

2026-2027 Handbook - Band Class



Contact Information

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DMS Band Calendar 2026-2027

Date	Event	Location	Time
8/24-8/28	Jazz Band Auditions (7th and 8th Grade Students plus select 6th Grade Students)	DMS	Morning
9/24/26	8th Grade Band Field Trip (Clinic/Rehearsal)	JHS	Morning
10/1/26	ILMEA District 9 Audition Due Date (select students)	DMS	N/A
10/14/26	7th Grade Band Field Trip (Clinic Rehearsal)	DCHS	Morning
10/29/26	6th Grade Band Field Trip (Clinic Rehearsal)	HHS	Morning
11/3/26	Veterans Day Band Concert (6th, 7th, 8th Grade Bands)	DMS	7:00pm
11/7/26	ILMEA District 9 Festival Concert (select students)	TBD	All Day
12/7/26	Winter Jazz Concert (MBBB+HMS Jazz Ensemble)	TBD	6:00pm
2/10/27	Winter Band Concert (6th, 7th, 8th Grade Bands)	Hampshire High School	7:00pm
2/22/27	Winter Jazz Concert (EFBB)	Eagle Club, Gilberts, IL	6:00pm
TBD	8th Grade Band Field Trip (Clinic/Masterclass/Tour)	TBD	All Day
TBD	6th Grade Band Field Trip to NIU (Clinic/Masterclass/Tour)	DeKalb, IL	9:30am-1:45pm
TBD	7th Grade Band Field Trip to DePaul (Clinic/Masterclass/Tour)	Chicago, IL	9:30am-1:45pm
2/20/27	D300 Solo and Ensemble Contest	TBD	Morning
3/2/27	Jazz at the Brix (MBBB, WCS Jazz Ensemble, AMS Jazz Ensemble)	The Brix, Carpentersville, IL	6:30pm
4/28/27	Spring Band Concert (5th, 7th Grade Bands)	DMS	6:00pm
4/28/27	Spring Band Concert (6th, 8th Grade Bands)	DMS	7:30pm
5/10/27	Spring Jazz Concert (EFBB, MBBB, CMS Jazz Ensemble)	Dundee Depot, East Dundee, IL	6:00pm

Performance Attendance Expectations

1. Attendance at scheduled events is MANDATORY (see calendar for list of events).
2. Schedule conflicts need to be given, in writing (or email) at least two weeks prior to the event. A parent/guardian signature is required.
3. Unforeseen conflicts (illness, family emergency) need to be documented in writing and given to your teacher as soon as possible. Parent/Guardian signature is required.
4. Failure to communicate missed performances may result in loss of privileges.

Performance Uniform

DMS Band students will wear the following attire for all performances (unless directed otherwise):

- Red DMS Music Polo (purchased at the start of the school year)
- Black dress pants or a black dress skirt (falls below the knees while seated)
- Black socks (if required by shoe choice) or black dress stockings
- Black dress shoes

Classroom Expectations (A.R.K.)

1.	Be kind and empathize with all who are in our classroom (Kindness)
2.	Be honest about actions and feelings (Kindness/Responsibility)
3.	Follow directions promptly, the first time they are given (Responsibility)
4.	Touch only your instrument and accessories, maintain our equipment (Responsibility)
5.	Have materials ready, everyday: pencil, instrument, music, book (Accountability)
6.	Stay in your assigned area unless given permission to move (Accountability)
7.	Absolutely no gum or food in any music classroom during instruction (Responsibility)

You Earn the Consequence:

Positive Choices result in.....			
Cardinal Cash/Prizes	Positive Notes/Phone Calls	Natural consequences of joy	Experiences tailored for you

Did you make a choice you regret? - HOW WILL YOU RESTORE YOURSELF WITH THE ENSEMBLE?

In an ensemble class, unwise choices affect the individual and the ensemble. We must restore ourselves with the ensemble after we make unwise choices.

WAYS TO RESTORE YOURSELF:

- Assure your teacher that you will not make the same unwise choice again
- Make a plan with your teacher that proactively helps you make better choices
- Make a plan with your teacher and parent/guardian that proactively helps you make better choices
- Volunteer to do something on your own time which positively affects your ensemble
- Make a plan with your teacher, parent/guardian, and an administrator that proactively helps you make better choices

Splitting Band and Chorus

[Click here to view the guidelines for students choosing to be in band and chorus.](#)

Practicing

Practicing routinely for short periods of time is essential in building the muscles and cognition required to perform comfortably. Please encourage students to develop a routine practice schedule. Students should practice at home 4 days per week, 15-30 minutes per session. All instrumental music students will practice at least 60 minutes per week outside of the school day. Students enrolled in Instrumental and Chorus classes will practice their instrument an additional 30 minutes per week outside of the school day (90 minutes total).

Every musician will struggle with practicing. Encouragement and reinforcement is the best remedy to help students overcome this challenge. Learning to overcome challenges independently (like practicing a musical instrument) is a great skill for students to achieve during middle school.

Attendance - Daily Class and Small Group Lessons

Students enrolled in band will attend class daily for 40 minutes. Students enrolled in band and chorus will attend class every other day for 40 minutes. All students will attend a small group lesson for 40 minutes, 5-6 times per quarter. Small group lessons occur within the school day during periods 2, 5, 6, 7, or 8.

Evaluation in Band Classes

Formative Assessments (Evidence of Learning) - 40% of final grade	
Assessment Title	Description
Naming Pitches	Reinforces music literacy; Students identify pitches on the staff; 5 points each; 3-5 assessments per quarter; in-class work
Tone and Technique Reflections	Develops instrumental tone production; Students reflect on their instrumental tone and technique; 5 points each; 5-6 assessments per quarter; completed at the end of a small group lesson
MakeMusic Recordings	Develops music literacy and instrumental skills; Students record assigned exercises from their Essential Elements Book or Concert Music; 5 points each; 4 assessments per quarter; completed outside of the school day
Lesson Organizer	Develops music literacy and instrumental pedagogy; Students complete exercises assigned from their Essential Elements Book during their small group lesson; 20 points each; 1 assessment in quarter 1, 2, and 3.

Summative Assessments - 60% of final grade	
Assessment Title	Description
Student Summative Tone and Technique Reflection	Evaluates progress related to instrumental tone production; Completed at the end of each quarter, students reflect on their tone and technique ability; 15 points each, 1 assessment in quarter 1, 2, and 3
Teacher Summative Tone and Technique Reflection	Evaluates progress related to instrumental tone production; Completed at the end of each quarter, the teacher evaluates tone and technique ability; 15 points each, 1 assessment in quarter 1, 2, and 3
Performance Reflection	Evaluates ensemble performance; after a performance, students complete a reflection assessing the ensemble performance; the average score submitted by the students is assigned to the entire class; students must attend the scheduled concert to complete the assessment; absent students must complete an alternate performance before they may complete the performance reflection assessment; 100 points each, 1 assessment per quarter; completed in class
Sight Reading Reflection	Evaluates ensemble performance; students will sight-read a piece of music, listen to the recording, and self-evaluate the performance; the average score submitted by the students is assigned to the entire class; 1 assessment during quarter 4; completed in class

***Note: A full year commitment is expected of students in the band program.**

Student-Parent-Teacher Contract

By signing this contract, you are indicating that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the statements within the handbook.

We look forward to working with and getting to know you!

Let's Have A Great Year!

Please complete and detach this page of the handbook and return to your music teacher.

Please keep the rest of the handbook in a safe place, in case you need to refer to it later.

Student's Name (Please Print) _____

Student's Signature _____

Parent's / Guardian's Name (Please Print) _____

Parent's / Guardian's Signature _____

Use this QR Code to Access the entire handbook:

