

Welcome to the Deer Path Middle School Bands!

You have made a fabulous decision to participate in the DPM bands! We hope that during the year we will be able to learn much about music and share that knowledge through performance for our families and friends. The purpose of this handbook is to outline all policies and procedures that students will encounter throughout four years in our program.

Class Organization

Band classes at Deer Path are organized by grade level. These classes meet during a regularly scheduled class period and each band will perform several concerts, clinics and festivals throughout the year. Students are scheduled for a weekly for a group lesson.

Fifth Grade Band Class

Fifth grade band meets twice a week during homeroom. The small group lesson will take place once a week during wellness.

In the fifth grade band, instruction is focused on the following:

- Proper playing and practice habits
- Fundamentals of music
- Instrument care and maintenance
- Develop a set of strategies for at home practice and independent learning
- Developing understanding of basic rehearsal etiquette and group learning

In the fifth grade band, student responsibility includes the following:

- Daily at home review of music for a minimum of 15 minutes. Individual practice is an essential part of musical growth and development
- Bringing the following to class: instrument, music/books, pencil and necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.)
- Maintain the rules and regulations of Deer Path Middle School - only the highest standards of behavior, performance and appearance are acceptable at all times.
- Attend each class willing to work as part of a group.
- Attendance at all band classes, group lessons and concerts is required.
- In seat with instrument ready to play when class begins.

In the fifth grade band, activities include:

- Performing at the winter and spring concerts
- Students are also encouraged to:
 - Take private lessons
 - Participate in solo and ensemble events in the Spring

Sixth Grade Band Class

Sixth grade band meets three times a week as a class during the school day. Small group lesson will take place once a week during homeroom.

In sixth grade band, instruction is focused on the following:

- Proper playing and practice habits
- Fundamentals of music
- Technical skill development
- Detailed rehearsal of music for performance

In the sixth grade band student responsibilities include the following:

- Daily at home review of music for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- Bringing the following to class; instrument, music/books, pencil and necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.)
- Maintaining the rules and regulations of Deer Path Middle School.
- Attending each class, working as part of a group
- Attending band classes, group lessons and concerts
- In seat with instrument ready to play when class begins
- Display proper concert and rehearsal etiquette

In the sixth grade band, evaluation consists of the following:

- Performances quizzes
- Weekly lesson points
- Daily band points
- Concert attendance and preparation-

Each band class is worth 4 points

1 – Music preparation - “I can demonstrate improvement on assigned musical sections”

1 – Class Participation - “I have positively contributed to the group learning activities”

1 – Group Etiquette - “I have demonstrated knowledge of rehearsal conduct expectations”

1 – Punctuality “I can be on time ready to play, with all required materials; i.e. valve oil, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.”

Each lesson is worth 4 points

1 – Music preparation-“I can demonstrate improvement on assigned musical sections”

1 – Class Participation- “I have positively contributed to the small group learning activities”

1 – Group Etiquette- “I have demonstrated knowledge of lesson conduct expectations”

1 – Punctuality- “I can be on time ready to play, with all required materials; i.e. valve oil, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.”

- Attendance at all classes, lessons and performances is required. Absence from school is the only accepted excuse for missing a group lesson (without band director permission) **A student’s grade is automatically dropped one letter per missed (unexcused) performance.** Concert dates can be found on the calendar included in this handbook or on the

band website at www.dpm67band.weebly.com. Conflicts must be communicated to a director no later than 4 weeks in advance of performance dates. Conflicts will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

In the sixth grade, band activities include:

- Performing at the fall, winter and spring concerts
- Performing at a local band festival
- Students are also encouraged to:
 - Take private lessons
 - Participate in solo and ensemble contest
 - Participate in extra-curricular Jazz or chamber ensembles
 - Volunteer for student leadership opportunities

Seventh Grade Band Class

Seventh grade band meets 3 days a week. Students will receive one instrument family sectional and one small group lesson per week. In addition, students will receive one day of Creative Arts per week throughout the year.

In seventh grade band, instruction is focused on the following:

- Advanced technical skill development
- Detailed rehearsal of music for performance
- Sight-reading various types of literature

Student responsibilities include:

- Daily at home review of music for a minimum of 20 minutes.
- Individual management of equipment and set-up needs.
- Maintaining the rules and regulations of Deer Path Middle School.
- Attending each class, working as part of a group
- Attending band classes, group lessons and concerts
- In seat with instrument ready to play when class begins

In the seventh grade band, evaluation consists of the following:

- Performances quizzes
- Scale mastery
- Daily band points

Each band class is worth 4 points

1 – Music preparation - “I can demonstrate improvement on assigned musical sections”

1 – Class Participation - “I have positively contributed to the group learning activities”

1 – Group Etiquette - “I have demonstrated knowledge of rehearsal conduct expectations”

1 – Punctuality “I can be on time ready to play, with all required materials; i.e. valve oil, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.”

Each lesson is worth 4 points

1 – Music preparation-“I can demonstrate improvement on assigned musical sections”

1 – Class Participation- “I have positively contributed to the small group learning activities”

1 – Group Etiquette- “I have demonstrated knowledge of lesson conduct expectations”

1 – Punctuality- “I can be on time ready to play, with all required materials; i.e. valve oil, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.”

- Attendance at all classes, lessons and performances is required. Absence from school is the only accepted excuse for missing a group lesson (without band director permission) **A student’s grade is automatically dropped one letter per missed (unexcused) performance.** Concert dates can be found on the calendar included in this handbook or on the band website at www.dpm67band.weebly.com. Conflicts must be communicated to a director no later than 4 weeks in advance of performance dates. Conflicts will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

In the seventh grade band, activities include:

- Performing at the fall, winter and spring concerts
- Performing at a local band festival
- Students are also encouraged to:
 - Take private lessons
 - Participate in solo and ensemble contest
 - Participate in jazz band and chamber ensembles
 - Volunteer for student leadership opportunities
 - Participate in program selection discussion

Eighth Grade Band Class

Eighth grade band meets 3 days a week. Students will receive one instrument family sectional and one small group lesson per week. In addition, students will receive one day of Creative Arts per week throughout the year.

In eighth grade band instruction is focused on the following:

- Developing programming skills
- Developing independent sight-reading skills
- Advanced mastery of expression and interpretation
- Exploration of professional musicianship
- Music History and theory
- Performance of various styles of music
- Developing independent goal setting skills in preparation for high school

Student responsibilities include:

- Daily at home review of music for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- Individual management of equipment and set-up needs.
- Maintaining the rules and regulations of Deer Path Middle School.
- Maintaining band room equipment and space for younger grade levels
- Serve as role models for younger grade levels
- Attending each class, working as part of a group
- Attending band classes, group lessons and concerts
- In seat with instrument ready to play when class begins

In the eighth grade band, evaluation consists of the following:

- Performances quizzes
- Scale mastery
- Daily band points

Each band class is worth 4 points

1 – Music preparation - “I can demonstrate improvement on assigned musical sections”

1 – Class Participation - “I have positively contributed to the group learning activities”

1 – Group Etiquette - “I have demonstrated knowledge of rehearsal conduct expectations”

1 – Punctuality “I can be on time ready to play, with all required materials; i.e. valve oil, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.”

Each lesson is worth 4 points

1 – Music preparation-“I can demonstrate improvement on assigned musical sections”

1 – Class Participation- “I have positively contributed to the small group learning activities”

1 – Group Etiquette- “I have demonstrated knowledge of lesson conduct expectations”

1 – Punctuality- “I can be on time ready to play, with all required materials; i.e. valve oil, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.”

- Attendance at all classes, lessons and performances is required. Absence from school is the only accepted excuse for missing a group lesson (without band director permission) **A student’s grade is automatically dropped one letter per missed (unexcused) performance.** Concert dates can be found on the calendar included in this handbook or on the band website at www.dpm67band.weebly.com. Conflicts must be communicated to a director no later than 4 weeks in advance of performance dates. Conflicts will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

In the eighth grade band, activities include:

- Performing at the fall, winter and spring concerts
- Performing at the LFHS band festival (with the marching band)
- Specialty concerts featuring the eighth grade band
- Annually traveling to Florida to participate in Disney’s “You’re Instrumental” Workshop days

Students are also encouraged to:

- Take private lessons
- Participate in solo and ensemble contest
- Participate jazz band and chamber ensembles
- Form their own ensembles outside of school based on individual passions
- Seek out extra performance opportunities on their own

Classroom Rules

We do not anticipate any severe discipline problems. We do expect that students will

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Resourceful

These expectations encompass treatment of equipment and people alike. If we all treat each other with respect, are responsible for the actions of ourselves and are resourceful in seeking help when needed, the band will grow and prosper into a wonderful musical organization.

1. Be in your seat with your instrument, music & pencil at:

8th grade band – 10:29 AM

7th grade band – 8:37 AM

6th grade band – 12:28 PM

5th grade band – 3:05 PM

2. Sit quietly and listen for directions once class begins.

3. Display a positive attitude at all times by being respectful and responsible.

4. Raise your hand if you have a question, comment or concern.

5. Take care of personal matters before class starts (ex. getting a drink, going to the bathroom, etc.)

6. You may only use equipment that has been directly assigned to you.

7. Display proper instrument playing position.

8. Band class is for band music, avoid bringing work from other classes.

9. No gum or food is allowed in the band room.

10. Play your instrument only when directed by a teacher

11. Recess level noise and activity are not permitted in the band room

12. All DPM rules apply in band class.

We fully expect all students to display a positive attitude in class. However, if there is a problem with any student, they will be (1) duly warned, (2) parents notified, and (3) an incident report will be filed with the principal's office.

If you choose to participate in a before school ensemble, you **MUST** be on time and prepared for all rehearsals and performances.

Concert Attire

It is extremely important that we look as good as we sound. Concerts call for uniformity in dress and a formal appearance. The concert attire for Deer Path band students is:

- Solid color, short sleeve, band polo shirt
- Conservative, black dress slacks that shirts can be tucked in
- Black belt (if necessary)
- Black socks that cover the ankle
- Black dress shoes (no gym shoes, sandals, open toed shoes or opened heel)

Polo shirt orders are taken in the fall. An order form is attached or can be found on the band web site.

Please check that your child is wearing the proper uniform before they leave for a concert.

Students not dressed properly will receive a lowered grade for the concert.

Equipment and Supplies

Students are expected to have the following material at each class and performance:

- Instrument in good playing condition
- Pencil
- Music/Books
- School-issued music folder
- 1 ½" three ring binder with pockets by the first week of school
- Necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.). If you contact us, we can order on your behalf and have the music retailer bill you directly.

Percussionists

In an effort for our percussionist to be well rounded musicians they are required to have the following equipment:

- 5th grade: Drum and Marimba kit for at-home practice (please continue to rent this equipment through 8th grade)
- 6th grade: new stick bag with snare drum sticks, general purpose timpani mallets, general purpose bell mallets, medium yarn wound mallets, and medium rubber xylophone mallets
- 7th grade: stick bag with all above plus marimba mallets
- 8th grade: stick bag with all above

Additionally, percussionists in 6th, 7th and 8th are charged a yearly fee of \$90 to cover the cost of upkeep and replacement of school equipment that they use. You will receive a separate bill for this from District 67.

Rental Companies

We work very hard to supply you with information about companies who will rent you a good high-quality instrument that your child will have success playing.

There are three music stores that work directly with the DPM band program. They will not only rent you a good quality instrument but will supply you with our required mouthpiece, supplies and class method book. Rental fees should include a repair/maintenance agreement and be applied towards the purchase, trade-in value or upgrade to a step-up instrument.

Area music stores:

- The Music Center of Deerfield (Deerfield) 847-945-1322
- Music and Arts (Itasca) 630-285-1485
- Quinlan and Fabish (Mt. Prospect) 630-654-4111

Instrument Recommendations

Instrument brands that we have found to be of a high quality for the beginning musician, are manufactured to perform well in school bands and will physically hold up under the day to day use by younger players.

- **Flute** - Gemeinhardt, Armstrong, or Yamaha
- **Oboe** - Fox, Yamaha, or Selmer
- **Clarinet** - Buffet, Yamaha, or Vito
- **Alto Sax** - Selmer, Yamaha, or Vito
- **Tenor Sax** - Selmer, Yamaha or Vito
- **Trumpet** - Bach, Holton, or Yamaha
- **Horn** - Holton, Conn, or Yamaha
- **Trombone** – Bach, or Yamaha
- **Baritone** - Bach, Yamaha, or Holton
- **Percussion** - Practice Marimba and Drum Pad

Purchase

It is extremely important when you make a decision to purchase an instrument that you speak to either your child's band director and their private instructor. Again, we want you to invest in a high quality instrument that will perform well for your child and stand the test of time. Please use the same instrument brands we recommend for rental as a guide.

If You Already Own an Instrument

Please bring it by the school to be checked over. It may likely need repair work and possibly a new mouthpiece. Please call a band director if you have any questions about instruments.

Online Purchases and Garage Sales

We recommend that you do not purchase instruments from internet sites, at garage sales or at non-music retails outlets such as warehouse clubs without speaking to a band director first. What may look like a good instrument and a good deal can really be an instrument with many flaws. Good

instruments are like good cars; they require maintenance and like cars the ones made of the best materials last longer and work best. We can help you make an informed decision.

Step Up Instruments

A step up instrument is a great way to enhance the process of music making. It can help a student play with a better tone, make technically challenging parts in their music easier and it is a great investment. Before purchasing a step up instrument please contact one of the band directors.

Instrument Rental through District 67

The rental fee for any student that needs to use a D67 owned instrument is \$90 per year. Students are responsible for upkeep and any repairs other than normal wear. You will receive a separate bill for this from District 67.

If your child has an instrument that is too large and difficult for them to travel with to and from school, we have an inventory of large instruments at DPM that are available to rent on a first come first serve basis. Please contact one of the directors to inquire.

Private Lessons

Private music lessons are the fastest way to improve musical ability and become a more proficient musician. The one-on-one attention students receive in private lessons cannot be duplicated in the classroom.

We strongly promote private lessons for musicians of all ages and certainly feel that they are important for developing middle school instrumentalists. A list of private teachers is available upon request. Please reach out to the directors if you are looking for a private instructor.

Other Performing Groups

Student interest dictates many of these ensembles but some that are generally offered include:

Orchestra Winds

For advanced 7th and 8th grade band members who are selected to perform with the orchestra in the spring. Rehearsals may be held before school or during home room.

Jazz Band

The jazz band is devoted to teaching students how to play in various musical styles including jazz, rock and Latin. It is made up of students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, piano, bass and percussion. Jazz bands are organized by grade level starting in the 6th grade. Students should be dropped off at 7:30 AM and practice begins promptly at 7:40 AM. Jazz band meets once a week. A current jazz band schedule is available on the band website. The Jazz Bands perform at various school and community events. Students involved in Jazz band are required to practice and review their music at home.

Chamber Ensembles

Our groups that are devoted to performing music written for smaller groups and improving the individual musicians skills. Our chamber ensembles currently are; clarinet choir, woodwind quintet, brass quintet and flute choir. Chamber ensembles are currently a part of our sectional and curricular component. Our chamber ensembles perform at various school and community events. Students involved in any of the chamber ensembles are required to practice and review their music at home.

Deer Path Middle School Bands

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Polo Shirts, Percussion & Book Order Form (*To be completed and returned, please staple payment to form*) \, found on Band Website under forms

Handbook Sign Off & Data Page (*To be completed and returned*), found on Band Website under forms.

BOC Drop Form

Band Website: <http://dpm67band.weebly.com>

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