

August 16, 2009

Dear Band Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Dallas Center-Grimes High School Band program. I am pleased to have you as a part of the program, and I look forward to a fantastic year of making music together!

This handbook will identify course descriptions, expectations, schedules, policies, and procedures. Your cooperation and support as students and parents are very important to the success of our band program. Please be sure to read the handbook thoroughly as there are new updates each year.

Please sign and hand in the form on the following page by Friday, August 21st, 2009, stating that both student and parent(s)/ guardian(s) have read the handbook and are aware of the band department policies. The slip must be returned for each student to be able to participate in the rest of this year's activities. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the band office or by e-mail. Again, I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Arkay Brown
Director of Bands

Office phone: (515) 986-9747 Ext. 264
E-Mail: abrown@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN BY FRIDAY, August 21st.

This must be returned in order to participate in the rest of the year's activities.

We have read the Dallas Center-Grimes Instrumental Music Handbook and understand the expectations, policies, and procedures of the instrumental music department.

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used at Dallas Center-Grimes High School:

100-95	A	4.00	79-77	C	2.00
94-92	A-	3.67	76-74	C-	1.67
91-89	B+	3.33	73-71	D+	1.33
88-86	B	3.00	70-68	D	1.00
85-83	B-	2.67	67-65	D-	.67
82-80	C+	2.33	64-0	F	0

Grading Criteria

Student grades in instrumental music will be determined using the following:

1. Daily Attendance (Effort/Attitude) 30%
2. Lessons 30%
3. Performances 30%
4. Written Work/Tests/Quizzes 10%

Listed below are the criteria defining what it takes to receive all points in each grading area.

1. Rehearsal attendance/expectations

- * Student attends all rehearsals (unless excused by the director)
- * Displays punctuality: on time and ready to begin at requested times
- * Has all needed materials: instrument, music, pencil, etc.
- * Active participation in all elements of rehearsal

Attitude/Effort

- *Consistently demonstrates a positive attitude toward the band
- *Sets high standards for themselves and the band
- *Demonstrates good work ethic and actively participates in all areas
- *Works cooperatively with other band members and the director
- * Does not inhibit the learning of other band members
- * Consistently demonstrates respect of themselves, peers, and the director

2. Lesson Attendance/Preparation

All students are required to attend lessons, unless they study privately with a professional studio teacher on their band instrument on a weekly basis. (If a student plans to only take private lessons, parent permission must be given and a form for progress must be handed in once a month.) Each student is required to attend one 15-minute lesson every six days, for a total of six per quarter. Material will be assigned individually each time. Student preparation for each lesson will be taken into account as part of the lesson grade. If a student must miss a lesson it can be made up before the next scheduled lesson for full credit. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a make-up with Mrs. Brown. If a lesson is missed and is not made up within the next lesson cycle, the lesson can only be made up for half credit any time until the end of the quarter. Lessons are a major part of a student's grade and personal development, and directly affect the success of the band. Not coming to lessons and/or coming unprepared to lessons will result in a lowered grade.

In order to receive full points for each lesson, students must meet the following expectations:

- *The student has prepared the material assigned to the best of their ability
- *The student is on time to the lesson
- *The student has all materials (i.e. instrument, lesson book, music, pencil)
- *The student stays focused on the task-at-hand throughout the lesson
- *The student engages in meaningful interaction during the lesson
- *The student uses proper posture instrument position/carriage

3. Performances

- *Student is on time and ready to perform at requested time
- *Has all needed materials: instrument, music, uniform, etc.
- *Attentive contribution to the performance
- *Appropriate performance conduct

A student must be present the entire day in order to participate in an after school activity. This includes both practices and performances. The only exception to this will be an excused previously scheduled professional appointment with documentation of attendance or other extreme circumstances as approved by the principal. If a student missed more than 15 minutes of the school day, either excused or unexcused, he/she will not be allowed to participate in activities or performances that afternoon or evening.

If a student knows they cannot attend a performance the director needs to know as far ahead as possible and a note, email, or phone call must be received in advance from a parent/guardian to be deemed an excused absence.

Excused absences can be made up for full credit by completing 45 min. extra practice/lesson time and a short research paper or performance analysis within a week before or after the missed performance. Research/analysis topics will be determined by Mrs. Brown.

Unexcused absences will automatically result in a zero, and the student will not be given the opportunity to make up the points. This will affect the student's overall grade. If a student has an emergency (extreme illness, death in the family, etc.) the student must notify the director **as soon as possible** to receive an excused absence.

4. Written Work/Quizzes/Tests

- *Completes the work assigned
- *Hands the assignment or test in on time
- *Demonstrates knowledge of the topic assigned

Late Work Policy

All homework needs to be completed. Late work will be accepted under the following criteria: One day late = 10% deduction, Two days late = 20%, Three days late = 30% deduction. After three days all late work will be accepted for half credit until the end of the quarter.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are very important in the development of a player. The more professional experience a student seeks, the better they will become! The best instruction you can receive on your instrument is from one who is an expert on that instrument. The proximity of the metro area provides access to several different studio teachers who specialize on one or two instruments. Please consult the director for recommendations before seeking a studio teacher.

Required Material:

Upon the first individual lesson, the director will determine the book needed for the student's skill level, and the student will need to purchase the lesson book if they do not already own it. Students are expected to have their lesson book and any other assigned materials by their second lesson and every lesson following. All materials assigned will be available for purchase at Rieman Music.

Purchasing Reeds at School

DC-G provides a special service in which students may purchase reeds through the school. Students may purchase them from the high school office from one of the secretaries. Money is required at the time of purchase. Students are expected to get reeds in advance of rehearsal or after rehearsal. It is best if students keep several reeds on hand so rehearsal is not interrupted.

Reed prices are as follows:

Clarinet	\$2.00
Bass Clarinet	\$3.00
Alto Saxophone	\$2.50
Tenor Saxophone	\$3.50
Bari Saxophone	\$4.50
Soprano Saxophone	\$1,75

Instrumental Studies

At Dallas Center-Grimes, there are several learning and performance opportunities for students. Below is a description of the ensembles and events in which students can participate.

Concert Band

Concert Band is the core of the instrumental music program. This ensemble is an opportunity for all students to study and perform quality music written for wind band. Concert Band is open to all students with prior background in instrumental music. At the conclusion of the marching season, auditions for chair placement take place with the director. Several performances are given each year, including home concerts and the Iowa High School Music Association State Festival. Membership in this ensemble is required for any other participation within the program. Attire for ALL concert band performances is white on the top (no sleeveless, please) and black from the waist down (dress pants or skirts) and black shoes.

Daily Attendance Policy

Attendance points are given daily and are based on not only attendance, but full participation, expected behavior, and preparedness.

I. Each student is allowed 6 excused absences (excused absences will be determined by the director) per quarter that will not affect students' grades.

A. Excused absences for illness or scheduled appointments are only possible if the student is counted ill for the period on the main office attendance list.

II. After 6 excused absences, the student must make up any further absences in order to receive credit. Making up rehearsal time will consist of practicing 50 min. in a practice room at a time scheduled with Mrs. Brown.

The absence must be made up by the end of the quarter.

III. All unexcused absences must be made up in the same manner and time frame given above to receive points for the day.

A) If a student does not make up the unexcused time in the time frame given by the director, it will result in a 1-hour detention

B) Only 3 total unexcused make-ups are allowed. Further missed rehearsals will automatically result in 1-hour detention and attendance points will be taken away for the time missed.

IV. If a student is tardy, they must have a pass from another teacher or the office, and the tardy will be excused.

V. 3 UNEXCUSED TARDIES will result in a 1/2-hour detention and will be assigned by the office.

Marching Band

Marching Band is the function of the Concert Band during the first quarter of school. This year the marching band is studying and performing and show called "Night Moves" with music from "Jekyll and Hyde," "Twilight," and "Sleepy Hollow." Students will also study major scales and warm-ups during this season. Membership in Marching Band is required as a member of the instrumental music program. Many performances are presented during the fall, including festivals such as Valleyfest and the Iowa High School Music Association State Marching Festival, as well as the Dallas Center Fall Festival Parade and all home varsity football games. At games, the band performs during pre-game time and half-time. During the first half of the game the band sits together to play during time-outs. The band is dismissed after the half-time performance.

Students that are members of the football team in 9th and 10th grade will be expected to march with the band during half-times. Students in 11th and 12th grade may choose whether or not to march with the band.

***Please refer to the "Marching Band Guide for Student and Parent Success" for expanded information about marching band policies and procedures.**

Pep Band

Pep Band performs at all home varsity, double-header basketball games between quarters, during halftimes, and in between games. The band is divided into two groups (Red and White Band), and they alternate playing at each game. A minimum number of pep band performances are required (to be determined and posted). However, attendance at all performances is encouraged to receive points toward lettering.

Jazz Band

Any student who is a part of concert band may audition for a part in jazz band. Jazz Band rehearse Mon./Wed./Fri. morning from 7am to 7:55am. Auditions will take place to determine ensemble placement and part placement. Informational material for jazz auditions will be distributed in late September and auditions will be held in October. The jazz band performs and receives ratings at many regional jazz festivals, including the Iowa High School Music Association State Jazz Contest, Woodward-Granger Jazz Festival, SCIBA Jazz Festival, and others. Membership in the Concert Band is required for all members of the Jazz Band. If there is enough interest an additional jazz ensemble may be formed.

Field Commander and Section Leader

Near the conclusion of the spring semester preceding the fall marching season, auditions will be held to determine the drum majors and section leaders for the marching band. Members chosen for these positions will be selected based on their leadership skills, playing and marching ability, and overall character displayed during the year. Informational material for these positions will be distributed near the end of the spring semester.

All-State Auditions

Students may audition for the Iowa High School Music Association All-State Festival Band and Orchestra in the fall. Students are required to prepare all of the major scales and chromatic scale, two required etudes, and an individually selected solo. Auditions are held the third weekend of October at the district audition site. If a student is chosen for this high honor, the All-State festival is held in November in Ames. Only a select number of the most advanced and mature players from each district are selected for these ensembles.

Solo/Ensemble Contest

The Solo/Ensemble Festival is open to every student in the Concert Band. Students who perform are adjudicated and given a rating in the spring at the class performance site. Students are highly encouraged to participate in this contest by either preparing a solo or preparing a small ensemble with other students. This is an opportunity to become a much stronger player. **Participation in this contest can greatly help a student who is working toward a letter award.**

Transportation for All Band Activities

Students are asked ride to all away school events on the bus unless there are unusual circumstances. In that case, parents will need to write a note stating they will transport the student. Students may not drive to any away event. If a student would like to leave early from an away event, parent permission is needed in the form of a written note, e-mail, or phone call previous to the day of the event. (continued)

The student AND their parent(s) must come to sign out with Mrs. Brown before leaving. This policy is for the safety of the student. Parents may also give their student permission to ride home with another parent with a written note. The student and the designated parent driver still must sign out. Students may not get permission to ride home with another student. Please do not wait to give your student permission to ride with another parent by talking to me on the student's cell phone the day of the performance. I must have a written note, email, or phone call in advance.

AWARDS

John Philip Sousa and Louis Armstrong Awards

These two awards may be given annually at the end of the school year to one outstanding senior each. The Sousa Award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, for singular merit in loyalty and cooperation, and for displaying those high qualities of conduct that school instrumental music requires. The Armstrong Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an instrumentalist in the field of jazz, as demonstrated through superior musicianship, character, and individual creativity. These awards are announced and presented at the Fine Arts Awards Night in May.

Band Letter Awards

The Dallas Center - Grimes High School Band Letter Awards were created to recognize high student achievement. Only those students who fulfill the minimum requirements as well as go above and beyond the minimum requirements will receive a letter award. **In order to receive a letter in band, students must receive an A first semester and 3rd quarter of the academic year, as well as accumulate 100 extra letter points.** The first time a student letters they will receive a chenille letter, a band pin, and a metal bar. Awards earned for the second, third, or fourth year will be recognized with a metal letter bar. Students may apply to letter in band during May of each year.

The following is a list of activities in which band members can earn points toward the 100 point letter award:

Pep Band	5 points per performance
Jazz Band	35 points for full participation and fulfilled requirements
Solo/Ensemble Contest	30 points for performing a solo
	25 points for performing a duet or small ensemble
Honor Band Participation	20 points per honor band
SCIBA Honor Band Try-Out	20 points
Band Officer or Drum Major	10 points
Librarian	10 points per semester
Section Leader/Principal Chair	5 points per semester
Four Year Member	10 points for seniors only
FOFA Night Act	10 points per solo or small group instrumental act
FOFA Server	5 points
Band Set-up	10 points per semester
All-State Try-Out	35 points
Outside Concert Attendance	5 points per instrumental concert (up to 15 points)*
Outside Instrumental Performance	5 points per performance (up to 15 points)**

*Must bring an official program or a ticket stub signed by parent/guardian.

**Must bring an official program or bulletin showing the performance you were in.

Band Calendar 2009-2010 (Subject to Change)

August 10-15	Band Camp
August 29	D.C. Fall Festival Parade, 10:30am
September 4	Home Game, 6pm
September 18	Home Game, 6pm
September 19	Johnston Marching Invitational
September 25	Homecoming Parade, 2pm/Homecoming Game, 6pm
October 3	Urbandale Marching Invitational
October 10	ValleyFest and Showdown Marching Festival
October 16	Home Game, 6pm
October 17	State Marching (Waukee) /Mid-Iowa (Ankeny)
October 23	Home Game, 6pm
October 24	All State Music Auditions @ Harlan
November 14	FOFA Craft Fair
November 19, 20, 21	All State Music Festival at Ames
December 3	SCIBA Honor Band Auditions
December 4	Pep Band (Red)
December 11	Pep Band (White)
December 12	SCIBA Jazz Festival at Waukee
December 14	High School Band Concert
December 15	Pep Band (Red)
January 5	Pep Band (White)
January 8	Pep Band (Red)
January 9	Pep Band (White)
January 9	SCIBA Honor Band at Drake
January 15	Pep Band (Red)
January 16	State Jazz Festival @Winterset
January 22	CJC Honor Jazz Festival @ Indianola
January 29	Pep Band (White)
February 5	Pep Band (Color TBD)
February 5, 6	ISU Honor Band
February 13	IHSMA State Piano Festival @ Des Moines Christian
February 20	Indianola Jazz Festival
February 27	Woodward-Granger Jazz Festival
March 1	High School Band/Vocal Concert, 7pm
March 8	RRC Honor Band Festival @ DC-G
March 26	FOFA Night, 6:30pm
March 27	State Solo and Ensemble Contest
May 7	State Large Group Band/Vocal Festival @ DC-G
May 11	DC-G Band Parade of Bands, 7pm
May 13	Academy Awards (Jazz Band Performs)
May 19	Baccalaureate, 7:45 pm (Selected Senior Performers)
May 22	Commencement, 7:00pm (Concert Band Performs)

Events in BOLD are required for all band members. All other events affect smaller groups of band students.