



DOUGHERTY VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Band Program Handbook 2025-2026

DIRECTORS

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Course Requirements

Equipment – We recommend every instrumental music student use:

- their instrument in good working condition*
- a pencil
- music in a folder (provided)
- music stand
- flip folder and lyre (for pep band)
- luggage tag (with name and phone number/address attached to case)
- lock (for band locker, combination or spare key must be given to music director)

****If a student does not have their instrument because it is being repaired, they must bring a note from a parent/store to class that day to excuse the missed participation time.***

Different sections may also need additional supplies.

- **ALL Woodwinds**—proper cleaning supplies (swabs, grease, etc.) clean pads
 - o Flutes – properly adjusted head joint (no dents)
 - o Reeds – at least 4 working reeds at all times (just get a new box)
 - o Double Reeds – at least 2 working reeds at all times
- **ALL Brass** players—valve oil, slide grease
 - o Trumpets – straight mute (cup and/or Harmon mutes for jazz band)
 - o Trombones - a small spray bottle for their slide, straight mute (optional)
 - o French Horns – rotor oil
- **ALL Percussion**— We recommend a stick bag to keep everything together.
 - o 1 pair of hard bell mallets (plastic or brass)
 - o 1 pair of yarn mallets
 - o 1 pair of medium/hard timpani mallets
 - o 1 pair of matching snare drum sticks
- **Rhythm section**— picks, brushes, sticks, cords, tuner/metronome

Materials/Books

- All **band** students will use the Fussell book in class every day and it can be obtained at any local music store.
- **Jazz Band** students will use The Real Book (purchase for your instrument key/clef). We will discuss in class what edition to get.

***** Please see your band director if you need assistance acquiring materials or supplies.***

Policies and Procedures

Students need to be on time to the classroom, have their equipment set up and ready to begin **three minutes** after the tardy bell has rung. If they are not prepared on time, forget their instrument, have a broken instrument (no note from parent/store) or otherwise can't participate in class, the student may not receive full participation credit.

The most important rule we have is **respect**.

- Respect other students.
- Respect the instruments and equipment in the room.
- Respect your right to learn and my right to teach.
- **No food, drinks or candy** are allowed in the music room.
- **No electronics** in class, unless approved by the teacher and is for musical purposes. Turn them off outside and put them away.
- Only play the instrument you play in class. Otherwise, ask for permission.

If a student chooses to ignore these policies, they may receive a detention. Tardies and school policy violations will be handled in accordance with the school rules and procedures outlined in the DVHS handbook.

Donations: Individual courses are no longer asking for or collecting donations. Please support our class and your student(s) by donating to the DVHS Music Boosters or Education Fund. More information can be found on the DVHS website under the "families" tab at the top of the home page. Thank you for your continued support of DVHS Music!

Lockers

Keep your instrument stored in your locker with a lock. The school is not responsible for theft or damage as a result of your failure to place a lock on your locker. Your locker combination and/or a spare key must be turned into your teacher and will only be seen/used by her. Your locker is to be used for your instrument and related supplies only. In accordance with school policy, any damages beyond normal wear and tear of any school equipment (locker, school instruments, music, folders, etc.) will be the sole responsibility of the student and will be replaced if damaged/lost.

Practice/Homework

Music students are expected to practice their instrument at least five different days every week for at least 15 minutes each day. Students will have weekly practice videos to record and turn in to log their practice sessions. 2-3 videos per quarter will be randomly selected to grade. Each session will be worth between 10-20 points. **Late videos will be worth ½ credit for each day late, (i.e. 1st day late 50% of possible points, 2nd day late 25%...etc.).** No exceptions will be made for technical issues.

Practicing music is essential to successful playing just as doing math homework every night is essential to understanding math concepts. Practicing in class is not enough! Taking **private lessons** is a very motivational tool for students. They receive one on one instruction, work on different music other than their school music and get to play with someone who is hopefully very fun and good on their instrument. If you need names of private teachers, please consult the local music stores or contact me.

Dougherty Valley High School will be following the District Homework Policy (AR 6154 and BP 6154), as well as the make up work policy. Both can be found on the District Website as well as the Dougherty Valley High School website.

FOR FAMILIES

Here are a few suggestions that might help with practicing:

Patiently and repeatedly remind your student to practice daily so he or she may properly learn the lessons and music assigned. **Encourage** your student when they become frustrated. Some things in music are learned easily; others require intense and repeated application. **Imagination** is essential in creating a musical atmosphere in the home by streaming interesting musical programs, buying new recordings as gifts or watching musically appealing videos. **Schedule** a regular time for practice. **Never** use practice as a punishment. **Listen** to the practice and acknowledge improvement. **Praise** musical achievement and practice periods that are productive. **Constantly** remind your student of the attributes of commitment, achievement, dedication and his/her contribution to the music program. -taken from notes by Stanley Michalski, Coordinator of Music, Mecklenburg Cath

Performances

"A missed live performance cannot be made up."

Every student is expected to participate and play in every concert. Performances are the culmination of many hours of practice and classroom rehearsal. They are like summative assessments (finals) for the individual, but also represent a team effort. A parent must provide a written note to their child's teacher 2 weeks before the concert if a student is missing a performance (see 'Grading' section for more details). A note will not be accepted within two weeks of a performance. If an excused absence occurs, you will be expected to complete a make up assignment. **No excuses** will be accepted after the concert. An *emergency* is an event or situation that has not been previously planned and is completely unforeseen. Please see 'Grading Section' for more details.

FAMILIES: Please make every effort to attend ALL of your student's performances/concerts. They work very hard in class every day and would love to show off their talent to you (even though they may tell you otherwise). We would love to pack our beautiful theater full of families and friends at all of our concerts!

Formal Concert dress (SB1, SB2, WE1, WE2, and JB)

New members of the Jazz Band, Symphonic Bands, and Wind Ensembles will be fitted for concert uniforms; they are to be worn by all members at formal performances. Concert attire specifications will be outlined at Back to School Night, Incoming Family Night and in class. Please contact your teacher with any questions.

Members of **Concert Band** – see your syllabus for your appropriate concert attire. Your dress code will be discussed at **Back to School Night, Incoming Family night**, and in class. Please contact your teacher with any questions.

Pep Band/Blue Crew

ALL band members will participate in Pep Band, the *Blue Crew*. They will be given a t-shirt to wear at all events. Depending on the weather, they may wear shorts or jeans with their pep band shirt over any other clothes. For school events, the current pep band shirt should be worn all day at school. Students may want to use a **flip folder and lyre** for their music. These items can be purchased at local music stores or possibly from our music boosters.

Grading

All formal performances are worth 100 points. Student attire, effort, and behavior will be factors considered in a performance grade. A missed performance will lower a student's overall grade at least one level. **Only an emergency or a written note 2 weeks in advance from a parent/guardian will excuse a student.** If an excused absence occurs, you will be expected to complete a make up assignment. **No excuses** will be accepted after the concert. An *emergency* is an event or situation that has not been previously planned and is completely unforeseen. If the absence is excused, it will be the student's responsibility to make up the lost points and improve their grade. If the student does not schedule to make up the points within one week of the missed event, the points are forfeited.

Practice videos, class participation and preparedness, effort, written assignments, and sectionals will also be worth points that factor into a student's grade.

The Dougherty Valley High School standard grading scale is used to determine letter grades:

93-100% = A	73-76% = C
90-92% = A-	70-72% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
83-86% = B	63-66% = D
80-82% = B-	60-62% = D-
77-79% = C+	0-59% = F

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Musiel at tmusiel@srvusd.net or Ms. Gibson at lgibson@srvusd.net. Please check the music booster website for up to date information on concerts, activities and other information about band:

<https://dvhs.srvusd.net/StudentsFamilies/Boosters/Music-Boosters/index.html>

Acknowledgement

Students and Families: please read, print, and return the final page of this handbook in class which can be found at the Music Booster website (listed above), use the "Classroom" tab, by Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Teri Musiel and Lauren Gibson
Dougherty Valley High School
Band Directors

