

DARTMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

BAND & COLOR GUARD PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

All students who elect band in their schedule are expected to perform in the marching and concert band. Band is considered a co-curricular activity with an in school class plus an extracurricular (after school) component. All students who wish to perform with the band are expected to take the in school class unless there is a conflict in their schedule which cannot be resolved. Students who do not elect the band class may not be allowed into the band program. Without the band class, it is impossible to be part of the concert band because all of these rehearsals are during the school day. Co-curricular participation includes:

- ❖ Band class
- ❖ Band camp, Fall field show, and related practices
- ❖ Parades and public service performances
- ❖ Winter, Pops, and Spring concerts

OTHER OPTIONS

If a student wishes to play in the band but participates in a fall sport, a documented fall activity that conflicts with the field show season (August to November), has a medical excuse, he/she will be allowed to take the in school band class and be excused from:

- ❖ Band camp
- ❖ Field show practices and competitions
- ❖ Football games

These students are expected to participate in all concerts, parades, and other public performances. Many of these performances are presented as public service or to generate funds that the entire band benefits from. Students may be excused from an event that conflicts with their sport or activity. Percussion students, because of the intensity of the program, are much more successful when they work in the co-curricular program as opposed to taking the band class only.

DARTMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

BAND/COLOR GUARD RESPONSIBILITIES & REQUIREMENTS

1. All band students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.
2. All students are required to attend all rehearsals unless excused by the Director or Advisor.
3. An excused absence from rehearsal will be accepted under the following conditions:
 - a. A student who has given the Director or Advisor a written excuse from a parent or teacher prior to the absence. The written excuse should state the reason for which the student is requesting to be excused.
 - b. A student who has been absent from school that day.
 - c. A student who was detained by a teacher and informs the Director or Advisor by a note.
4. An unexcused absence from rehearsal constitutes the following:
 - a. A band student who does not attend because he/she has no instrument or music.
 - b. A student who has not informed the Director or Advisor of a reason for his/her absence.
 - c. When the Director or Advisor does not feel the excuse given is reasonable or acceptable, the parent will be notified.
 - d. **WORK** is not an acceptable excuse. Students are notified well in advance to arrange for work adjustments. In extreme emergencies, if a student is called into work, a parent should notify the staff prior to the rehearsal regarding the situation. Phone numbers are listed under excused performances section B. School functions should take priority.
 - e. The Director or Advisor reserves the right to deny the student to perform due to absenteeism from rehearsals.
5. Procedures for dealing with unexcused absences: 1, 2 & 3 unexcused absences.
 - (1) 1st unexcused absence – Staff conference with students and parents will be notified.
 - (2) 2nd unexcused absence – Conference with staff, student, and parents.
 - (3) 3rd unexcused absence – Parents will be notified that the student is being suspended from the program.
6. All students are required to attend all performances unless excused by the Director or Advisor.
7. Excused performance
 - a. A student who is absent from school the day of the performance (if it is a school day).

- b. If the performance is on a day when there is no school and the student is ill. The parent should notify the Director or Advisor by phone, either at school (508)961-2750 or at home prior to the performance. Mr. Aungst, Assistant Band Director, #508-542-5145, Mr. Kingsland, Director, #508-990-2998, or Mr. Kaeterle, #774-929-5118.
 - c. If the performance is on a school day and the student becomes ill prior to the performance, the parent should notify the Director or Advisor prior to the performance.
 - d. A student will be excused if he/she has given the Director or Advisor a written excuse from his/her parent/guardian prior to the performance. The written excuse should state the reason the student is requesting to be excused and must be accepted by the Director or Advisor.
8. Unexcused performances
- a. A student who has not informed the Director or Advisor of the reason for the absence.
 - b. If the Director or Advisor does not feel that the excuse given is reasonable or acceptable. The parent/guardian will be notified.
9. When transportation is provided by the school system for outside performances, students are required to comply. Parents who desire to provide the student's transportation must consult with the Director or Advisor.
10. All outside of school performances are considered school functions and school rules will apply.
11. Band students will be graded on cooperation, attitude, musical progress, and attendance.
12. **According to DHS Academic Probation Policy, "A student failing two or more courses at the time of the last report card is ineligible to participate in any school activity, athletic team, or after school music activity.**
13. Head Injury & Concussions – Dartmouth High School abides by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, which establishes procedures for persons involved in the prevention, training, management and return to activity decisions regarding students who incur head injuries while involved in extracurricular music activities.
14. The Director or Advisor reserves the right to drop a student from the program because of poor cooperation or negative attitude. This will not take place without a parent/guardian consultation and notification to his/her guidance counselor. This situation rarely occurs and would require a meeting with a parent/guardian, the Director or Advisor, and may include a building administrator.

15. Each student is an individual and each situation will be judged on the individual circumstances.
16. If your child has a learning disability or you have any other concerns you feel should be brought to the attention of the staff, please contact Mr. Kingsland, or one of the instrumental instructors.

The band is a team of young people working together to accomplish the goals stated on Page One. The team effort will assure a good performance. Each member of the team, regardless of the part he or she plays, is important in making the team strong. If a student does not attend a performance, this affects the other members and weakens the team.

HOME AND AWAY GAME RULES

1. Stay in sections in the stands.
2. No food or drink in uniform unless permission has been given from the Director.
3. No friends in the stands.
4. Do not hang over the back or sides of the stands.
5. Hats stay on with plumes, unless otherwise advised.
6. No trading instruments.
7. When the band plays, everyone plays.
8. Watch the cheerleaders. Get the spirit! Work together!
9. You must be accompanied by a chaperone when using the rest room.
10. When in uniform, be in uniform.
11. No performers leave early except by a note from a parent/guardian or if your parent/guardian is there to pick you up.
12. D.S.M.A. are representing our staff, please give them proper respect.
13. Be responsible for your own instrument, uniform, and uniform parts – gloves, plumes, gauntlets, etc.
14. Hold your instrument while in the stands.
15. Please play only when instructed to do so as a group. The Director has guidelines to follow concerning MIAA policy.

INSPECTION SHEET

INSPECTION RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE A PERFORMANCE

1. Uniform

Uniform should be cleaned and pressed.

Shakos, (hat) visor and chin straps clean.

Clean white socks, gloves, shoes, and laces.

White t-shirt and white undergarments must be worn under uniform.

Plumes must be properly aligned.

Hair nets are recommended to be used for long hair (up and under shakos, for boys and girls).

Suspenders are built in to hold trousers off of shoes.

2. General Instructions

Your first responsibility is to see that you are totally prepared for inspection. When that is done, you are to assist your fellow band members with their preparations. **HELP ONE ANOTHER. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.**

3. Inspection Information Sheet

If there are any inconsistencies in your uniform (missing or different buttons, etc.) be certain that you inform our D.S.M.A. Uniform Committee.

4. Parents will be notified if students do not meet inspection responsibilities.