



PARENT / GUARDIAN ROLE & EXPECTATIONS

Adapted from MIAA

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

The following expectations are highly encouraged

- Be publicly supportive not only of your child and their role, but also all students and their roles in the program.
- Be respectful and supportive to staff and volunteers at all practices and competitions. It is very important that a positive atmosphere is fostered concerning your student's role in the group. Many successful groups are destroyed when parents are not supportive of fellow musicians or instructional staff.
- Stay away from students, practice areas and fields, as it is a place where students and staff can focus, communicate and strategize.
- Let the staff instruct the students without unnecessary interruptions.
- Be a model of good sportsmanship and use appropriate, adult-like fan behavior at competitions. Please do not engage in confrontational behavior with, or direct negative comments or actions towards staff, parents, opposing schools, musicians, fans, officials or anyone else in attendance at practices or competitions.

Parental Role In Assisting Students To Achieve Success in Music

- To attend informational meetings offered by the staff and or DSMA
- To work closely with school personnel to assure an appropriate academic as well as musical experience for your child while they are in school
- To assure that your child will attend all scheduled practices and music competitions.
- To require your child to abide by the Music Department's rules
- To model mature behavior as well as expect the same from your child
- To work cooperatively with other parents and school personnel to ensure a wholesome and successful Music Program for Dartmouth High School
- To identify a reasonable and realistic future for your child as a student-musician



Guidelines for Parent / Staff Communication

Both parenting and teaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to all children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the director of your child's program.

Adhering to the communications guidelines posted on our website, we are better able to understand each other's roles and thereby provide greater benefit to our students. To be successful, communication is vital and requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment from parents, students, and staff.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR STUDENTS MUSIC INSTRUCTOR

- Individual and group expectations
- Location and times of all practices, special equipment required
- Any discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation

COMMUNICATION STAFF EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the music staff
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns with regard to our expectations
- Support for the program and the attributes of dedication, commitment, and responsibility that are essential ingredients for success and excellence

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH STAFF

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve & develop
- Concerns about your child's behavior

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

- Other students



Please use the following communication protocol to resolve conflicts regarding your child's participation.

Step 1

- The first contact should be between the student and the music instructor. The music experience at DHS provides the opportunity for young people to develop communication skills with adults and those in positions of authority.
- The student and music instructor must develop a mutual respect and understanding that allows them to discuss issues openly and honestly while striving to gain a better understanding of each other's roles, responsibilities and perspectives. If that doesn't work, the parent/guardian of the student should set up a meeting involving the student, parent/guardian and music instructor.

Step 2

- If step 1 didn't provide a satisfactory resolution, parent/guardian should contact the music instructor (via email) to set up a meeting with the student, parent/guardian and music instructor.

Step 3

- If step 2 didn't provide a satisfactory resolution, the student will contact the Music Department and will meet with the music director to discuss the matter and work towards a resolution

Step 4

- If step 3 didn't provide a satisfactory resolution, parent/guardian contacts the music director and a meeting is scheduled with the student, parent/guardian, music instructor and music director
 - Music director will listen carefully to concerns and mediate a resolution between all parties involved

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT A MUSIC INSTRUCTOR BEFORE OR AFTER A COMPETITION.**
 - These can be emotional times for both the parent and the music instructor. Meetings under these circumstances do not promote a resolution.
- **DO NOT CALL A MUSIC INSTRUCTOR AT HOME**
 - A music instructor's time is severely limited during the season. The instructor's private time should be respected.



FAN & SPECTATOR EVENT EXPECTATIONS

- Attending a high school event is not a right, but rather a privilege.
- Cheer for your group and your competitors in a positive manner, rather than belittling them. Do not verbally assault or abuse musicians, staff, other spectators, or officials.
- Obey and respect faculty supervisors who are responsible for providing a safe and friendly environment.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of competition officials.
- Negative chants are prohibited.
 - Examples include the use of musician's names, gender, physical appearances (etc.) in a negative way, cursing, or any form of taunting.
- Booing is not allowed.
- Respect school property.
 - Do not damage bleachers, school equipment or any part of the facility.
- The use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, and drugs are strictly forbidden.

In summary, cheer for Dartmouth High School and our students, do not belittle our competitors, staff, volunteers and/or officials. Enjoy the show and respect the competition.

**FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE GUIDELINES MAY RESULT IN
IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE COMPETITION SITE.**