been doing in class...therefore, it is very important to be in attendance. If a student is unable to attend a concert, the director must be notified in advance, as outlined in the

attendance policy under 'Classroom Behavior and Rehearsal Etiquette'. See the concert calendar to save the dates. Performances include the following:

- Concerts

Lessons – 20%

Students will be required to have 5 individual lessons per quarter and will take place before, during or after school. These weekly lessons provide individual attention to students' playing technique and consistently improve their skill level. Remember...practice is a crucial part of the process: you get out of lessons what you put into them!

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS – 20%

Playing Assessments – 10%

Students will be expected to complete playing assessments that assess their work throughout the year. These will occur once per quarter. Material assessed in each playing test will be determined by the director and may include the following:

- I. Excerpts from band repertoire
- II. Scales
- III. Etudes
- IV. Solo Works

Students will be notified in advance of what the playing test will consist of and will have an ample amount of time to prepare.

Written Assignments/Assessments – 10%

Each quarter, there will be written assignments and assessments that students will complete, inside and outside of class. These may include the following:

- I. Listening assignments
- II. Concert reflections
- III. Group collaboration
- IV. Attending an additional concert

Practice Cards – 10%

As a member of the Dawson-Boyd Junior High Band, practice is crucial to the development of students as musicians. Each month, students will receive a blank monthly calendar where they can track their individual practice time. Students will be required to have the following amount of practice time each week:

- I. 7th Grade - 90 minutes per week**
- II. 8th Grade – 120 minutes per week**

The way that practice time is distributed is up to each student, but it is recommended to have 5-6 days of practice each week. At the end of each week, the student and a parent/guardian must initial to verify the amount of practice and

at the end of each month, a signature by both parties must be provided. Ms. Zacho will randomly check the practice cards throughout each month, so be prepared!

- I. REMINDER: Stay honest when marking amount of practice time...it is understood that not every day may include practice, but please use academic integrity when completing practice cards.

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- I. Honor Bands
 - A. The state of Minnesota has many opportunities for students to participate in honor bands throughout the year, which help to further music making and expand students' horizons. The way students are selected varies by requirements...some require director nomination, while others select students by submitting materials. The director will provide further information about these ensembles throughout the year. Some opportunities include:
 1. MBDA 6-8 Honor Band

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE AT HOME PRACTICE MATERIALS

- I. Individual practice is an integral part of growing as a musician. Thus, here are some recommended tools that will help you advance as a musician in your individual practice:
 - A. Metronome
 - B. Tuner
 1. If you own a smartphone, there are free apps available for both of these. The app we use in class is called **Band Tools** and is available for free from the App Store. Separate apps include **InsTuner** for a tuner and **Pro Metronome** for a metronome, which are also both available for free. Affordable actual metronomes are also available from our local music stores.
- II. Music stand
- III. Appropriate technique books for the student's instrument
- IV. Recordings of professionals who play the student's instrument
 - A. See Ms. Zacho for assistance on the above.

SAMPLE PRACTICE ROUTINE

Warm-Up

- I. Long Tones
 - A. As we do in band class, listen for a clear/full tone and make sure that your body is relaxed but air is moving quickly
- II. Scales

- A. Review fingerings, vary types of articulation (tongued and slurred), increase the speed as you are able

Lesson/Concert Music

- I. Spend time working on both lesson and concert music. Remember to vary up what you practice, as working on one piece for a large amount of time can cause potential frustration. Make your practice time meaningful!
- II. Sample recordings are available on the music publisher's website/available via Ms. Zacho.
- III. When in doubt, start slowly and work your way up in tempo. Always practice using your **best** sounds.
- IV. Last but not least, have fun!

LETTERING

MUSIC AWARDS

Honor points are awarded for participation in various ensembles as follows:

- 10 points for Jr. and Sr. High Choir
- 10 Points for Jr. and Sr. High Band
- 10 Points for Jr. and Sr. High Orchestra
- 3 points for Music Listening Contest
- 3 points for All-State Audition (on wind instrument)
- 2 points for Sr. High Jazz Band
- 3 points for each ensemble or solo performed at contest
- 1 point for attending a music festival
- Extra points may be awarded for additional involvement. See Ms. Zacho if this is applicable.
 - 45 points are required for the student to earn a Major award (music letter)
 - 35 points are required for the student to earn a Minor Award (pin)
 - 20 points in the band areas will earn the student a Band Award (medal)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Annie Zacho, Band Director
Dawson-Boyd Public Schools
848 Chestnut Street
Dawson, MN 56232

Email: azacho@dwby.k12.mn.us

Phone: 320-769-2955

Website: dawsonboydbands.weebly.com

BAND MEMBER CONTRACT 2016-17

I have read the band handbook and understand the obligations, privileges and expectations of being in the Dawson-Boyd Band Program. It is known that any and all applicable policies are subject to change at any time by the band director, Ms. Zacho, and we will note any amendment to this handbook. We are committed to any event that in which the band must participate, and will adhere to the provided calendar. Should a conflict arise involving a band obligation, I will adhere to the established guidelines and procedures in order to resolve the conflict. I agree to abide by the expectations outlined in this handbook and intend to give my greatest efforts to achieve the personal and group goals as a member of the Dawson-Boyd Band Program.

Date

Student Signature

Student's name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian's name (print)

(See reverse for Media Permission Form)

MEDIA PERMISSION FORM

The social media presence of the Dawson-Boyd Band Program is being expanded this year! We want to celebrate successes throughout the course of the school year and plan to highlight the program using the different platforms, including Instagram, Twitter and the blog on the program's website. Photographs of students may be in a group or an individual setting, and could include the first name and last name of the student. Please complete this form and return it with the Band Member Contract.

Please check one of the boxes below:

- I give permission for my child to be photographed and interviewed and permission to have my child's name used.

- I give permission for my child to be photographed, but do not want my child's name used along with the photograph.

- I do not want my child photographed or interviewed and do not want his or her name used.

Date

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

2016-17 STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Dawson-Boyd Bands

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Physical Restrictions or Allergies (if any):

—

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Preferred Email Address(es):

Preferred Phone Number(s): _____



#BandTime #GoBlackjacks