

DURHAM MS BAND PROGRAM

Congratulations on becoming an important part of the 2022-2023 Durham MS Dragon Band. You are now a member of one of the largest student organizations here at Durham MS. You will experience a variety of performance opportunities and make long-lasting friendships.

As a member of the Durham MS Band, you will develop many valuable life skills to help you achieve your future goals. Becoming responsible, dependable and accountable students are expectations for all band members.

Learning about music through performance in band is a great way of experiencing and creating music first hand. Our goal here at Durham is for students to become more than technicians; we want them to be creators, demonstrators and innovators through band.

The DMS directors are here to help you in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any reason.



DURHAM DRAGON BAND

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6th Grade Objectives

- To be able to demonstrate correct posture while playing an instrument
- To use the correct method of breathing to play a wind instrument
- To use the correct embouchure to play a wind instrument
- To use the correct hand and/or stick position
- To have a proper concept of tone production and tone quality
- To understand various articulation markings
- To be able to clap and count whole, half, quarter, eighth and sixteenth-note rhythms
- To demonstrate knowledge of up to 12 major scales and chromatic scale full range
- To demonstrate correct knowledge of musical terms necessary for membership in performing ensembles
- To develop discriminatory listening skills commensurate with 6th grade skills
- To develop socially through large group interaction
- To participate in the process of preparing and performing music in a concert and contest environment
- To achieve technical and musical skills adequate for advancement to the 7th grade level in LISD

7th Grade Objectives

- To continue to develop 6th grade objectives
- To be able to clap/count through variations of sixteenth note and triplet patterns
- To develop a technical ability on given instrument through sixteenth notes
- To further develop listening skills including intonation
- To learn how to follow a conductor in a large ensemble
- To be able to distinguish between different styles of music
- To further develop knowledge of 12 major scales and chromatic scale
- To learn performance procedures including stage presence
- To understand the consequences of individual actions on a group
- To participate in the process of preparing and performing music in a concert and contest environment
- To advance to the 8th grade level of performance consistent with standards set by LISD

8th Grade Objectives

- To continue to improve all 7th grade objectives
- To further develop listening skills including a more acute sense of pitch
- To develop the ability to discern styles communicated by the conductor
- To comprehend musical phrasing
- To further develop the ability to compete on a personal level
- To further develop an awareness of the consequences of personal actions on the whole group
- To continue to demonstrate knowledge of 12 major and full range chromatic scale

Descriptions of Performing Ensembles

Beginning Band

The beginning band consists of 6th graders with no necessary prior musical experience. The band is divided into like-instrument classes to help maximize achievement. In preparation for concerts, students in the beginning band can expect to have a few after school or before school rehearsals to combine together as a full band. Beginning Band students will participate in Winter and Spring Concerts, a Spring Festival, and Solo Contest.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is one of our performing ensembles that consists of 60-70 students to maintain a well-balanced instrumentation. Students are placed in the ensemble by audition only, which are held at the end of the school year. Symphonic Band is expected to participate in Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest and the LISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Symphonic Band is under the direction of Mrs. Mackenzie Viviano and assisted by Mr. Jacob Groening.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the top-performing ensemble that consists of 60-70 students to maintain a well-balanced instrumentation. Students are placed in the ensemble by audition only, which are held at the end of the school year. Wind Ensemble is expected to participate in All-District and All-Region auditions, Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, and the LISD Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Wind Ensemble is under the direction of Mr. Jacob Groening and assisted by Mrs. Mackenzie Viviano.

Instrument Storage Procedures

Before School Procedures

- When sectionals are in progress, students must enter quickly and quietly through the designated doors. Please do not bang or knock loudly.
- Put your instrument in your assigned locker.
- Practice rooms are for practicing and private lessons only. You must sign in and have permission from a music director to use practice rooms.
- Lockers must be kept neat and clean. No clothes, lunches, or school books.

After School Procedures

- Students must return to the band hall after school to pick up their instrument for home practice.
- Practice rooms are for practicing and private lessons only. You must sign in and have permission from a music director to use practice rooms.
- Lockers must be kept neat and clean. No clothes, lunches, or school books.
- Students are not to enter the main school building after 4:10 pm without a pass from a teacher or a coach. All students must exit the band hall through the main doors.

Classroom Procedures

Be Prompt

- Enter the band hall quickly and quietly.
- You must be inside the band hall before the bell stops ringing or you will be assigned a tardy.
- You have two minutes after the bell stops ringing to be in your seat with your instrument assembled; if not, you will be assigned a tardy.

Be Prepared

- Bring your instrument, band binder, music, and pencil **every day!** Random supply checks will be taken throughout the year.
- Read your learning goals and agenda for the day.
- Take your instruments home **EVERY NIGHT** to practice.
- Have your nametag on your stand at all times.
- Make a genuine effort to improve daily.

Be Polite

- Have proper respect for yourself and others.
- Do not lean on or disrespect stands.
- No running or horseplay in the band hall.
- Do not bring your non-band friends into the band hall.
- Practice rooms, offices and workrooms are off limits. Ask directors for permission to enter any of these rooms.
- Keep your feet, hands, binders and objects to yourself.
- No touching equipment that does not belong to you.

Discipline and Tardy Policy

Discipline

Students who choose to not abide by the classroom expectations will receive the following consequences:

1st Offense – Warning

2nd Offense – Student/Teacher Conference, Parent Call, and Detention

3rd Offense – Office Referral

Tardies

It is the responsibility of each student to arrive on time to each class. When students are late to class, it is a distraction to the learning environment. Below are the following consequences for chronic tardiness:

1st Tardy – Warning

2nd Tardy – Parent Phone Call

3rd Tardy – Parent Phone Call/Teacher Detention

4th Tardy – Office Referral

At the beginning of each nine weeks, students are given a clean tardy slate. It is an opportunity to improve class promptness.

Grading Policy

All students are held accountable for their effort and progress in band. The grading policy is a guideline for students to maximize achievement and track their progress.

Participation – 10 %

- Giving honest effort in class
- Bringing required supplies

Daily Grade Category– 40 %

- Pencil Checks
- Quizzes
- Note-Naming Exercises

Major Grades Category- 60%

- Objective Sheets
- SmartMusic Assignments
- Sectionals
- Performances
- Performing Tests

Sectionals/After-School Rehearsals

Sectionals are practices that allow instruction on instrument specific issues regarding tone, technique and repertoire. In order to reap the benefits of sectionals, it is imperative that all students attend their assigned sectional time. Sectionals are curricular and impact student's band grades. "No Pass, No Play" does not apply. Below are the policies and expectations for sectional attendance:

Sectional attendance

- 1 minute late = 2 points off your grade
- 15 minutes late or more = sectional makeup for partial credit (70%)
- Excused absences = sectional make up within one week of missed sectional; full credit is received (100%)
- Unexcused absences = sectional make up within one week of missed sectional; only partial credit is given (70%)
- All makeup sectionals must be attended within one week of missed sectionals
- Notify your directors by email or phone that you will miss a sectional.
- **Not having a ride is not an acceptable excuse.** There are many members in our band program that are willing to lend a helping hand. Contact a director immediately if transportation is an issue. We will help you :)

On occasion students in the Beginning Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will be asked to attend an after school full band rehearsal. In order to ensure the success of the band, everyone must do their part and be in attendance. Full band rehearsals are curricular and impact student's band grades. "No Pass, No Play" does not apply. Below are the policies and consequences for after school rehearsals:

After-School Rehearsals

- 1 minute late = 2 points off your grade
- 15 minutes late or more = rehearsal make up for partial credit (70%)
- Excused absences = make up within one week of missed rehearsal; full credit is received (100%)
- Unexcused absences = make up within one week of missed rehearsal; only partial credit is given (70%)
- All make-ups must be attended within one week of missed rehearsal.
- Notify your directors by written notification or phone that you will miss a rehearsal.
- Make-ups of rehearsals are done individually by the student in practice rooms for the same length of time.
- **Not having a ride is not an acceptable excuse.** There are many members in our band program that are willing to lend a helping hand. Contact a director immediately if transportation is an issue. We will help you :)

Performance Procedures and Dress

Concerts/Contests

- Arrive at the prescribed call time.
- Arrive in full concert dress.
- No playing your instrument without permission.
- Respect the concert facilities.
- Remain in the warm up area until otherwise instructed.
- Get focused. Position through your music; visualize a successful performance.
- Concert dress
 - 6th Grade
 - Band Shirt and Jeans with closed-toe shoes
 - 7th/8th Grade
 - Concert Black
 - Black shirt/blouse (Collar preferred, no designs), Black Pants (slacks/dress pants preferred), black socks, black shoes. Skirts and dresses are also acceptable as long as they are ankle-length.
- Remember that you are representing your parents, directors, school and district.
- Students who are not picked up within 30 minutes of arrival may jeopardize their participation in bands.

Private Lesson Program

In LISD we are very fortunate to have a very strong private lesson program. With the incredible private teaching staff providing service to our students, LISD has experienced a high level of achievement.

The private lesson program is invaluable to meeting individual student needs. It continuously seeks to maximize achievement of students and it works simultaneously with classroom instruction, to help students achieve proficiency on their instrument. To recruit and retain quality, professional private instructors, LISD offers a competitive rate for lessons at \$20/24 per lesson.

Additional information can be found at DurhamDragonBand.com

Equipment, Music Supplies, and Fees

Band Fee

In order to cover the cost of necessary individual supplies and various entry fees, there is a \$30 Band Fee assigned to every student. Payments must be made through cash or check starting September 1st.

Band Instruments and Equipment

Once instruments and equipment are assigned, they become the responsibility of the students. While at school, the instrument should be placed in the assigned locker and locked. No one should play or handle an instrument that does not belong to them.

Student Instruments

Your instrument is extremely valuable and proper care should be taken to keep the instrument in great playing condition. Should your instrument need repair, you must always check with a director before sending it in for repair. **Never try to repair it yourself.** Instruments require specific tools and skills to repair. Make sure your instrument is labeled with your name and phone number.

School-owned Instruments

Students that are using a Durham MS school-owned instrument are required to maintain the instrument in good condition throughout the year. Do not let anyone carry, hold or play your instrument. Ultimately, you are responsible for anything that may occur to the instrument. In order to maintain the instruments in good condition every year, a \$100/50/20 per year usage fee is collected. The revenue generated from this fee is used for general maintenance and cleaning for every year. This fee does not cover student negligence. All usage fees are due by the prescribed date. Payment arrangements can be made. Contact

your directors for assistance. Information regarding LISD expectations and procedures regarding school-owned instruments can be found [here](#).

Instrument Lockers

Students will be assigned an instrument locker to keep their band materials in during the school day. Please keep lockers neat and clean. Instruments should be taken home every day. Students must provide a combination lock for their band locker and turn in their combination to their directors. **NO KEYED LOCKS.**

If you have a special circumstance that requires a keyed lock, please notify a director of your situation. If a director needs to open a locker and the combination has not been turned in, the lock will be cut open to enter the locker costing further expense to students and parents to replace the lock. Due to the increase of band membership, some students will be asked to share a locker. **DO NOT TRADE LOCKERS.**

Music and Band Binders

- Please keep track of your music and binder.
- Put your name on your binder and all of your music.
- All markings on your music should be done in pencil.

Band Hall and Practice Rooms

These are your facilities and they should reflect the pride you feel towards the band program and yourselves.

- You **MUST** sign in to use a practice room.
- Show respect to each other by keeping all these areas neat and clean.
- No food, soft drinks, or gum will be allowed in any practice room or the band hall.
- Some of the practice rooms will be available for before and after school practice.
- Students are encouraged to use practice rooms to fulfill their practice expectations.
- Chairs are for sitting only. Please keep all four legs on the floor.
- If chairs are set up, do not walk through the rows and disturb the set up.
- Music stands are for holding music **ONLY**. Do not lean or do homework on these stands. They are expensive and can be broken easily.
- Private lessons overrule individual student practice. If a private teacher asks you to move, please be respectful.

Director's Office

The office is the director's work area. Please do not come into the office without director consent.

Fundraisers

- There is one fundraiser per year in the fall
- The fundraised money is used to cover our large band expenses such as: private lesson financial aid, Spring contests, music for students to play, and other supplies.

Chaperones and Volunteers

It is no secret that the success of a band program is in the strength of parent volunteers. If you are available to help out at any of the band events, we would be most appreciative. In order to volunteer for any LISD events, all volunteers must register online at <https://www.lisd.net/volunteer> with the VOLY program.

Practicing Guide for Students and Parents

The definition of practicing is "to do or perform (music) repeatedly to acquire or polish a (musical) skill" In order to acquire that skill on any instrument, daily practice is necessary. To optimize the time spent practicing; here are a few tips for students and parents.

For Parents

- Make it fun for your child! Take them to music events that feature their instrument or other events that inspire.
- Encourage your child to read and listen to professional artists on their instruments.
- Help your child set-up a routine of practicing at the same time every day.
- Help keep them from being distracted by outside elements.
- Ask your child to play for your family and friends. Set up mini-performance opportunities.

For Students

- Take your instrument home every day. You will have a better chance of practicing if your instrument is at home with you.
- Turn off the TV, radio or anything that will distract you from your practice session.
- Designate a specific time for practice every day. Keep it the same! Remember you can put a time limit on your practice. Sometimes homework takes longer than you expect.
- Make sure your instrument is in working condition. It is not fun to practice on a broken instrument. Why struggle?

- Don't just go through the motions. Remember, the playing of your instrument comes through development of coordination.
- Patience is a virtue.
- Do instrument specific warm ups. This may differ from the band warm up.
- Use a mirror and concentrate on your embouchure, posture and tone quality.
- Set goals for your practice session.
- Use your Practice PDSA!
- Isolate problems or sections in a piece of music.
- If you can play challenging passages correctly 5 times in a row, then you have it!
- Don't only practice music you know. Practice new music that you have not mastered.
- End your practices with a fun piece.

Practice Guide

Minutes	Skill	Example
5-10	Warm-up	Long tones, Remingtons, Lip slurs, Octave slurs, Register slurs, flow studies.
5-10	Technique	Scales, scale patterns, articulation exercises, and rhythm exercises.
15-20	Band Assignment	Practice the assignment given in class and review. Ex: UIL pieces, winter concert music, private lesson material
5-10	Your choice	Pop tunes, composing music, etc. Sightreading

Objective Sheets

Every student will receive one objective sheet per nine weeks. Each objective sheet will have at least six objectives. These objectives serve as a benchmark for the minimum requirements for each six weeks.. Each objective sheet must be turned in at the end of the six weeks for a test grade. Parent signatures are required on the objective sheet and practice record.

Durham MS Band Website **DurhamDragonBand.com**

We have a website that will help you with all types of useful information regarding the DMS Dragon Band program. We have calendars, upcoming events, supply lists, handbooks, links to director email, other useful links and the list goes on!

Online Etiquette Policy

By accepting membership into the Durham MS Band Organization, students must understand that everything they say or do is a reflection of the organization and their peers. When online you are identified as a member of the DMS Band; as such, you should refrain from saying anything that will negatively affect the reputation of yourself or the organization. The reputation of a band program can take years to build, and can be destroyed by one student making one disparaging comment or poor decision. Any social networking or online conduct that is deemed "conduct unbecoming of a Durham MS Band member," can be grounds for disciplinary action. Conduct that is identified as cyber-bullying will be subject to policies outlined by LISD and, at the directors' discretion, can be grounds for removal from the program, as well.

Instrument and Sheet Music Vendors

Need music or band supplies? We highly recommend Music & Arts.

Music & Arts

360 FM3040 #820

Lewisville, TX 75067

(972) 315-8400

<https://www.musicarts.com>

Professional Musicians

Do your best to listen to one or more of these incredible musicians. You will be inspired!

Flute

- Jean Pierre Rampal
- James Galway
- Paula Robison
- Susan Milan

Oboe

- John Mack
- Marcel Tabeau
- John de Lancie

Bassoon

- Arthur Grossman
- David DeBolt
- Masahito Tanaka

Clarinet

- Jack Brymer
- Larry Combs
- Sabine Meyer
- David Shifrin
- Frederick Thurston

Alto Saxophone

- Eugene Rousseau
- Marcel Mule
- Claude Delangle
- Jean-Yves Formeau
- Charlie Parker
- Cannonball Adderly

Tenor Saxophone

- John Coltrane
- Michael Brecker
- Branford Marsalis

Baritone Saxophone

- Gerry Mulligan

Trumpet

- Herbert L. Clarke
- Louis Armstrong
- Miles Davis
- Phil Smith
- Wynton Marsalis
- Adam Rapa
- Ryan Anthony

French Horn

- Philip Farkas
- Eric Ruske
- Dennis Brain

Trombone

- Christian Lindberg
- JJ Johnson
- Joseph Alessi
- Mark Lawrence
- Wycliffe Gordon

Euphonium

- Roger Behrend
- Brian Bowman

Tuba

- Patrick Sheridan
- Sam Pilafian
- Carol Jaeckel

Percussion

- Evelyn Glennie
- Tito Puente
- Max Roach
- Buddy Rich



Durham MS Band Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the contents of the Durham MS Band handbook. I will adhere to all policies and understand that there are consequences to my choices. I will do my best to maintain a positive attitude and remember that I am responsible for my learning and progress. I also acknowledge that band is not a semester class, but a year commitment.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I have read and understand the policies and expectations for the Durham MS Band.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

The Durham MS Band Directors are committed to be the best teachers every day. We will do our best to treat each student with fairness, kindness, and respect.

Thank you,

Jacob Groening
Mackenzie Viviano



“Where words fail, music speaks.”- Hans Christian Andersen