

H.H. DOW HIGH SCHOOL

Band Handbook

DOW HIGH SCHOOL CHARGER BAND

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the H.H. Dow High School Band Program. Our goal is to give entertaining, engaging and emotionally stirring performances with a reasonable amount of time to prepare. Your individual practice and skill development are crucial. We are looking forward to an enjoyable year with you!

This handbook explains the expectations for every member of the H.H. Dow High School Band Program. We have included information concerning the most frequently asked questions by students and parents:

***Instrument and equipment requirements**

***Attendance Policy**

***Uniform requirements**

***Class expectations**

***Grading**

***Extra performance opportunities**

***Challenge policy**

If you require clarification or additional information, please contact us.

Steve DeRees

Director of Bands

Dow High School

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923-5451 band office

Katie DeRees

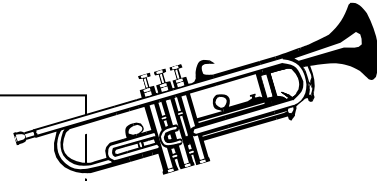
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INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS



The following items should be addressed regularly to be successful:

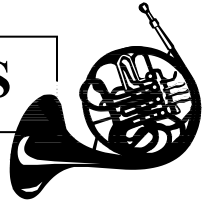
- Check your instrument to be sure it is in good working condition. Take care of any needed repairs.
- Plan to purchase mouthpieces, reeds, oils, sticks, mallets, and any other anticipated needs.
- Provide your own: lyre, flip folder, flip folder windows, rubber bands, pencil, tape.
- Clarinetists and saxophonists are always required to have at least 3 working reeds with them. Reed guards are recommended to keep reeds safe, clean, and working longer. All students should be using size 2 ½ or higher in high school.
- Percussionists are responsible for a well-stocked stick bag.
Minimum* contents of your stick bag should include:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Stick Bag	Pro-Mark DSB-4, Vic Firth or Balter Pouch
Concert Snare sticks	Vic Firth SD1 General or SD2 Bolero
Bell mallets	Balter 10A hard black plastic
Xylophone mallets	Balter #6 grey – medium rubber
Marimba mallets	Balter #12 green yarn
Vibraphone mallets	Balter #22 green cord
Timpani mallets	Vic Firth general purpose mallets
Pitch pipe	F chromatic
Drum key	

*A more experienced and highly skilled percussionist would have much more than this in a well-stocked bag.

If you are thinking about a new instrument or mouthpiece, please contact your director for guidance prior to making a purchase.

USE OF SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS



MPS Instrument Use Contracts require students and parents to agree to the following conditions:

- The cost of repairs due to carelessness will be passed on to the parents. (MPS will pay the cost of normal maintenance.)
- The privilege of using a school-owned instrument may be revoked if the student is not making reasonable progress or if the student mistreats the instrument.
- The student or parents are responsible for purchasing supplies such as proper reeds, oil, sticks, mallets, etc. for school-owned instruments.
- Replacement of lost or damaged instruments, mouthpieces, or other instrument parts will be the responsibility of the instrument user.

Instrument Lockers

Band instrument storage lockers are provided for the convenience of our members. Each locker has a school-issued lock with keyed access in the back for staff members to use in an emergency. Personal locks are not allowed.

One student per locker.

Please take turns at the banks of lockers. Stand back and politely wait your turn.

Lock your locker correctly even when it is empty!

YOUTUBE

Our Youtube channel is all one word: [chargermarchingband](#)

Entering H.H. Dow High School Marching Band in the search box also works well.

We have not really done much with concerts or small ensemble presentations... yet.

We have tried to limit the Dow High Youtube offerings to our best, "showcase quality", performances. This tends to generate a higher number of views and moves our version of a song closer to the top of the results when a song title is searched.

While all our performances are wonderful, some really are more wonderful than others. Some camera angles and sound recordings are better than others as well. To avoid worldwide distribution of a production before it has been perfected; please submit your Dow High band video to Mr. DeRees or Ms. DeRees to review for possible inclusion on YouTube.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All events on the Dow High Band Calendar are required, unless otherwise noted. Required events are graded. Missing an event may result in a one- or two-level reduction in the marking period grade in accordance with the MPS Music Performance Absence Guidelines, as adopted by the secondary principals in 1991.

- Conflicts with **school-sponsored activities** can be worked out with prior notice. (To be honest, there are times when we are less cooperative with conflicts that come from outside groups like “travel-league” sports.) The band has an excellent working relationship within the Dow High community.

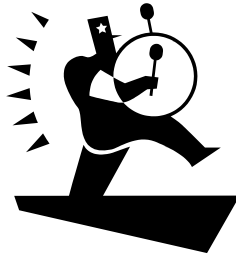
A performance, game or contest is more important than a practice or rehearsal.

In the case of a coinciding performance and contest, the student should go where they will do the most to help represent Dow High at a high level. Band staff, activity sponsors and coaches can become involved at this point to provide guidance. (A lot of lead time really helps this part work. Stay on top of those schedules and give us a “heads up.”)

Students should not be penalized by the adults involved for their final decisions regarding the resolution of MPS activity conflicts.

- If a legitimate scheduling conflict arises, students may have their parent/guardian send an email to the directors prior to the event. Two weeks greatly appreciated, one week minimum.
- Repeated absences from marching band events may result in the loss of your original on-field position.
- In case of emergency such as a death in the family or severe illness of the student, please contact the band directors as soon as possible. A note or email from the student’s parent or guardian will be required following the student’s return.
- In the case of an excused absence, the student may be asked to complete a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are NOT available to students with unexcused absences.
- Conflict with a student’s job is NOT EXCUSED.
- Please be reasonable with your requests for excused absences. Try to avoid conflicts when scheduling other events. Check our schedule or consult with a director before you commit to something else on the same day as a band event.
- Additions or changes to the schedule are possible, with advance notice from the directors.

UNIFORMS



MARCHING

The Charger Marching Band uniform consists of a coat, trousers, gloves, hat, and suspenders. These items are issued to all students. Gloves are cleaned and re-issued. A student may purchase new gloves during uniform fittings. White plumes are distributed and collected at performances.

Band members provide their own gloves, black socks, and black shoes.

Any student who cannot afford to do this should contact a director immediately.

ALWAYS WEAR THE ENTIRE UNIFORM.

Keep your hair above the collar. Pin it or use a hair tie and tuck it up into your hat. Avoid excessive jewelry, cosmetics, and fingernail polish (no face painting)

CONCERT DRESS CODE

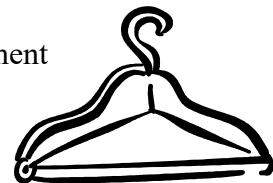
Concert uniforms are issued only to those students in Symphonic Band. Men receive a tuxedo and women receive a skirt, jacket, and blouse. Different combinations will be considered with written request from the parents prior to uniform issue date. **Symphonic Band members are to provide their own black socks (or hose) and black shoes.**

Concert uniforms for those students in Concert Band (Gold or Green) are not provided. **Concert Band members provide their own black dress shirt and black pants/skirt, as well as black socks (or hose) and black shoes.**

Any student who cannot afford to do this should contact a director immediately.

UNIFORM CARE

- Develop your organizational skills! Neatly hang the complete uniform after each use. Students with wrinkled or incomplete uniforms will not perform.
- Wet uniforms must be air dried. Do not put them in the garment bag until they are completely dry.
- The jackets, pants, and skirts are DRY CLEAN only. Tuxedo shirts, marching coat collar inserts and white gloves can be machine washed.
- Jacket sleeves, pants, and skirts may be hemmed, please do NOT cut the fabric. Please remove temporary hems before returning the uniforms.



COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to play their instruments both responsibly and passionately. **PRACTICE!!!** A student demonstrates responsibility by having all the right notes in all the right places in a timely manner. Passion for music is conveyed through attitude, enthusiasm, posture, and overall musicality. Be prepared for all rehearsals, exams, auditions, and performances.
2. Students will demonstrate proper respect and care for uniforms, instruments, band room, band lockers and sheet music. Students will also demonstrate respect toward each other, section leaders, drum majors, and directors.
3. Students are expected to attend all events on time with the proper dress code, instrument, equipment, pencil, and music. It is the responsibility of each student to keep track of scheduled events and adjustments to the schedule.
4. When scheduling conflicts arise, communicate these to the director well in advance of the date. (See Attendance Policy). In the event of an emergency, such as a death in the family or severe illness of the student, contact the director as soon as possible. A signed note or email from the student's parent or guardian will be required upon student's return.
5. **CONFLICT WITH STUDENT'S JOB DOES NOT QUALIFY AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE.**
Develop your communication skills! Give your employer a copy of your schedule NOW and design your work hours around these dates. If you are a valued employee, your supervisor will be willing to assist you.

GRADING

DAILY GRADE:

- Students can earn points in daily sessions, given that the student is prepared and follows class expectations.
- Points are earned for correct performance of the assigned music, correct posture and responding to rehearsal suggestions.
- Points are earned for turning in tests or auditions on time.
- Points are earned when a student is prepared for our various activities.
- Participation Points can also be lost for repeated poor performance of the assigned music, inappropriate behavior, or uniform violations.

PERFORMANCE / EXTRA REHEARSAL GRADES:

- These grades are issued to the participants upon the successful completion of each event. Grades are based on punctuality, preparedness, positive behavior, and appropriate use of the uniform.
- Lack of attendance at performances/rehearsals will reduce the student's grade by one or two levels.
- All students are normally required to perform in 4 Pep Band events during a school year.

Extra Performance Opportunities

MSBOA ALL STATE HONORS ENSEMBLES include some of the finest musicians in the state and perform in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the MSBOA conference in January. Auditions are held in the fall.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

- Takes place in February, location to be announced.
- All band members are eligible for participation.
- Music selection requirements: 2 minutes in length, solo or ensemble with a piano part **MUST** have a piano part performed, NO cassette or CD accompaniments, an original score of the score must be provided for the judge with measures numbered.
- If you win a first division rating at district, you are eligible to participate in State Solo and Ensemble Festival. At the State level, soloists in grade 9 will just perform their solo again. Soloists in grades 10, 11, and 12 will be required to play scales from memory (see director for a scale sheet) and sight-read in addition to playing your solo. Exceptional soloists and ensembles at the State level may be named an Outstanding Performer with possible additional performance opportunities in the spring.

JAZZ BAND contact Mr. DeRees

- Rehearse Wednesday evenings after marching season.
- Jazz Band 2 & Jazz Band 3 Open to all current band students Jazz Band 1 by invitation

PEP BAND

- All students are required to perform in at least 3 Pep Band activities.
- The group plays for a wide variety of school functions such as the incoming Freshman Orientation, and several sporting events.

HONORS BAND PROGRAM (.4 credit)

- Available only to Symphonic Band members
- Requirements include **extra** ensemble performances, solo performances, and independent study projects.
- Contact Mr. DeRees for more information.

ORCHESTRA WINDS contact Ms. Thoms

- Available only to Symphonic Band members
- Requirements include extra ensemble participation at **all** full orchestra events in addition to scheduled band events.
- Attendance at full orchestra rehearsals and performances is required as part of the band class grade.

PRIVATE LESSONS are a great way to dramatically improve your skills. Contact your director for private lesson instructor recommendations.

CHALLENGE POLICY

Membership in a certain band and chair placements within each band will be determined through individual auditions. Symphonic Band positions are assigned in May, prior to the current school year. Green or Gold Concert Band positions will be assigned following marching season.

Additional audition opportunities will be available in January for ambitious students in Green Concert Band who are interested in moving up to Gold Band. **YOU CANNOT CHANGE BANDS THROUGH THE CHALLENGE PROCESS, ONLY THROUGH AUDITIONS.**

Chair challenges may be made to resolve disputes and ambitious band members may work their way up through their section. Most challenges take place outside of class time. Some challenges may take place during class time if the director feels time is available that day. It may take a day or two to work them into the agenda for class.

Challenges will be subject to the following rules:

- There may be two challenge windows. These dates will be announced.
- You may only challenge up ONE chair at a time within your band. No switching bands through challenges, only through individual auditions.
- You must give at least 1-day notice to the person you wish to challenge.
- The music to be played in the challenge will be assigned by a director.
- If a challenger loses a challenge two (2) consecutive times, they may not challenge again during that window.
- Challenge due dates and times are set with a director by the students involved. Date and time can be changed by mutual agreement.
- No challenges will be heard after the last day of a challenge window.

DOW HIGH MUSIC PROGRAM NEEDS YOU

If you have a child or children participating in the music program at Dow High School, you are a MUSIC BOOSTER. Go to www.dowhighmusic.org for more information.

There are many ways to be involved:

- We depend on the support of parents and friends to cheer us on at half time shows, marching showcase exhibition, concerts, band festival, solo and ensemble, pep band and jazz band performances...
- We depend on the support of many parents to distribute and collect uniforms, deliver water to thirsty marchers, and of course to organize and work our awesome annual CITRUS FRUIT SALE.
- We depend on the support of parents to drive your kids to private lessons, extra rehearsals and performances, band camps, that 'emergency' run to the music store for reeds, that 'emergency' run to the store for black socks or shirt...
- We depend on you to encourage your son or daughter to take advantage of all the important life skills that instrumental music provides!

Your participation and support are necessary to
keep this great band program going.

Thank you for everything you do!