

DULLES MIDDLE SCHOOL VIKING BAND

500 Dulles Ave * Sugar Land, Texas 77478 * dmsvikingband.org



Handbook

“Always a Great Day to be a Viking”

Dulles Middle School
Viking Band
500 Dulles Ave
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281.634.0054

Dear Students & Parents,

The Dulles Middle School & High School music staffs along with our administration have put together a set of Music Program Guidelines to provide band students and parents as much information as possible about our Band program. Required guidelines published in this handbook provide general information about our program which we hope you will find helpful.

Students, who begin our band program in the sixth grade, can look forward to a comprehensive, sequential music education that will take them through the twelfth grade. Our sixth grade and early middle school band programs emphasize a thorough foundation in individual performance fundamentals. In the later middle school years, students have the opportunity to perform in full bands with emphasis placed on developing ensemble concepts and furthering individual skills. Once your student reaches the high school level, he/she will have the opportunity to participate in a wider range of performing ensembles including marching band, as well as individual, community, and national performances.

We are proud of the tradition of excellence that our band program enjoys. With your help and support, we look forward to continuing this tradition of educational excellence in music.

If you have questions regarding the Dulles Middle School guidelines and information contained in this band handbook, please call the band office at 281.634.0054.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dee Knox
Principal, Dulles Middle School

Mr. James Drew
Director of Fine Arts, Fort Bend ISD

Mr. Michael Roberts
Director of Bands, Dulles Middle School
281.634.0054

Mr. Joseph Slusser
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PHILOSOPHY OF THE VIKING BAND

The success of the Dulles Middle School Band centers on pride, commitment to task and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the program to become a virtuoso musician. We do expect every student to establish both short and long term goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature, responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and be willing to contribute to lots of hard work for the benefit of all.

The band program exists to provide an excellent music education for the students. This is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues, supporting a curriculum which places an emphasis on comprehensive musicianship. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber ensembles and solos. The skills that band students acquire in these activities are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations and interviews in other career fields.

Opportunities are also provided for those who wish to develop their leadership skills. There is an extensive student leadership program, and student leaders are relied upon to help achieve organizational goals. These opportunities are provided through the Band Officers and Section Leaders.

Social skills are also developed. Participation in band enables the students to form close friendships within the school through their collaborative efforts and the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a team. As a member of the Viking Band program, students make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie that is unique to our organization. Organizational goals are clearly established, and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve them. As a result, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork and good citizenship will develop as each student experiences the world of music.

The ultimate goal of the program is to produce students who are knowledgeable about music, can perform successfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to continually become a strong person.

Band activities are group events that require the commitment of ALL STUDENTS. All group performances require mandatory attendance from each student. We ask each Viking Band Family to make a strong commitment to the Band Calendar. Please communicate with the director if you foresee any conflicts. All students are required to attend the events pertaining to their particular band. Band events may sometimes conflict with another DMS school event. In that case, the director will work with the student to see that his/her best interests are met. Non-school related activities never take priority over a Dulles Middle School related event, no matter the expense, location, or contract with the non-school activity. Students will face consequences for non-compliance with this policy. ***Keep in mind that performance is priority over a "practice" of any activity.***

Every year is a new challenge – new combinations of personalities and talent, new audiences, new music, new members, and new leadership from section leaders, and officers. By accepting membership in the Dulles Middle School Band, students agree to perform to the best of their abilities and work together with the band staff to make this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

Individual Expectations

Honor, Symphonic, & Concert Bands

Preparation of All Region Band Music during the fall
Expected to become "Region Ready"
Complete Objective Sheets on time
Demonstrate proficiency on 12 major scales & chromatic scale
Students should audition for All Region Bands
Students are required to perform at the Solo/Ensemble contest
Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals/clinics before or after school
Students should study privately on his/her instrument
Demonstrate theory comprehension through 1st Semester written exam
Expected to perform at UIL Concert/Sight-reading Contest
Expected to perform at various ensemble competitions & festivals
Eligibility should be a non-issue for all band students
Should participate in Band Fundraisers

6th Grade

Demonstrate proficiency on 7 major scales & chromatic scale
Percussionist proficient at 26 snare rudiments & perform a percussion ensemble
Demonstrate theory comprehension through 1st Semester written exam
Completion of Practice Records on time
Complete Objective Sheets on time
Performance of an instrument specific solo
Performance of concert music as assigned by director
Attend all section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before/after school
Concert Performances each semester (Fall/Spring)
Students should study privately on his/her instrument
Should participate in Band Fundraisers

Jazz Band (7 & 8 Grade Only- not annual)

Concurrent enrollment in Honor/Symphonic/Concert Band
Formation varies from year to year
Limited to "jazz" ensemble instrumentation
All music learned, as selected by the director
Selected jazz theory/scales learned
Development of improvisation/aural skills
Attendance at all rehearsals & performances
Rehearses outside the school day
Students should audition/participate in TMEA & UIL Events

DMS Full Orchestra (7 & 8 Grade Only - not annual)

Concurrent enrollment in Honor/Symphonic/Concert Band
Formation varies from year to year
Limited to orchestral instrumentation
All music learned, as selected by the director
Required to audition for All Region Bands
Complete Objective Sheets on time
Demonstrate proficiency on 12 major scales & chromatic scale
Students are required to perform at the Solo/Ensemble contest
Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band/orchestra rehearsals/clinics before or after school
Students should study privately on his/her instrument
Eligibility should be a non-issue for all band students
Should participate in Band Fundraisers
Rehearses outside the school day only
Students should audition/participate in TMEA & UIL Events

Conduct

- Any organization that has high performance standards must also have high disciplinary standards. The basic behavioral guidelines for students in music activities are taken from the FBISD Student Code of Conduct.
- Students enrolled in the band program are expected to display exemplary behavior at all times. At every performance as a band member, you represent your family, Dulles Middle School, FBISD and Sugar Land, Texas. Make sure that your actions prove that the DMS Bands are a “class act” in every way.
- Band students are allowed in the Band Hall only while a director is present. Do not disturb anyone if there is a class or section rehearsal in progress. Show every courtesy to the director and students involved.
- Students will not be permitted to use any rehearsal area or school equipment without the director’s permission. The rehearsal areas include: 1000, 1000E, 1000F, Practice Rooms 1-4, Percussion Room, & Band Offices. The Band Hall is available for use anytime the directors are on campus.
- Students must have director approval to use the Band Office phone.
- Students are not allowed in the Band Offices unless a director is present.
- Only band members are allowed in the Band Hall facilities.
- Electronic devices should NOT accompany students off campus.
- DMS Band Restrooms REQUIRE director permission prior to use. Sign in-out to use the restrooms. Have a routine to use facilities in your school day so you do not take away from band time since we located in a separate building.

Rehearsal Guidelines

1. Be seated with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies when the tardy bell completes its ring.
2. Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player – study your part quietly while the director works with another section. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
3. Maintain proper posture at all times, which is important for all players.
4. Be intent on improving your performance skills.
5. Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.
6. Follow director procedures in the placement of your instrument & supplies in the rehearsal areas.
7. Do not leave purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall.
8. No food, gum or drink is allowed in the band hall or during other rehearsals. We all take pride in keeping our band hall clean and organized.
9. All instruments remain in cases with latches closed inside a locker when not in use.
10. Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
11. Please be considerate of directors’ requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.
12. All students will adhere to the FBISD Code of Conduct Handbook.
13. Instruments must be well maintained and in good, working order at all times.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. Any communication such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, photo sharing, email, text, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students’ technology. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other Dulles Middle School Band members, teaching staff, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band program.

DMS Band Electronic Device Policy

In accordance with FBISD policies, electronic devices should be turned OFF/powering down, and locked in your school or band locker during school hours. Any electronic device that is ON and in the eye sight of an adult or student may be confiscated by an adult. The device will be labeled and turned over to the DMS Assistant Principal’s Office for parents to retrieve. The retrieval process does incur a mandatory FBISD \$15.00 fee. When Off Campus as a DMS Band member, band members are not allowed electronic devices of any kind to be in their possession.

Grading Policy

Major Grades (50%)

Individual/Group Performances (sectionals are considered a performance)
Objective Sheets
Written Exams
Recorded Assignments
 *Student/Parent responsible for technology access.
 *No late recordings are accepted. Meet deadlines.
Additional grades at discretion of director

Daily Grades (50%)

Practice Records
Pass Offs
Objective Sheets
Recorded Assignments
 *Student/Parent responsible for technology access.
 *No late recordings are accepted. Meet deadlines.
Individual Expectations
 *Materials, Uniform, Rehearsal/Clinic, Chair Test, Engaged during Class/Clinic/Rehearsals
Written Quizzes
Additional grades at discretion of director

Campus policy on late work (this will NOT apply to Recorded Assignments – no late recordings are accepted).

-1st day late = 90% highest possible grade
-2nd day late = 80% highest possible grade
-3rd day late = 70% highest possible grade

Unexcused Absences – An unexcused absence from a required performance/rehearsal/clinic/sectional may result in the suspension of that student from band activities the remainder of the year, removal from the performing ensemble, &/or demotion within the section. The student's band grade would also be affected for concerts and section rehearsals missed.

Unexcused = No prior notification, or notification less than 24 hours prior to an absence.

Unexcused = Reason for absence is not approved by director prior to absence.

Unexcused = Notification of reason for absence AFTER absence has occurred.

If a student's religious beliefs prevent them from performing certain music, an alternate assignment will be given by the director. Please communicate this information to the director so that accommodations may be made for the student.

Section Rehearsals (CB, SB, & HB only)

Regular section rehearsals and a thorough private lesson program are the heart of every successful band program. Section rehearsals provide the students the individual and small group specialized instruction they cannot receive during full band rehearsal. The goal of a section rehearsal is to strengthen individual in a small group setting. It is mandatory for students in performing bands to attend these tutorials, per Fort Bend ISD Fine Arts Guidelines.

Attendance is required at all section rehearsals year round. Each weekly sectional is considered a required performance. They are scheduled before and after school. ALL band members are required to attend ONE section rehearsal per week. Students will earn grades in their section rehearsal. Band is a core/curricular subject in the State of Texas. Sectionals are an extension of the class period and part of the student's band grading.

It is impossible to "make up" the instruction when sectionals are missed. The time spent learning skills taught during a specific time with specific instruments cannot be recreated. Students & Parents must make every effort to not schedule other appointments, tutorials, or activities during sectional times. 24 Hour notification prior to an absence is required to receive an EXCUSED absence to make up the grade for sectionals. Appropriate methods of communication would include: student verbal notification, phone message, email to director, and/or signed note to director PRIOR to the sectional. 1 Unexcused Absence will merit an evaluation in student placement in the performing band and part assignments. 2 Unexcused Absences will merit evaluation of band placement & participation in band performances/activities. For extenuating circumstances, students may attend another section rehearsal with prior director approval in order to make up the time. Students will also need to schedule an individual time to meet with the director in order to make up any individual playing grades. "Performance" trumps "practice." Sectionals are considered a performance.

Due Process

All DMS students are entitled due process in accordance with the Fort Bend Independent School District Policy. Contact the campus principal for inquiries concerning due process procedures. We will work with you to resolve issues. We are here to provide a quality music education for all our students.

Band is NOT considered an extra-curricular activity by the state of Texas. Events that require student attendance/participation outside of the school day(sectionals, clinics, rehearsals, performances, etc.) are a curricular element of the course. Consequences aligned with the FBISD Code of Conduct will be enforced for any infractions.

Eligibility

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and FBISD. A student is suspended or “ineligible” from participation in all *competitive* activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine-week period following a grade reporting period in which the **student receives a grade lower than a 70 in ANY class on their report card**. This suspension or “ineligibility” begins seven days after the end of the nine-week period. If at the end of each third week, an ineligible student is passing with a 70 or above in all classes they become eligible again 7 days after the third week. If at the end of each third week an ineligible student is failing any class, they will remain ineligible for the remainder of the nine-week period.

SHORT VERSION: *You can GAIN OR LOSE eligibility on a Report Card. You can ONLY GAIN eligibility (if ineligible) on a Progress Report. You cannot lose eligibility on a Progress Report if your status is eligible at the time of the Progress Report.*

Events affected by Ineligibility would include: Any band contest where ratings/rankings are awarded, both individual &/or group, any band performance associated with an event where an admission is charged, any performance that is not *curricular*.

Ineligibility does NOT affect: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Awards Concert, Daily Participation in Class, Practice Records, Pass Offs, Private Lessons, or written assignments.

Any student assigned CAEP (Campus Alternative Education Placement) or In School Suspension (ISS) for any reason is required to be separated from the rest of the student body beginning on the first day of the placement and ending at midnight of the last day of the placement. This means that the student may not participate in ANY activities, including both graded and non-graded band rehearsals and events. This includes after school activities on the day when the student is assigned to CAEP. If the placement spans a weekend, the student may not participate in band activities over the weekend. For information about graded events missed due to CAEP, refer to the FBISD Grading Policy. The district provides a list of courses that are exempt from the eligibility requirements. The Dulles MS Band will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their band class and rehearsals and participate in curricular performances to earn their band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in performances that require fees.

Instruments & Band Lockers

Personal Instruments:

With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowner's policy or private company. The school district will not assume liability for maintenance, loss, repair, or damage of personal instruments, supplies, or personal items. If you own it PUT YOUR NAME ON IT. Instruments should NOT be in the Band Hall overnight.

School Owned Instruments:

Dulles Middle School furnishes the following instruments for students use: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and all Concert Percussion instruments – THIS DOES NOT include sticks/mallets. If you are considered responsible for a school instrument PUT YOUR NAME ON IT. FBISD will assess an annual fee of \$80 for wind and percussion instrument use. Percussionists pay only in 7th & 8th grade. Students & Parents will sign a contract regarding the condition and repair of the school owned instrument annually.

Instrument Lockers:

All band students will be assigned an instrument locker for storage of his/her instrument. Students are to keep only their instrument and music in the locker. Students must not keep clothing, shoes, school books, binders, food, or drinks in the band hall. These items should be kept in their school lockers. Directors can/will remove & discard any of these items and/or other belongings from your band locker at their discretion.

Each locker is equipped with a lock assigned to that specific band locker. Students must use the lock provided – no exceptions. If a lock is misplaced, the student will be charged a lock replacement fee of five dollars (\$5.00). Lock/locker privileges are revoked at the pleasure of the director. Students do not have a "right" to use a band locker/lock for instrument storage. It is a privilege. Students will keep their instrument in the assigned locker during the school day. It is required that every band student take their instrument home daily, over weekends, and school holidays. FBISD is NOT responsible for personal items/instruments. There are consequences for instruments left in the DMS Band Hall overnight.

6th Grade Supplies

Band 1" Binder & Pencil (\$5.00/payable to VBB)

Rhythm Master Book I

Band Uniform (Band t-shirt/jeans)

Metronome

Wire Music Stand

Nametag(all supplies/instrument must have student's name CLEARLY LABELED)

Instrument and supplies

7th-8th Grade Supplies

Band 1" Binder & Pencil (\$5.00/payable to VBB)

Band Uniform (Casual & Formal)

Metronome & Tuner w/ Pick Up Microphone

Wire Music Stand

Instrument and supplies (in good working order)

Nametag(all supplies/instrument must have a student's name CLEARLY LABELED)

Foundations for a Superior Performance

Recommended Instruments/Supplies

Flute

Yamaha 261 or 361 with Offset G
 Cleaning Rod/Silk cloth/handkerchief
 Tuning Rod

Bb Clarinet

Buffet Crampon Ell BbClarinet
 Buffet Crampon R13 Bb Clarinet
 Fobes Debut or Vandoren 5RV Mouthpiece
 Bonade Bb Clarinet Inverted Ligature
 Vandoren #3 reeds (blue box)
 Silk Clarinet Swab
 Reed Guard (4 minimum)

Oboe/Bassoon

School Provides Instrument (\$80)
 Reed Case (3 reed minimum)
 Seat Strap (Bassoon only)
 Silk Cleaning Swab
 3 Reeds Emerald Medium (oboe)
 3 Reeds Jones Medium (bassoon)

Alto Sax

Yamaha YAS 23 Alto Sax
 Vandoren AL 3 Optimum Mouthpiece
 Bonade Ligature/Inverted
 Vandoren #3 reeds (blue box)
 Reed guard (4 minimum) & Silk Saxophone Swab

Cornet

Bach CR300 Cornet
 King 602/603 Cornet
 Bach 5B Mouthpiece
 Blue Juice Valve Oil
 Mouthpiece brush
 Polishing Cloth

French Horn

School Provides Instrument (\$80)
 Schilke 31 mouthpiece
 Rotor oil
 Mouthpiece brush
 Polishing Cloth

Trombone

King 606, Yamaha YSL 356
 Trombontine Slide Lubricant
 Schilke 51D Mouthpiece
 Mouthpiece brush
 H2O Bottle & Polishing Cloth

Euphonium

School Provides Instrument (\$80)
 Valve Oil
 Schilke 51D Mouthpiece
 Mouthpiece brush
 Polishing Cloth

Tuba

School Provides Instrument (\$80)
 Valve & Rotary Oil
 Conn-Helleberg 7B Mouthpiece
 Mouthpiece brush
 Polishing Cloth

Percussion

Ludwig Rolling Combo Kit (Bells/Snare)
 Model #LE2483R
 Sayler Percussion Mallet/Stick Package
 KORG MA-1 Metronome

<i>STEP UP INSTRUMENTS</i>	
<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Brand/Model</u>
Flute	Yamaha Prof. 677H
Trumpet	Bach Stradivarius Standard
Trombone	Bach 42BO Stradivarius F-Attachment
Trombone	Yamaha YSL-448G Intermediate
Alto Saxophone	YAS 82ZII Custom Z
Alto Saxophone	YAS 62III Professional
Alto Saxophone	Selmer Series II Model 52

Uniforms

7th & 8th Grade Students-Formal Concert Attire

**Boys*

1. Solid Black JERZEES 29LSR Heavy Blend Cotton/Poly Long Sleeve Shirt
Purchased ONLY from Viking Band Boosters:
Same size as your Band t-Shirt
Machine-wash on COLD (iron before wearing/tucked in)
\$10 – Pay to VBB via CHARMS
2. Solid black tuxedo pants
Visit Al's Formal Wear:
Adjustable Pleated Solid Black Tuxedo Pants
“for school” – \$34.99 avg
3. Solid Black dress socks (mid-calf)
4. Solid black dress shoes – no patent leather

**Girls*

1. Solid Black JERZEES 29LSR Heavy Blend Cotton/Poly Long Sleeve Shirt
Purchased ONLY from Viking Band Boosters:
Same size as your Band t-Shirt
Machine-wash on COLD (iron before wearing/tucked in)
*Solid Black or Flesh Colored undergarments only – NO colors
\$10 – Pay to VBB via CHARMS
2. Solid black tuxedo pants
Visit Al's Formal Wear:
Adjustable Pleated Solid Black Tuxedo Pants
“for school” – \$34.99 avg
3. Solid Black dress socks (mid-calf) OR Black hosiery
4. Solid black closed-toe flat dress shoe – no patent leather/bows/accessories
5. Hair is to be worn up and/or off the face – no jewelry or additional accessories

****Band t-shirt and JERZEES 29LSR Formal Top purchased ONLY through VBB.***

Solid Black Pleated Tuxedo Pants

Al's Formal Wear

15511 SW Freeway
Hwy 59 & Williams Trace Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77478
281.565.1500

6th Grade Students & 7-8 Grade T/Jean Uniform (Casual)

1. Band T-shirt (purchased through band program only)
2. Blue jeans – no holes, appropriate fit
3. Belt
4. Tennis Shoes – white, red, blue, black (school colors preferred)

The Uniform will be required when representing our school and at concerts/contests. Our bands are evaluated on uniformity of dress. It is essential for all students to be dressed appropriately. Each student is responsible for acquiring the uniform components.

Uniform Guidelines:

1. Long solid black socks/hose required with black tuxedo pants – socks must reach mid-calf.
 2. Uniforms must be pressed/ironed –all uniform parts are stored on a hanger.
 3. No jewelry will be worn with the uniforms. No earrings, watches, long hair to be worn up, etc.
 4. No colored undergarments will be allowed. (Black, flesh colored preferred)
 5. Band Shirt/Formal Top will be tucked in AT ALL TIMES, an untucked shirt constitutes “out of uniform.”
 6. Black jeans, leather or vinyl pants/skirts, or skate shoes of any kind are not appropriate.
 7. Anyone not in correct uniform will not perform/participate in the event and may receive a failing grade.
-

Finances

All Viking Band Students are strongly encouraged to participate in fundraisers, as well as any VBB or PTO fundraising programs for Dulles Middle School.

These funds will defer the expenses of Viking Band contest fees, supplies, incentives, clinicians, band camp/lesson scholarships, transportation, parties, concerts, and other activities.

- There are no refunds granted from fundraiser money. All monies raised during fundraising activities belong to the organization.
- All monies collected from students will be receipted electronically.
- Electronic Payments & Monies placed in the “ENVELOPE BOX” cannot be refunded.
- Exact change is required for ALL transactions, fees, etc.
- Regardless of the time of a returned check, money and processing fees will be the responsibility of the parties indicated on the check. You will receive a collection letter from VBB regarding procedures for remitting payment.

Individual Financial Responsibilities

1. Uniform (Casual & Formal)
 - \$10.00 (band t-shirt) – All Students
 - \$10.00 (Formal Top) – CB, SB, HB members
2. Instrument & required instrument supplies
3. Private Lessons (\$20 per half hour lesson). Optional, but **STRONGLY** encouraged!
4. See CHARMS Band Calendar for “pay as we go” events.
5. School Owned Instruments (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, & Percussion) will be assessed the FBISD Instrument Use Fee annually. Wind and Percussionist pay \$80, make checks payable to DMS BAND. FBISD will waive the fee for all students enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs at any campus.

Methods of Payment

1. Electronic Payments via CHARMS/PayPal are the preferred method.
2. Band Envelope Box is for cash/check payments. Students must complete the outside of the envelope and place payment inside the DMS BAND ENVELOPE located beneath the Envelope Box in the Band Hall. Then place the completed envelope with enclosed payment inside the Box.

Home Practice

It is important to develop consistent practice habits. Parent support and guidance are the key factors in establishing a regular practice schedule. The most effective home practice is based on the following:

1. Set daily, weekly & monthly GOALS.
2. 20-30 minutes of QUALITY practice time daily.
3. Parent/student MUTUALLY agreed daily practice time.
4. Parent/student MUTUALLY agreed special practice area in your home.
5. Positive reinforcement from parents and siblings.

Home practice is expected and required. The physical demands and muscle memory of producing a QUALITY sound, playing with clean technical accuracy, and the reading of music notation will be strengthened over time ONLY through CONSISTENT, DAILY PRACTICE. **No instrument is to spend the night in the band hall.** Objectives/Recordings must be completed. Objective Sheets are to be completed, signed by parent/guardian, and returned by the indicated deadlines. DMS Late Work Policy is enforced.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are designed to benefit all band students – students having any difficulties with fundamentals receive the extra attention and tutoring needed to become successful. Students already proficient on basic concepts will gain great strength from the advanced pace and more challenging material the lesson instructor can provide. Students receive weekly “one on one” attention that is not always possible in a large band class. They learn more about their instrument, are challenged further, and tend to gain immense self-confidence from the lesson experience. The following instruments are required to study privately: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, saxophone, horn, euphonium, tuba, percussion, and members of the DMS Honor Band. ½ Scholarships are available – visit the band website to apply (Sept. 1st Deadline for applications).

**** Once they have arrived, students studying privately are NOT allowed to leave the DMS Band Building until the completion of their lessons. Students should arrive 5-10 minutes early, wait in the Band Hallway, have their lesson, and then depart the front entrance of the DMS Band Hall, curbside pickup.***

Audition Procedures

- Students are required to audition for performing bands.
- The Band Director determines audition requirements (usually consisting of prepared music, scales, and sight-reading).
- Directors will serve as evaluator during auditions.
- Student participation will be re-evaluated periodically in select performing bands.
- Auditions may be live or taped at the director's discretion.
- Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning.
- There will be one audition in the spring semester for the performing bands. Other chair tests may be held throughout the year, as well as a possible 're-audition' in the beginning of the school year.
- A student may be moved to a different band/class based on attendance, participation, proficiency &/or attitude at the director's discretion.
- Auditions for Jazz Band are at the director's discretion and may not be necessary.

All-Region Band

The All-Region Band auditions are an individual competition in which the students in Sugar Land, and the surrounding area compete for membership in a highly select musical ensemble. By learning the scales and prepared music, each student gains audition experience and advanced musical skills. Students who are fortunate enough to earn membership in the All-Region bands will participate in rehearsals and a special concert with a guest conductor. Students participating must reach an acceptable performance level determined by the director i.e. "Region Ready." Honor Band members and students studying privately are expected to become "Region Ready" and audition each year.

All Region Band Auditions are typically the first weekend of November on Friday-Saturday.

Members of the All-Region Bands are similar to creating an "All Star Team" of young musicians.

All Region Symphonic Band – Advanced Level (mostly 8th grade level players)

All Region Concert Band – Advanced/Intermediate (mix of 8th and 7th grade level players)

All Region District Band – Honorable Mentioned (does not perform – receives Region Patch Recognition)

**Students earning placement in All Region Symphonic & Concert Bands perform under a guest conductor typically the second weekend in November. Students placing in these bands are required to attend the Region Band Clinic/Rehearsals/Concert on the Friday & Saturday of this weekend.*

Solo/Ensemble

This event is a very important part of the student's musical education. The experience of playing a solo or in a small ensemble is much different than playing in a band. It gives the student an opportunity to do individual work on a solo and work with a small group of students (trio, quartet, and quintet) for ensembles. This contest increases the students' musical knowledge and skill, and develops self-confidence, persistence, and teamwork.

Students performing solos are required to perform with piano accompaniment. Concert & Symphonic Band students will utilize SMARTMUSIC Electronic Piano Accompanist, while the Honor Band Students will have a live pianist. Each Honor Band student are assigned an accompanist. Students must rehearse with their accompanist before the contest. An accompaniment fee are accessed for each individual soloist. All Concert, Symphonic, and Honor Band members are required to perform a Solo assigned by directors.

Solos are a "Major Grade" similar to completing a Science Fair Project. Students will perform for judges on the first Friday of February. Judges will award students a rating of (1) Superior, (2) Excellent, (3) Good, (4) Poor. Students receive a medal for receiving a rating of (1) or (2). Judges will also select an Overall Outstanding Musicians for their assigned room. This student will receive a partial scholarship to attend Band Camp.

Participation in an ensemble requires a commitment of each ensemble member to learn their music both as an individual and with the group. Every ensemble must have a hearing with the band director at least once, and meet on their own once a week. Students playing solos are encouraged to meet with the director for assistance. An acceptable performance level, as determined by the director, must be met by both solos and ensembles. If one or more members of an ensemble become ineligible, the entire ensemble is prevented from performing. A student preventing a registered ensemble from participating must refund the remaining ensemble members fees. Both solo and ensemble music will be chosen and assigned by the band director.

Transportation

Itineraries will be distributed for all Viking Band events electronically. Electronic Signatures on your DMS Band Forms and Itineraries serve as official permission slips for each event, as well as the BAND CALENDAR. Parents, please pick up your band members at the scheduled time. **Failure to do so will result in local police being called to deal with “abandoned students.”** Directors will NOT stay any longer than 15 minutes with students. After that time, parents and law enforcement are responsible for the supervision of the student. When picking up a student, use the front of the band building, Rodgers parking lot. This will ensure that our buses can park and off-load band members quickly and safely at the bus ramp. As specified by the itinerary, Viking Band members travel together to events by bus. Under special circumstances, parents who need to take his/her student home must provide advance written notification. Have a transportation plan prior to an event. Traveling as a DMS Band member is a PRIVILEGE, and not a right. Students may lose the privilege of traveling with the DMS Band at director discretion in accordance with FBISD Code of Conduct and DMS Band Handbook policies.

A student may only be released to his or her own parent or guardian. Relatives, siblings, neighbors, etc. may not take your son or daughter home from an off campus activity.

Pursuant to FBISD Board Policy, parents or guardians should be able to show a photo ID to the band director before a student is released, and will be asked to “sign out” the student.

Organizations In Band

Band Leadership Team

Students enrolled in Concert, Symphonic, and Honor Band must submit an online application form which will include a personal reference. Directors have the option to interview applicants during the selection process. Once Directors have selected the Band Leadership Team (BLT), projects are decided by the team and taken to the director for approval.

Section Leaders

These students are responsible for the organization, behavior, and performance of their individual instrument sections. They are divided into: Flute, Clarinet, Double/Low Reed, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion. Section Leaders are chosen based on their demonstration of leadership abilities throughout the year.

Annual Awards

- **Director’s Award:** Endorsed by *The Instrumentalist* Magazine, this award is earned by consistently displaying superior musicianship, leadership, commitment to the band program, and academic excellence. A model band member in every aspect.
 - **Bill Duggan Excellence in Leadership Award:** Bill Duggan was the fourth Head Director at Dulles High School. Recipients of this award demonstrate integrity, good humor and dedicated practice to achieving excellence daily. They command respect and lead by example with an enthusiasm for music and teaching others.
 - **Lisa Stiles Camp Scholarship Award:** Lisa Stiles was the Director of Band at Dulles Middle School from 1995-2002. While she was at DMS, the bands received several prestigious awards including being invited to perform at *The Midwest Clinic* in 1998. She inspires her students to set high goals and to work to achieve them so that they can reach their fullest potential and lead meaningful, satisfying lives. Students are awarded a full tuition scholarship to the band camp of their choosing.
 - **Dustin Chan Memorial Camp Scholarship:** Dustin Chan was a member of the DMS Band Program from 2012-2014. He led by example in his academics & musicianship. He demonstrated strong moral values, character, and a positive outlook on life. He was a 7th grade trumpeter in the Honor Band at the time of his passing. He modeled what a Viking Band student strives to become. The Viking Band Boosters, parents, and students created this award to honor his memory. The award is a full scholarship to attend Fort Bend Band Camp.
 - **Vanguard Jazz Award:** The Viking Vanguard Award was created to acknowledge the impact the pursuit of jazz has on young musicians. A member of the DMS Jazz Band: Viking Vanguard earns this award by demonstrating a sincere curiosity, improvement, and bravery in performing as a member of the Viking Vanguard.
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Summer Activities

- All students will receive a tentative calendar in June for the following school year. Changes to this calendar will be as few as possible and students are asked to plan accordingly in order to minimize scheduling conflicts. The CHARMS Calendar is the point of reference for the band calendar. Check it frequently. A CHARMS Email will be sent immediately following any changes to the calendar.
 - All students are strongly encouraged to attend band camp during the summer. Applications are available for scholarships at the conclusion of the spring semester. Please see a director for information regarding recommended summer band camp opportunities.
 - DMS Summer Band is held at the discretion of the director each year. The Viking Band will be notified by June 1st of the Summer Band Schedule. It will consist of a 2 day percussion camp, 1 day of registration, and a minimum of 1 week of required rehearsals in preparation for the start of the school years performances/auditions.
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How to access parent information

CHARMS

DULLES MS VIKING BAND

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com (or www.dmsvikingband.org – Parent Tab)
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your school code account using the following login:

dullesmsband

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the band’s **public calendar, event list, handouts and other files.**
 - Now enter your child’s **ID NUMBER** (minus Zero – the last six digits), _____ another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student’s personal information, financial records, forms and inventory. ***NEVER CHANGE your password from your ID number.***
 - Please select **“Update Personal Info”**:
 - Update your child’s **student information page.** Please complete all blank fields.
 - Do NOT complete: Locker, Primary Group, Instrument
 - Remember:
 1. Phone numbers must have hyphens/dashes
 2. Birthdates must have hyphens
 3. Type: LCE, ME, DE, HE, or other for Elementary School
 4. Type: YL, S, M, L, XL, 2XL for Student’s Shirt Size
 5. Please also complete the Occupation/Skills Blank
 6. Complete all blank fields for example:
 1. Student Information
 2. Both Parent/Guardian Information
 3. Cell Phone Carrier
 4. Relationship
 5. Address/Phone/Email
 6. Personal Instrument – enter brand and serial number
 - Clicking on an event on the calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements and equipment/uniform necessities. Clicking on “event list” puts all of the calendar information in a list form for easy printing.
 - Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher with communication.
 - PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU MAINTAIN AN UP TO DATE EMAIL ADDRESS & CHECK SPAM/JUNK EMAIL FOLDERS JUST IN CASE.
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Viking Band Boosters

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Parent Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Day Phone: _____
E- Mail: _____
Student Name: _____
Grade: _____
Band Class Period: _____

BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP DONATION (Please select one below or "other")

_____ \$25
_____ \$50
_____ \$75
_____ \$100
_____ \$125
_____ \$150
_____ \$175
_____ \$200

\$ _____ Other

Please make checks payable to: VBB

Total Amount: \$ _____
Cash/Check # _____

**Please put Student First/Last Name in the "memo" portion of the check.*

You may send your donation via your child in an envelope marked "Booster Membership" and place in the "Money Box" in the Band Hall.

OR

Mail it to:
Viking Band Boosters
P.O. Box 3062
Sugar Land, Texas 77478-3062

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
