

DESERT HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

To: Parents and Students

From: Vicki Eccleston, Director of Bands

Re: Syllabus, expectations, and schedule for 2018-2019

Date: August 23, 2018

This is a letter about the expectations and different aspects of our band program here at Desert Hills Middle School. Please read through this with your student, sign the last page, and return to school as soon as possible. I am so excited to be working with you all! This will be my 25th year of teaching band, and I am looking forward to making great music together. If you have questions, you can contact me at:

vicki.eccleston@ksd.org, or by my office phone at 509-222-7575.

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Rehearsals and concerts have required attendance. If this is not possible, please let me know 2 weeks in advance.
2. **EQUIPMENT:** We will provide folders and sheet music. Method books can be purchased at your local music store. Many students rent instruments from those stores as well. If you are looking to play a larger or rarer instrument such as a French horn or Tuba, you should see Mrs. Eccleston to sign one out from the school. Also, we should always have a sharp pencil to use.
3. **BOOKS:**
 - 6th Grade Band: Essential Elements Book 1 (for your particular instrument).
 - 7th Grade Band: Essential Elements Book 2 (red/black cover).
 - 8th Grade Band: Essential Technique Book 3 (Turquoise cover).
4. **SUPPLIES (available at your local music stores):**

Flutes: Cleaning Swab, cloth to remove fingerprints.

Clarinets: Cleaning Swab, cork grease, 3-4 reeds (size 2 or 2.5), mouthpiece cover.

Saxophones: Cleaning Swab, cork grease, 3-4 reeds (size 2 or 2.5), mouthpiece cover.

Trumpets: Original Swab, valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, polish cloth.

French Horn: rotor oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, polish cloth.

Trombone: Original Swab, slide cream, slide oil, spray bottle, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, polish cloth.

Percussion: Bell kit, Vic Firth 5A drumsticks, 1 pair of mallets (preferably yarn).

Bass Guitar: Case and patch cord (10 ft.).

5. **PRACTICE:** We will turn in our practice charts once a grading period. I recommend 90 minutes per week for an “A” for practice time. Practicing is how we maintain and improve on our skills.
6. **CONCERT ATTIRE:** A Navy Polo Band Shirt (make checks out to Desert Hills Band ASB for \$20.00 and give to Mrs. Gregory by September 28th. Also, we will wear khaki pants (or girls can wear a knee-length or longer khaki skirt).
7. **CONCERTS:** Concerts have required attendance. In cases of a family emergency, students should see Mrs. Eccleston for a make-up assignment.
8. **CLASS WORK** points: Daily class work points equal 20 points. Things that affect class work include being on time, being prepared with all materials, and how you conduct yourself in class.

Please see the performance schedule for our events this year. All concerts have required attendance, with the exception of Solo & Ensemble festival—although this event is heavily encouraged.

Band Grades

Grades are based on a percentage of points earned in the following 4 areas:

Concerts	90-93% = A-	94-100% = A	
Practice Time	80-83%= B-	84-86% = B	87-89% = B+
Class Work	70-73%= C-	74-76%= C	77-79%= C+
Tests/Assignments	60-66%= D	67-69% D+	0-59%= F

Desert Hills Band Concert Schedule 2018-2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Group</u>
Oct. 2, 2018		All-State Honor Band Auditions Due		7 th /8 th Graders*
Oct. 25, 2018	6 pm	Fall Concert	DHMS Gym	All
Nov. 9, 2018	1 pm	Veteran's Day Assembly	DHMS Gym	8 th grade
Dec. 13, 2018	6 pm	Winter Concert	DHMS Gym	All
Feb. 9, 2019	All Day	Solo & Ensemble Festival	Libby MS	Participants*
Mid-February	TBA	Band tour to elementary schools		8 th grade
Feb. 22, 2019	All Day	Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival	Moscow, Idaho	Jazz I
March 5, 2019	6 pm	Joint HS/8 th grade concert	District HS	8 th grade band
March 21, 2019	6 pm	Spring Concert	DHMS Gym	6 th , 7 th , Jazz
March 27/28, 2019	All Day	Region Large Group Festival	Chief Joe MS	7 th /8 th grade
April 13 th , 2019	All Day	CBC Jazz Unlimited	Pasco, WA	Jazz I/II
May 21, 2019	6 pm	Final Concert	DHMS Gym	All
May 31, 2019	Lunches	Jazz at Lunch	Back of school	Jazz I/II

*Event is for participants only—not required for all.

These dates are subject to change due to schedule conflicts with other school activities or weather.

Class Expectations

As a member of DHMS Band, you are expected to:

- 1) Strive for excellence at all times.
- 2) Be on time with all necessary materials (music, instrument and supplies, pencil).
- 3) Be attentive at all times (no cell phones, ipods, calculators).
- 4) Play with correct posture, breathing, and tone.
- 5) Keep instrument clean and in good working condition, and use only your own instrument.
- 6) Keep music in good condition (folders provided).
- 7) Leave band room neat and clean (**No gum**, food, soda).
- 8) Attend all required band performances.
- 9) Practice regularly (up to 2 hours per week).

Please sign and return the back page of the syllabus. Thanks!

2018-2019 Band & Concert Expectations and Grading System

Due by Sept. 7, 2018 for 100 points.

We have read the Class Expectations, Syllabus and Grading system, and agree to abide by them.

Student Name: _____ Class Hour: _____

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Information

Student Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

School year: _____

Instrument (s): _____

Serial #: _____

Father: _____

Mother: _____

Phone #: _____

Phone #: _____

Parent Email address: _____

Band Lock combination if using one: _____

Band Locker #: _____