



# Instrumental Music Handbook 2025-26

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this handbook is to inform and acquaint all students and parents with the Don Tyson School of Innovation instrumental music program. This information is in addition to the rules and regulations as stated in the Don Tyson School of Innovation and Springdale Public Schools handbooks and policies.

In an effort to maintain high standards and to continue the tradition of outstanding accomplishment, all band/orchestra members are requested to read this handbook thoroughly and to sign and obtain a parent's signature indicating the fulfillment of this request.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Students at DTSOI are provided the opportunity to participate in the instrumental music program and to learn and progress musically as far as abilities and desires allow. If a student accepts the challenge, has the self-discipline required, and upholds his/her responsibility, he or she will undoubtedly succeed. The greatest factor that will determine the success of any individual in band/orchestra is his/her attitude. Students should come to class daily ready to concentrate and work hard to be at their best.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL BAND & ORCHESTRA MEMBERS**

Students are expected to:

- Be on time and seated in assigned seats with all materials at the beginning of class.
- Have all necessary materials for class – a working instrument (see Springdale School District acceptable instrument list); instrumental supplies (reeds, pencils, etc.); music and pencil. Students are expected to have ONLY necessary band/orchestra materials at their seats. All backpacks, gym bags or other belongings will be placed in an assigned location.
- Be courteous and exhibit good manners.
- Strive to have a positive attitude and demonstrate good citizenship at all times.
- Follow directions the first time they are given and respond respectfully to the teacher's requests.
- Participate daily in class to the best of their abilities.
- Keep the band/orchestra room areas clean and orderly--no food, drink, gum or candy is allowed in any band/orchestra area.
- Take care of their instrument, music and all school materials used within the instrumental music classroom. Students should play on their instrument only—no one is permitted to play on an instrument that they are not assigned to play (including percussion).
- Participate in all functions of rehearsal and show steady progress and improvement.
- Be quiet and respectful during rehearsals and when teachers are speaking. Students are expected to be respectful and kind to all students and teachers.
- Do not use Chromebooks in class unless authorized by the teacher.
- Ask for and complete make-up work.
- Adhere to all school rules as explained in the Springdale Student Handbook.

### Leaving the class during instructional time:

Students will not be permitted to leave the class early or miss class to complete assignments or projects for another class. Every minute of rehearsal counts. Please be respectful of our time. Every member contributes to the success of the team/band/orchestra and every minute of rehearsal counts.

### **DAILY BAND/ORCHESTRA ROUTINE**

- In the mornings, you may enter the band/orchestra room to drop off your instrument and music. You may practice until 8:35 am. If you are not practicing in the band/orchestra room, make sure you return to the appropriate area of the building.
- Students who are not in band/orchestra are not allowed in the band/orchestra room.
- Rehearsal time is valuable and every moment must be used for instruction and performance preparation.
- Enter the band/orchestra room quietly and in the frame of mind for a productive rehearsal.
- Be in the band/orchestra room with instrument/music ready by the appropriate time.
- Check the board/screen/tv for the day's special instructions and agenda.
- Get all necessary equipment (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) and be seated.
- If your instrument is in the shop for repair, please bring a note from home - SEE YOUR DIRECTOR BEFORE YOU SEND AN INSTRUMENT TO THE SHOP. You will be expected to air-play (more details will be provided).
- If you are not feeling well and cannot play your instrument, you are still expected to participate by fingering through your part.
- Every band/orchestra member should become silent when the director starts the rehearsal. No further talking is permitted. Raise your hand if you have a question. Avoid any activity which distracts yourself or others or in any way disrupts the rehearsal.
- Play your instrument only when asked to do so by a director.
- Take your instrument and music home and **practice** daily.
- Electronic devices should be off and not visible during class at any time. We will follow school district policy for cell phones during the school day.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private instruction is encouraged for all students who are willing to do additional work on their instruments. The musical enrichment derived from private lessons will aid the student's understanding and practice of nuances not covered during a class situation. Scholarship funding is available. Please ask a band director for more information. All High School Wind Symphony members will be required to have a weekly private lesson.

### **GRADING POLICY**

Because performance is a critical part of participation in band/orchestra, performances will be weighted heavily in determining the student's grade. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. In addition

to performances in some band/orchestra classes, students will be graded on a number of playing exams. Written tests may also be given and these grades will be averaged with the performance grades and the student's classroom performance. ***All DTSOI courses use Standards Based Grading, or SBG. For a detailed grading breakdown, please familiarize yourself with the Band/Orchestra Proficiency Scales for your specific ensemble.***

Daily Performance – The director will evaluate each student's daily and/or weekly performance in rehearsal. Students will be evaluated on daily participation, performance level, rehearsal readiness and all aspects of proper rehearsal decorum.

Playing Tests and Written Assignments – The director will evaluate each student's performance on playing tests and written assignments. Point totals will vary.

Practice Records – Practicing is your homework in band/orchestra. Point totals will vary.

Extra Credit – band directors may offer extra credit opportunities for attending music concerts or events of educational value. Events for extra credit might include: Springdale Band Concerts (at any school); University of Arkansas band/orchestra concerts, jazz concerts or recitals; Walton Arts Center concerts or musicals; similar events out-of-town. To receive extra credit, you must speak with your director and provide proof of attendance.

## **REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS**

All after school rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Students are expected and required to participate in concerts, rehearsals and other functions in which their respective band/orchestra participates throughout the school year. The appearance of an organization in a public performance is to be considered the most important obligation of each student involved. Performance dates will be announced well in advance so that individual plans can be adjusted accordingly. Should a conflict arise, a student should see the director promptly. ***It is the responsibility of the band/orchestra member to give the director well-advanced notice of any school-related conflicts that might affect participation in a rehearsal or performance.*** If a conflict with another school function arises, a director will intervene to resolve the issue. Ample time must be given to allow a director to resolve any school-related conflicts. Elective and other non-emergency surgeries (e.g. oral/dental surgeries) should be scheduled outside of performance windows to allow adequate time to recover and fully participate in a performance. Failure to meet the participation requirements will impair the academic achievement of the student and his or her eligibility with the organization.

PERFORMANCES: band/orchestra is a performance-based class. Concerts are viewed as an extension of the classroom. Students will receive reminders as each concert approaches, but ***please clear calendars now.*** **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL BAND/ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES AND WILL RECEIVE A GRADE FOR PARTICIPATION!**

CONCERT ABSENCES: (Any performance where the entire group participates.) Performances are required. ANY absence or tardy should be cleared by the director BEFORE the performance, if possible. Any student who misses a performance for an *unexcused absence* may be given the

opportunity to earn 50% of the grade by completing an alternate assignment. Excused absences: Death in immediate family or personal illness.

DAILY ABSENCES and CONCERT PERFORMANCES: Any student who *frequently* misses daily rehearsals for any reason and is considered unprepared for a performance may not be allowed to participate in the performances. This decision will be made at the discretion of the band director.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE: Audience members are encouraged to follow some well-established standards for formal concert behavior.

- Refrain from talking during the performance.
- Remain seated for the entire concert if at all possible. If it is absolutely necessary to do so, move only between musical selections and exit at the nearest door.
- Wait to re-enter the auditorium until the performing group is finished with their musical selection.
- Applause is the only appropriate form of expressing appreciation. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the conductor lowers his or her hands to indicate the completion of the selection or work.
- Please eliminate disruptions by turning off pagers, cell phones, and removing small children who are crying or speaking loudly.
- Students are not permitted to leave until the end of the concert and are expected to observe all performing groups.

CONCERT ATTIRE: Each student in the Instrumental Music Program will be required to wear specific concert attire and purchase a band/orchestra t-shirt. This requirement is to keep a professional appearance for our band/orchestra, but in no way is it designed to exclude any student from participation. If you will have trouble meeting the financial obligations, please notify the director as soon as possible so arrangements can be made to help you and your student. More information will be sent out regarding concert attire purchasing and/or rental.

Concert Attire for Gentlemen – Black dress pants and a black collared shirt. - No pinstripes, jeans, shorts, sweatpants or wind pants. Solid black shoes and socks (dress shoes are preferred).

Concert Attire for Ladies – Same as gentlemen or a black blouse with a skirt/pants, or a black dress which must be at least knee length.

BAND/ORCHESTRA T-SHIRTS: As part of the \$35 band/orchestra fee, each student will be issued a band/orchestra t-shirt that will be worn for various events throughout the year. Students must keep up with their shirts all year. Please select a size that will fit for the entire year. If a student loses his/her shirt, a replacement shirt may be purchased for \$15 while supplies last.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Students in grades 7-12 must meet the academic eligibility requirements in order to participate in any region or state level event. These events are governed by the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) and the Arkansas Band & Orchestra Association (ASBOA). Sixth grade students are not eligible to compete in any AAA event other than solo-ensemble. Students need to pay close attention to their grades in all core & elective classes. Ineligible students will not be able to participate in competitive events that fall under the AAA umbrella.

## **SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS**

When a bus is provided, all students will ride the bus to and from the event. This may only be adjusted by a parent signing out his/her son or daughter at the event. Only the parent has the power to do this and they must sign in-person. If a parent is not available to sign, a letter from the parent to the principal is acceptable. This letter must be in the principal's office 24 hours before the trip and the band director must receive a copy at that time.

### **BUS BEHAVIOR:**

Students will be expected to stay in their seats and maintain a low-noise environment. When being transported on a school bus, the safety of our students is important. All students must follow the directions of the teachers, chaperones and driver. If a student's behavior requires immediate attention, and/or the student refuses to discontinue his/her action, the bus will stop immediately and the parent/s (of that student/s) will be contacted. Safety of all students is our first concern. Each band/orchestra student is expected to represent his/her family, school and community well.

### **SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIPS:**

*Band/orchestra students may be involved in trips both in and out of town.*

- Attendance will be checked before we leave.
- An itinerary/permission slip will be sent prior to the trip.
- Students must use school provided transportation to the event.
- Students must attend school the day of the function up until the time to depart.
- Students must have a medical release on file. (Out of town trips)
- Any student planning to leave an event with a parent must have a written note signed by the parent prior to the event. The parent must be present and visible to the director at the event. The parent must sign the student out. No student will be allowed to leave with someone other than the parent(s) of the student.
- Transportation to and from local rehearsals, events and performances may be the responsibility of the parent.

- Directors may not be responsible for administering medications to students during events. Parents will need to make arrangements for students who take medications during the school day.
- Chaperones are required on all trips. (Parents, please volunteer to chaperone.)

## **HIGH SCHOOL BAND/ORCHESTRA TRIPS - OUT-OF-STATE**

Every three years, it is the goal of the music department to take a high school band/orchestra trip out-of-state. In order to attend this trip, students must have been a member of the high school band/orchestra program every year that it has been available to them. Students will be expected to raise the funds or pay their portion to attend the trip. Students who have been a discipline problem within the band/orchestra program or in the school will not be allowed to attend the trip. These band/orchestra trips are not required, but students are highly encouraged to attend. The director of bands will make all final decisions regarding student eligibility and chaperone choice.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **FUNDRAISERS:**

Students in instrumental music will be fundraising to gain additional funds. Each student is encouraged to participate. Funds will be used to pay for additional music, tutors, fees, trips, parties and awards. All students will be asked to return money or the product at the end of the fundraising period. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken toward any student who fails to return unsold items or money.

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

Announcements will be made using the **REMIND** texting system, the [DTSOI Music Facebook Page](#) & Instagram, Cut Time and our [DTSOI Music Website](#).

**AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS:** Students may have rehearsals or events after-school. These rehearsals will be required. Students are expected to be picked up on time from rehearsals and/or events, such as concerts. For your child's safety, please make sure he/she has arrangements to be picked up on time.

**REGION/STATE AUDITIONS & SOLO-ENSEMBLE:** Students in some bands/orchestras will be required to audition for region and/state and participate in solo-ensemble. This expectation will be communicated at the beginning of the school year. Failure to participate could impact the student's grade and/or participation in an ensemble.

### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

#### **DTSOI BAND/ORCHESTRA FEE - \$35**

This is a required fee of ALL band/orchestra students at DTSOI for the band/orchestra t-shirt, music and region/state fees. Other trips and solo-ensemble are not included. This fee is due at the beginning of

the year. The fee is due by **August 29**. The link to pay the fee online is [DTSOI Band/Orchestra Fee 2025-26](#)

#### DTSOI Instrument Rental Fee (School-Owned Instrument Fee) - \$100

Students playing a school-owned instrument (including percussionists) will need to rent the instrument from the school. Percussionists will be responsible for providing their own sticks and mallets and are encouraged to rent or purchase a snare/bell kit for home practice. The link to pay the fee online is [DTSOI Instrument Rental Fee 2025-26](#)

### **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT POLICY**

The DTSOI Instrumental Department owns a limited number of larger, more expensive instruments. These instruments are assigned to students on the basis of ability and need. Instruments furnished by the school are the French horn, euphonium, tuba, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, percussion, and double bass. There is a \$100 fee assessed for the normal wear and maintenance of the instrument for the school year. All other band/orchestra instruments are to be furnished by the students. Consult a band director for help in this area.

Before receiving a school-owned instrument, the student must sign a school-owned instrument contract, accepting the instrument and the responsibility for its care and maintenance. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to return the instrument in as good a condition as received, excepting normal wear from use. The instrument's condition at checkout will be described on the DTSOI checkout form.

Once assigned, the instrument then becomes the student's for the school year in which it is assigned and may be rechecked out for summer use. Carelessness is a major factor in causing a large repair bill, for which the parents are responsible. The assessed fee of \$100 covers normal wear of an instrument that can be repaired during the summer months.

Maintenance varies depending upon the particular instrument involved. Unnecessary and expensive maintenance can be avoided by making sure the instrument is cleaned and oiled regularly as well as taking care not to damage the instrument through carelessness. Maintenance kits complete with instruction may be purchased through a local music store.



# **RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR BAND/ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR**

## **DON TYSON SCHOOL OF INNOVATION INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM 25-26**

### **Instrumental Music Department Contract**

"I/We have read the Don Tyson School of Innovation Instrumental Music Handbook and fully understand the expectations set by the directors of the DTSOI Instrumental Music Program and agree to abide by the policies stated therein. I realize that failure to follow the policies or directions will result in appropriate disciplinary action as stated in the band/orchestra handbook or in the Springdale Student Handbook. I/We understand that band/orchestra is a commitment and will support our child to the best of our abilities for this school year."

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION** **(Please print clearly)**

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Parent/Guardian Name

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Parent/Guardian  
Phone Number

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Parent/Guardian Email (please print clearly)

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Student Name

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Student Phone  
Number

Student t-shirt size (all ADULT sizes, circle one):

XS   S   M   L   XL   XXL   XXXL