



2026 - 2027 BAND HANDBOOK

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CHS BANDS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Davenport Central High School Bands is to provide a valuable education through musical experiences and performances, and to assist students in achieving their potential as they develop their musicianship, confidence, cooperation, leadership, responsibility, and high standards of excellence.

Communicate

Execute

Nurture

Teamwork

Responsibility

Attendance

Listen

The Davenport Community School District (DCSD) provides equal educational and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex disability, religion, age, ancestry, or actual or potential parental, familial, or marital status. DCSD will take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment, and advancement of women and men, members of diverse racial/ethnic groups, and persons with disabilities for job categories in which any of these groups of people are underrepresented.

It is the policy of the Davenport Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator: Mr. Jabari Woods, Associate Director of Human Resources & Equity (563-336-5089) or Dr. Erica Goldstone, Director of Human Resources & Equity goldstonee@davenportschools.org (563-336-3812), 1702 N. Main St, Davenport, Iowa 52803.

CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES:

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE (Period 3)

Symphonic Wind Ensemble is an auditioned group consisting of the most advanced musicians in grades 10- 12. This band meets daily and performs in 5 concerts along with multiple festivals per year. This ensemble provides sophisticated instrumental experiences through study and performance of masterworks for winds and percussion. Members of SWE are highly encouraged to take private lessons from professional musicians.

WIND SYMPHONY (Period 7)

Wind Symphony is an auditioned group consisting of advanced musicians in grades 10- 12. This band meets daily and performs in 5 concerts along with multiple festivals per year. This ensemble provides sophisticated instrumental experiences through study and performance of masterworks for winds and percussion. Members of Wind Symphony are highly encouraged to take private lessons from professional musicians.

Wind Ensemble (Period 5)

The Wind Ensemble is made up of students in grades 10- 12. This band performs music of a challenging nature and focuses on the continuing development of the musical skills of its members. The Symphonic Band performs in 4 concerts along with 1-2 festivals, annually.

9th GRADE CONCERT BAND (Period 1)

This groups serve as an introduction to the high school band experience at Central High School. Emphasis is placed on developing a base of musical fundamental skills through music and exercises appropriate to the level of the ensemble. Weekly sectionals are required of all students and they are completed during the school day. The Concert Band performs in 4 formal concerts every year along with 1-2 festivals, annually.

CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES:

MARCHING BAND:

The Marching Blue Devils have a long tradition of excellence and is a source of pride to the Davenport community. The Marching Blue Devils are a volunteer co-curricular component of the Central Band program. Membership in the Marching Blue Devils consists of any interested member in grades 9-12. The three components that make-up the Marching Blue Devils include wind instruments, percussion, and guard. The Marching Blue Devils perform annually at all home football games, numerous parades, and four to five field competitions. General meetings start in March and the performance and rehearsal season is Summer and Fall.

JAZZ BANDS

The Davenport Central High School Jazz Ensembles are a co-curricular component of the Central Band program in which students explore various musical styles within the jazz idiom. The Jazz Ensembles have been active in many festival events. Instrumentation includes saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, bass, guitar, and drums. The level of the students' interest determines the structure of the jazz program. Students must be enrolled in one of the curricular bands, choirs, or orchestras. Auditions are held in September, and groups rehearse three times a week. Performances include 3-4 jazz concerts, jazz festivals, and other various community functions.

JAZZ BAND ATTENDANCE POLICY

Jazz Band is a credited course. Students will receive .25 credits during B, C, and D terms for their participation. The jazz bands rehearse from 7:15am-8:15am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. Placement auditions will occur near the end of A term. Students must audition to be placed in Jazz 1. Jazz 2 is an open ensemble with traditional instrumentation. Jazz 3 is an open ensemble with open instrumentation. Grading will be similar to concert bands.

*A student that has accumulated 3 unexcused absences will be removed from the ensemble.

*Every 3 tardy arrivals will be an unexcused absence.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Participation in the Davenport Central High School Band Program requires a strong commitment to all scheduled events. All members are a vital component of each and every performance.

Attendance at all rehearsals directly impacts the quality of these performances. Unlike any other class, time missed in rehearsals cannot be made up. Please examine the calendar carefully to avoid conflicts. **Students must maintain an 80% attendance rate in order to perform with ensembles.**

The Iowa High School Music Association requires a greater than 50% attendance rate in order to be eligible. Work schedules, other non-school activities, and family trips must not interfere with the schedule. Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to resolve unavoidable conflicts. The band directors will work together with other teachers, coaches, and other school activity directors to work out potential conflicts. Each student will be given **every** opportunity to participate in other school activities. Jobs are not an excused absence for rehearsals and will not be approved. **Plan Ahead!!**

Absences

All absences must be approved 1 week prior to an extra-curricular rehearsal and require a parent/guardian to complete and *Absence Request Form*. **ALL** forms must be submitted to Mr. Wilga, Mr. Nicholson, Mrs. Fackler, or Mr. Speziale at least **one week prior** to the absence. No exceptions. In case of a family emergency, see Mr. Wilga, Mr. Nicholson, Mrs. Fackler, or Mr. Speziale. Excused absences include:

- Ø Illness
- Ø Death in the Family
- Ø Weddings
- Ø Religious Events

Unexcused absences or truancy from class will result in a deduction from the student's grade, plus disciplinary action. An unexcused absence from marching band rehearsals may result in dismissal from a performance.

Tardy Policy

Please refer to DCHS Student Handbook for the school tardy policy. Lateness to rehearsals or performances may affect the student's grade or forfeit their opportunity to perform.

Performances

ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES IS MANDATORY!! Any absences from a performance will directly affect a student's grade and their participation in any other ensembles in the future. An *Absence Request Form* must be completed no later than 4 weeks prior to the performance to be considered as an excused absence. An excused absence will require the student to make up the performance grade through a music research project. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Wilga, Mr. Nicholson, Mrs. Fackler, or Mr. Speziale.

Performance Schedule for Concert Band Events

September 21st 4pm-7pm: SWE & Wind Symphony @ Honor Flight Dinner in Bettendorf

October 22nd 6:00pm: All Concert Bands Fall Concert @ CHS PAC

October 24th All-Day: All-State Auditions @ Iowa City West High School. for Select Students

November 11th-14th: SWE Perc @ Percussive Arts Society International Convention, Indianapolis, IN

November 19th-21st: All-State Conference @ Iowa State University for Select Students

December 1st 6pm: SWE Performance at the District Holiday Concert @ Adler

December 8th 6:00pm: All Concert Bands Winter Concert @ CHS PAC

January 9th All-Day: SEIBA Auditions @ Fairfield H.S. for Select Students

January 23rd All-Day: SEIBA Concert @ University of Iowa for Select Students

February 15th & 16th: Wind Symphony & SWE @ VanderCook Concert Band Festival, Chicago, IL

March 2nd 6:00pm: 5th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 9th Grade Band, & WS @ CHS PAC

March 9th 6:00pm: 6th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, Wind Ensemble, & SWE @ CHS PAC

April 17th All-Day: IHSMA Solo and Ensemble @ Pleasant Valley High School

May 5th 6:00pm: All Concert Bands Spring Band Concert @ CHS PAC

May 8th All-Day: All Concert Bands (IHSMA STATE) @ Bettendorf

May 31st Morning: 2027-2028 SWE Performance @ Rock Island National Cemetery

GRADING POLICY

Habits of Work (20%)

"Habits of work" is a broad idea that encompasses such criteria as daily preparedness and responsibility. Students are expected to make daily improvements in their abilities and work habits.

Performances (40%)

This portion of the student's grade is based on attendance to the given performance. It is expected that every student be prepared both technically and mentally for each performance. The primary focus of daily rehearsals is to prepare for performances. Therefore, the penalty for an unexcused absence from a performance will be significant and appropriate. Each musical organization's performance is judged by our school, community, families and, in some cases, judges. One person's absence affects the entire ensemble's performance. You will have a schedule of events in advance; take care of problems before they happen!! An **unexcused absence** from a performance will result in a zero for the performance grade, plus a deduction of one letter grade.

Daily Rehearsals (30%)

Any unexcused absences and tardies from a rehearsal, class, or sectional (during school or outside of regular school hours) will affect this portion of the final grade.

Lessons (10%)

Students weekly lesson attendance and participation.

Extra-Credit

The following activities are options for students to receive extra credit toward their grade. Each activity must be approved for extra credit prior to its completion.

- All-State, SEIBA, or IBA Honor Band auditions
- Attendance at professional or collegiate band concerts
- District Solo and Ensemble
- Performing in an outside group on your primary band instrument

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

All band members will be present in their seats or in “block band” (marching band) at the designated time for rehearsal. This simple procedure involves each member arriving 10 minutes before the scheduled “outside of school” rehearsal time. They should assemble equipment and music, take their place in the rehearsal setup and perform their personal warm-up or work on “trouble spots” in the music to be rehearsed. Students are expected to be in their seats on the final bell.

All talking and warm-up should cease when the director steps on the podium. During the rehearsal you will be expected to give your undivided attention and cooperation to the director. When rehearsing of individual sections takes place, all other sections should sit quietly and listen to instructions being given to that section. Stops happen to advise individuals and sections on problems that are heard during the rehearsal. Unnecessary talking cuts down on the effectiveness of the rehearsal and it wastes all of our valuable time.

Students must have the following at all rehearsals:

- **Instrument**
- **Accessories (Reeds, mouthpieces, neck strap, any accessory required to perform in class)**
- **Music and Folder**
- **Pencil (No Pens)**
- **Tennis Shoes (Marching Band)**

Failure to have any of the above items will result in loss of “Habits of Work” points.

ATTITUDE

Those students who have a positive mental attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Davenport Central Band Program. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive and you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. Students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave the organization. Those who have personal pride will generally project a positive mental attitude. Having a positive mental attitude includes an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful.

The total band member is someone who is always willing to give his or her best for the good of the whole!

MARCHING BAND PLEDGES

Marching Band pledges are set in April before the fall season. A payment plan is devised to help families manage their budget. Pledges need to be up to date for the student to be able to travel and perform with the band. The pledges include bussing, housing, music and drill writing, show design, competition registration, and auxiliary instruction. Please refer to the Marching Band Pledge Schedule for more information. Pledges are non-refundable.

We make every attempt to limit the amount of pledges needed from students to participate in band activities. Every year it is a challenge to keep it economical and still provide for our students.

*Please be aware that **NO** student will be kept out of a band activity due to financial difficulties.*

Anyone needing assistance must contact one of the Directors. All conversations are confidential and we will find the necessary aid for anyone in need.

LESSONS

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students, who study their instruments privately with a professional, show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band.

Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program. There are many great teachers in the community, please consult Mrs. Fackler, Mr. Speziale, Mr. Nicholson, or Mr. Wilga for recommendations.

IN-SCHOOL LESSONS

All students will be required to attend a weekly "pull-out" lesson. "Pull-out" means that students will be taken out of a class to participate. These lessons are allowed through the district Board of Education Policies. Students who miss a lesson must make-up the time before or after school. If a test, lab, or other important classroom event hinders the student from attending his/her lesson it will be counted as excused, as long as the student notifies Mr. Wilga, Mr. Nicholson, Mrs. Fackler, or Mr. Speziale prior to the missed lesson. Attendance at lessons will be put towards the students "Assessment Grade."

WEBSITE, INSTAGRAM, & FACEBOOK

The CHS Bands website, Instagram, and Facebook page will be used as a way of communication and education reference to students and parents. Students will be held accountable for information presented on the website, such as announcements, assignments, and the calendar.

THE BAND APP & E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

Students and parents will receive updates and information via their band's Band App as well as via e-mail.

LOCKERS

Each student will be assigned a locker for instrument storage. Abuse of lockers will result in loss of locker privileges.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

All school-owned instruments will be issued to you through the Directors. Students needing to rent an instrument will be assigned one based upon availability. The student and parent will fill out and sign the instrument loan agreement. While in the student's possession, any damage beyond normal wear and tear (due to accident, negligence, or carelessness) will be the responsibility of the student.

NOTE: The school does not insure privately owned instruments. Individuals must use their homeowner's insurance policies to get these instruments insured. Central High School and Davenport Community Schools do not take responsibility for damaged or stolen instruments due to negligence.

PERCUSSION

All percussionists are required to supply their own mallets and sticks. Please refer to the required instrument accessories list to know what to purchase. Instruments are provided by the school.

MUSIC

All Central High School Band students will receive a copy of the music being rehearsed by their respective band, plus a music folder to store the music. It is each student's responsibility to keep the music in mint condition. Students may write notes on the music with a **pencil only**. Any damaged or lost music will be replaced at the student's expense.

REQUIRED BOOK

All students in CHS Bands are required to have a copy of *Foundations for Superior Performance: Warm-Ups & Technique for Band* by Richard Williams & Jeff King, published by Kjos Music. This book will be used everyday by the students. You may purchase this at local music stores or on-line.

TRIP PERMISSION AND MEDICAL CONSENT FORMS

Before a student is allowed to travel with the band, trip permission and medical consent forms must be completed by a parent or guardian. The permission forms acknowledge that students and parents/guardians are aware of the terms and policies of the trip. All forms are kept confidential and information is only released to proper authorities in the event of a medical emergency while on a music trip.

FUNDRAISING

The CHS Music Department holds several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. These fundraisers give students opportunities to raise money for trips, pledges, and fees.

CHS Band and Orchestra Parents Association

The CHS Band and Orchestra Parents Association exists to provide moral, logistical, and financial support for the band and orchestra programs. Our programs and music education, overall, cannot exist without parental support. We invite all parents to be a part of CHS BOP and contribute to the success of our band and orchestra programs. Several parent meetings are held throughout the year. Parents, please join us by attending meetings, volunteering your time, or running for an association position.

AWARDS

Davenport Central band students may earn a variety of awards and merits each year.

Davenport Central Marching Blue Devil Award

Die Hard Marching Blue Devil Award

Marching Band Merit Awards

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

Woody Herman Jazz Award

Bix Beiderbecke Jazz Award

John Philip Sousa Band Award

Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award

John Bernatz Leadership Award

F.E. Mortiboy Esprit de Corps Award

Students participating in band and other instrumental activities may earn points toward a varsity letter. These points are tabulated each year and added to the cumulative total. After the letter is achieved, students may earn points toward additional gold bars.

PEP BAND

The DCHS Pep Band occurs during the high school basketball season and plays before all home games. The Pep Band's mission is to support our school and community through the spirit and joy of music. **All Davenport Central High School Band Members will be required to perform in the Pep Band.** All students will perform at 4 games.

Students will need to meet in the band room by 6:30pm before the games and you will be done around 8:00pm. (at times, it may run later) At that point you may stay to watch the game with your friends or go home. If a student is late to the meeting time, the game will not be credited towards their required games.

Pep Band attire will consist of Red and/or Blue Central gear.

UNIFORMS

Marching band uniforms are fitted and assigned during August camp days. At this time, students purchase, if not already owned, shoes. Students will be responsible for taking their uniform home and bringing it to performances and trips.

Marching jackets, pants, shako, and shako boxes are returned after the final marching band performance. (Festival of Trees Parade) At this time, missing or severely damaged uniform pieces must be replaced at the student's expense.

Concert attire is fitted at the beginning of the year by the Davenport Central Band and Orchestra Parents. **Dress is either the provided tux shirt with black bow tie, black cummerbund, black tuxedo pants, black tuxedo jacket (10th grade-12th grade only), black dress shoes, and black dress socks or black formal dress with black dress shoes**

Failure to have any or all parts of the uniform will result in students not being able to perform.

Recommended Instruments/Accessories List

It is recommended that high school students do not use their “beginning band” instrument past the 8th grade. Those instruments are designed for smaller bodies and are built to withstand the physical abuse that young students may inflict on them. Better quality instruments and accessories enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. They are a necessity for each student to reach their full potential. The instruments and accessories listed below are highly recommended:

Flute: Yamaha 581 or 581 H

Oboe: Fox

Bassoon: Fox Renard

Clarinet: Buffet R-13; *Mouthpieces:* Vandoren 5RV or Vandoren M13; *Ligatures:* Rovner Dark Ligature or Vandoren Optimum; *Reeds:* Vandoren V12 or Legere Synthetic

Bass Clarinet: *Mouthpiece:* Selmer C*; *Ligature:* Rovner C3RL or C1R; *Reeds:* Vandoren or Legere Synthetic

Alto Sax: Selmer 52 SA-80; *Mouthpiece:* Selmer S80; *Ligature:* Rovner C1RL or Rovner Dark; *Reeds:* Vandoren

Tenor Sax: Selmer 54 SA-80; *Mouthpiece:* Selmer S80(Tenor); *Ligature:* Rovner C-2M; *Reeds:* Vandoren

Trumpet: Bach Stradivarius 180S (43 Bell); *Mouthpieces:* Bach 3C or 7C

Horn: Conn 8D or 10D or Holton H181, *Mouthpieces:* Laskey or Holton Farkas

Trombone: Bach 42BO; *Mouthpieces:* Schilke 51D or Bach 5G

Euphonium: Yamaha YEP842S *Mouthpieces:* Schilke 51D or Bach 5G

Tuba: *Mouthpieces:* Helleberg or Schilke

Percussion: *Concert Snare Sticks:* Innovative Percussion maple CL-1's or CL-3L's; *Timpani Mallets:* Innovative Percussion GTX3 Mediums or GT3 Mediums; *Yarn Mallets:* Innovative Percussion IP200's or F1.5's; *Plastic Mallets:* Innovative Percussion IP905's or F12's

(Caution: Be aware of instruments from certain nation-wide retailers or on-line!! They may seem to have a good value, but it is too good to be true. These instruments are not as durable, their sound quality is poor, they will hinder students' development, and once broken, they may not be able to be repaired.)

Also, it is highly recommended that all students have a metronome and all wind players have a tuner

REQUIRED Supplies

ALL STUDENTS should have the following supplies/accessories for their instrument:

Woodwinds: 4 or more good reeds, if you are a single or double reed player, at all times (*always save your best reed for concerts*), mouthpiece (*even if you rent an instrument, it is necessary to have your own mouthpiece*), cork grease, cleaning cloth (flute), swab (clarinets, double reeds, and saxes).

Brass: A quality metal straight mute (*tpt, hn*), mouthpiece (*tpt, hn, tbn, euph, tuba*); cleaning supplies (*cleaning cloth, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake*), valve oil, and slide cream.

Percussion: Snare sticks, timpani mallets, xylophone mallets, yarn mallets (marimba), and a stick bag.

Please contact the directors if you have any questions.

Among the policies stated in this handbook, the student conduct code, athletics/activities good conduct rules, and school policies apply.