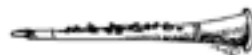


DSMS BAND



HANDBOOK

2003-2004



**DRIPPING SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FIRST SEMESTER
2003-2004**

Tuesday, August 26	Beginning Band Horn Drive - 3:45-7:30 MS Band Hall
Wednesday, October 8	Homecoming Parade - 5:30 p.m. - D.S. Concert and Symphonic Bands
Friday, November 7	H.S. Football Game - 5:20 p.m. - H.S. Cafeteria Concert and Symphonic Bands
Saturday, November 1	TMEA District Band Auditions - a.m. TBA.
Saturday, November 8	TMEA Region Band Auditions - a.m. TBA.
Monday, December 8	Full Rehearsal - 3:45-5:00 - Band Hall Beginning Band Only
Thursday, December 11	Holiday Concert - 7:00 p.m. - M.S. Cafetorium All M.S. Bands
Friday & Saturday, December 12&13	TMEA Region Band Clinic and Concert TBA - qualifying students

ALL DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**DRIPPING SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
SECOND SEMESTER
2003-2004**

Tuesday March 2	Pre-UIL Concert Concert and Symphonic Bands
Wednesday or Thursday March 10 or 11	UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest - Covington M.S. - Time TBA
Founders day weekend	opening ceremony -Fun run Concert and Symphonic Bands
Thursday, May 6	Full Rehearsal - 3:45-5:00 - Band Hall Beginning Band Only
Saturday, May 8	Schlitterbahn Band Contest and day at park - ALL DAY All M.S. Bands
Thursday, May 13	Spring Concert M.S.Cafetorium - TBA All M.S. Bands 7:00 p.m.
Monday -Thursday, May 17 - 20	Mini- Band Camp - D.S. High School All 8th grade students continuing band in H.S. - 4:15 -6:15

ALL DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DRIPPING SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

The Dripping Springs Middle School Band is an active and very prestigious organization which has set very high standards of excellence. These can only be maintained when each member resolves to do his or her best to constantly improve.

1. Participation in band provides a richly rewarding activity in terms of fellowship, healthful recreation, and personal gratification.
2. Although band requires time for individual practice, students do have plenty of time to enjoy a wide variety of other co-curricular activities and are able to maintain excellent scholastic averages.
3. Since many students choose to be in band in conjunction with athletics and other extra-curricular activities, schedules are carefully planned so that there are only minimal conflicts. There are no restrictions in choosing to do both, and any conflicts that do arise will be worked out on an individual basis.
4. Members of the band organization are proud to be a part of a superior program. The band hopes to make the student body, faculty, and administration of Dripping Springs Middle School equally proud of the program. It is with this spirit that another exciting school year begins.
5. In order to maintain a high standard of excellence in the Dripping Springs Middle School Band, it is necessary that the members and parents, acquaint themselves with the regulations, procedures, and traditions of the band program.

This booklet will help to answer many questions regarding policies and regulations. Whenever a question arises, consult this booklet. If unable to find the answer, consult one of the band directors. They are here for the education of all DSMS students and are willing to help in any way possible. Our conference time is 8:30-9:55. Please call to schedule a conference whenever needed.

DSMS phone number: 858-4902 Ext. 122 or 401

**Email: jeff.murphy@dripping-springs.txed.net
jay.larson@dripping-springs.txed.net**

Website: <http://dstigerband.tripod.com>

Conference: A days--2:10-3:35; B Days--9:55-11:20

Jeff Murphy, Jay Larson, Keith Lancaster and Derek Woods
Directors of Bands

BAND HALL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Come into the band hall quietly. Be in your seat with your materials ready for class promptly.
2. If you have a question, raise your hand .
3. Play only your instrument when instructed to do so.
4. Absolutely no food, drinks, candy, or gum are allowed in the band hall.
5. Respect the teacher or other students when they are talking.
6. Respect each other's rights and property.
7. Act sensibly and responsibly when in the band hall.
8. Stay in the band hall until dismissed by the teacher.

CONSEQUENCES

If a student chooses to break a rule, the following consequences will be enforced. Parent contact can and will be made at any time when it is appropriate.

- * First consequence - Warning
- * Second consequence - Band hall time-out, removal from the classroom or lunch SAC
- * Third consequence - Office referral

Each misbehavior will be dealt with on an individual basis depending on the severity of the offense.

ATTENDANCE AT REHEARSALS AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Every member is important to the overall success of a performing band. Consequently, every member is required to attend every performance and rehearsal made by the band organization. Each member of the band depends on each other to attend these performances. One of the primary purposes of a band program is the preparation for and participation in public performances. Students should report to the designated place with enough time to spare to assemble their instrument and equipment, and be ready to play at the assigned time. All rehearsal regulations are in effect during public performances, as well as all regulations stated in the Dripping Springs Middle School DMP and SCC.

A calendar of events is included in the front of this handbook. Students are expected to attend all of these events during the course of the school year. Specific information regarding these events will be given to the student prior to the performance. An excused absence from a public performance will be granted in the case of genuine emergency only. This includes a serious illness of the student or a death in the family. In order for this absence to be excused, the director must have a written account of the incident signed by a parent or doctor within one week of the absence. If the student has an excused absence from a performance, an alternate assignment will be needed to make up the grade. An engagement, family trip, etc., does **not** justify an excused absence. An unexcused absence from an event will result in the student receiving a zero for the performance missed.

If a student becomes academically ineligible to attend a specific performance or rehearsal, an alternate assignment will be given to the student.

Band Participation

In order to maintain your skills as a musician, participation in a band each and every semester is required. In other words, students not enrolled in band for one semester or more, may not rejoin. In addition, every student must complete the minimum skills scale challenge by the last day of school to be eligible for promotion. The scale challenge consists of seven major scales plus a chromatic scale specific to each instrument that should be played from memory at a prescribed tempo. Several opportunities will be made both during class and before/after school for students to complete this requirement.

Materials

All students will be expected to record all assignments in the assignment log. Lost assignment logs can be replaced at the cost of four dollars. The initial purchase of an individually owned instrument will likely be the most expensive purchase the student will need to make. After this initial purchase is made, the other materials are very inexpensive. The following is a list of all REQUIRED materials (as well as some optional ones) that the student will need.

6th Grade

- * Mouthpiece
- * Yamaha Advantage - Book one
(be sure to have the correct book by instrument)
- * Instrument specific supplies
 - Woodwinds - cleaning cloth, reeds, swab, etc.
 - Brass - BERP, valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush, snake, etc.
 - Percussion - Stick Bag with drum sticks, keyboard mallets, and timpani mallets.
- * **Nice dress clothes** for concert performances within school dress code (dresses, skirts for girls; slacks, shirts and ties for boys; Dress shoes for both)
- * Metronome
- * Wire stand (optional, but highly encouraged) - for practice at home
- * Mute (optional) - trumpet and trombone only

7th and 8th Grade

- * Lyre and flip folder
- * Band T-shirt (required to be worn at certain performances)
- * Nice dress clothes for concert and contest performances (all students will need a white tuxedo shirt black slacks, black shoes, and black socks.) NO DENIM
- * Instrument maintenance supplies (percussion excluded)
 - Woodwinds - cleaning cloth, reeds, swab, etc.
 - Brass - valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush, snake, etc.
- * Metronome
- * Wire stand (optional, but highly encouraged) - for practice at home
- * Mute (optional)- for trombones and trumpet players.

INSTRUMENTS

Some instruments are very expensive to purchase and therefore, are available through a check-out procedure from the school. These instruments include: piccolo, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, French horn, baritone, and tuba. There is only a limited number of these instruments available, however there are usually enough to accommodate all of the students needing them. Percussion instruments are provided by the school for the Concert and Symphonic Bands, however the student will need a "percussion kit" for the beginning class and for practice at home.

In order to be issued a school-owned instrument, the parent and student must sign an instrument check-out form acknowledging that they take full responsibility for the instrument. There is a \$40.00 maintenance fee per year for using a school-owned instrument. This fee covers cleaning and minor repair of the instrument on a regular basis. The student is responsible for normal maintenance of his/her instrument and any damage to the instrument during the year. Mouthpieces, reeds, lyres, and other accessories will be provided by the student.

A student who owns his/her own individual instrument should assume the same responsibility and precaution as one with a school-owned instrument. No student should use anyone else's instrument except when given permission by the director and all parties involved. Be sure to have a written record at home of the make, serial number, and finish of your instrument, because this information is necessary if it should be lost or stolen.

The student should keep his/her instrument in good condition at all times. Keep it clean, inside and out; valves and slides working; mouthpiece clean; keys and wood oiled; clarinets swabbed, etc. Keep a supply of valve or slide oil, extra reeds, swab, and whatever else you might need available.

GRADES

Band students will receive grades each six weeks. In the band program special emphasis is placed on the participation of every member in the band, therefore, the participation grade is a large component of the overall academic grade. The participation grade will be determined by active appropriate participation and responsibility.

Success and achievement can be accomplished only through diligent outside of school practice. Practice needs vary with different students, but a minimum of three hours per week of individual practice is required with emphasis on results. A playing exam may be given on any music assigned for students to practice at home. Any playing or written assignment not completed by the due date will be reduced to 70% credit if it is turned in by the next class period. The grade will continue to decrease in increments of ten points for each class period late.

GRADING SYSTEM

Daily/Participation Grades

Daily/participation grades are composed of daily work and participation

- Attendance at weekly sectionals
- In-class assignments
- Homework assignments
- Quizzes - written and playing
- Active appropriate participation in band (playing and learning)
- Having materials every day
- Being a productive member of the band
- Taking instrument home for practice everyday

Test Grades

Test grades are taken from major tests (playing and written) and major performances throughout the six weeks.

Major performances include:

- Homecoming Parade
- Pep-rallies
- Football games
- All concerts and contests.

Grade Calculation

The student's six weeks grade average will be determined by the following system:

Daily and participation grades constitute 25% of the six weeks average. Test and performance grades constitute 75% of the six weeks average.

Any student is welcome to see his/her current grades and/or grade average at any time during the six weeks to check for progress and/or missing assignments. As with all classes at DSMS, a minimum numerical average of 70 is required to pass the class for the year.

Interim Reports

Interim reports go out after the third week in each six week grading period. If a student's numerical average is 75 or below, or if his/her conduct grade is below satisfactory, then the student will receive an interim report.

Practice Procedures

Parents of Band Members,

Your child's progress in band will depend on what is achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your child at home:

Time Schedule - 30 minutes per day is the minimum amount of practice time recommended for the average student. Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule. Don't bring the world to a halt at 6:30 every evening because it's practice time. Kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, reschedule the practice session to an earlier or later time.

Climate - Practicing should be done in an area that is free of distractions away from the TV, radio, stereo, telephone, and family traffic. Good lighting, a straight backed chair, a mirror, and a music stand are definite assets. Reed players should have several *good* reeds available.

Encouraging your child - Spend some time listening to your child practice. Offer constructive criticisms, but choose your words carefully.

It's How You Practice That Counts - Incorrect habits are sometimes more easily developed than correct habits, and a habit is hard to change, therefore, **THINK** when you practice. Don't just go through the motions. Remember, the playing of your instrument comes through the development of coordination, just like any athlete. Impatience is the enemy of the ambitious player. Remember, ***it's not the quantity of time that you practice, but the quality of the time.***

- Set a goal for the session: a scale, an exercise, specific sections of a piece, or even a measure that's giving you trouble. Don't try to do too much at one sitting.
- Isolate a problem or a section in your music. It may be a rhythm, a measure, a line. Work it slowly at first, then build up your speed gradually. Before leaving it, put it together with the rest of the line.
- Repetition of a problem area reinforces muscle memory.
- Rest when you get tired.

SUGGESTED PRACTICE SCHEDULE

<u>Material Practiced</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Long tones; easy drills; breathing exercises	5	Warmup of embouchure and instrument; good tone production
New material; individual improvement; assignments; look ahead	10	Develop new exercises; increase range; new songs; new lessons in book
Familiar exercises and etudes	10	Improvement of finger dexterity; tonguing; and overall fluency
Personal music choices	5	Play things you enjoy

If you only hear selections your child can already play, then the practice time is not being used efficiently. A student will not improve if he/she plays the same thing over and over.

Is your child progressing? - The field of instrumental music is new for your child. He/She is learning to use his/her facial muscles in a different way, and his/her breathing apparatus for a different purpose. There is a new language of symbols (notes) that require the use of mind and body to translate into musical sounds. All this takes time! Even parents who have had band experience have probably forgotten the struggle of producing those first few notes. Parents can evaluate practice sessions by asking:

- 1) Am I hearing attempts at new material (such as higher notes, new rhythms, new exercises) or am I hearing the same old tune daily?
- 2) Is the tone quality becoming more characteristic of the instrument or is the tone harsh, unmusical, or unpleasant?
- 3) Does the familiar tune or exercise move along steadily with some sort of fluent rhythm, or is it halting and jerky with no rhythm?

If you reach the point when your evaluation is consistently coming up negative, please call one of the band directors. The student may be doing fine for his/her grade level; he/she may have hit a temporary plateau; or he/she may be having difficulty in grasping a basic concept that could bring his/her progress to a halt. This last problem may take a joint parent-teacher effort to be corrected.

Please save this letter for future reference.

Parents,

Thank you for taking time to read the preceding letter on establishing good practice habits.

Students are required to take their instrument home **daily** and **every weekend**. On occasion, the directors will announce a day when instruments may be left overnight, but such times are rare. Please call if you ever need to verify a day when horns may be left.

A grade will be given to each student weekly for taking their instruments home on a daily basis. Failure to take an instrument home will result in deductions from this grade. The directors will keep a daily record and parents are welcome to check at any time on their student.

Athletes, students playing large school-owned instruments, and other students who have practices or games until "late" hours after school must make arrangements with the directors. We are willing to work with students **but it is their responsibility to communicate their conflicts.**

DRIPPING SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK 2003-2004

RESPONSIBILITY AND VERIFICATION FORM FOR PARENT AND STUDENT

To ensure that you and your student have received and read this handbook, this form is to be returned to the band directors signed by the parent and student.

PLEASE PRINT

_____	_____	_____
Student's last name	First name	Grade

Home telephone number

I understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the band handbook. I also understand and agree that I will be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in this handbook during band classes, performances, and trips, including school-sponsored travel.

I have also seen the calendar of events for 2003-2004 and agree to make every effort to be in attendance at all of the required events.

I have read the band handbook.

_____	_____
Student signature	Parent/Guardian signature

Dripping Springs Band

TRIP PERMISSION/MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

I give my permission for my child _____ to participate in the Dripping Springs Band and all the trips and activities which they participate in during the 2002-2003 school year.

I understand and have satisfied myself that he/she will be adequately chaperoned both on the way and while at the meetings, and normal precautions will be taken in the interest of his/her safety and well-being. I understand and accept the fact that neither the school district nor its personnel will be held responsible in any way for accidents, misfortunes, or disobedience, and misconduct of my child which might occur in connection with such trips.

You may be assured that my child is being permitted to make these trips with my consent and approval. In addition, I give permission for my child to receive emergency medical treatment in case of illness or injury.

1) List any physical restrictions (if any):

2) List any allergies (if any):

3) List any other information that would be helpful in an emergency:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone Number

Insurance Company

Policy Number

Date