

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,

Mr. Edward Odeh
Director of Bands, Dulles MS
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281.634.0054

Ms. Tiffany Ye
Assistant Director of Bands, Dulles MS
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Dulles Middle School Band Handbook
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THE DULLES MIDDLE SCHOOL 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.

Dulles Middle School Band Course Description: Honor Band, Mr. Edward Odeh, Director

The Honor Band is the premier performance group at DMS. Membership in the Honor Band is by audition only and consists solely of students in the 7th and 8th grade. To earn membership into the Honor Band, students must demonstrate an advanced degree of proficiency on their instruments and demonstrate a strong work ethic, positive attitude toward their directors and peers, and a strong interest in high level musical performance.

Honor Band members will have a required section rehearsal before or after school once a week. Scheduled rehearsals held outside of schools hours are also mandatory.

Members of the Honor Band will participate in the following activities:

FBISD Band Night	Solo and Ensemble Contest
Pep Rallies	FBISD Pre-UIL Contest
Winter Concert	Competitive Band Festivals in spring
All Master Classes	Spring Concert
UIL Concert and Sightreading	Recruiting performances at elementary campuses
DHS Varsity football game	Holiday Tour
Region Band Auditions	Region Band Clinic/Concert (if selected)

Course Content and Focus:

Students will continue with advanced method-oriented studies in a balanced-instrumentation environment, with emphasis on tone production, embouchure, intonation, balance, blend, breath support, technique, rhythm and musical expression. Students will develop both individual and ensemble performance skills.

Dulles Middle School Band Course Description: Symphonic Band, Ms. Tiffany Ye, Director

The Symphonic Band is the advanced performance group at DMS. Membership in the Symphonic Band is by audition only and consists primarily of students in the 7th and 8th grade. Students are expected to be well-rounded in the fundamental playing requirements for their instruments. They must demonstrate a strong desire to improve as individual musicians and to collaborate with their peers to create sophisticated musical products.

Symphonic Band members will have a required section rehearsal before or after school. Rehearsals held outside of school hours is also mandatory.

Members of the Symphonic band will participate in the following activities:

FBISD Band Night	Solo and Ensemble Contest
FBISD Pre-UIL Contest	Winter Concert
Competitive Band Festivals in spring	Master Classes
Spring Concert	UIL Concert and Sightreading
DHS Varsity football game	Region Band Auditions (optional)
Region Band Clinic/Concert (if selected)	

Course Content and Focus:

Students will continue with advanced method-oriented studies in a balanced-instrumentation environment, with emphasis on tone production, embouchure, intonation, balance, blend, breath support, fingerings, hand position, posture, scales, rhythm and counting, and musical terminology. The focus of this class is development of musical and social skills for students with 1-2 years previous band experience.

**Dulles Middle School Band Course Description:
Concert Band, Mr. Edward Odeh, Ms. Tiffany Ye, Directors**

The Concert Band is the intermediate performance group at DMS. Membership in the Concert Band is by audition only and consists primarily of students in the 7th and 8th grade. Students must have completed at least one year of band and must demonstrate a strong foundation in fundamental playing requirements for their instrument. Students will develop individual and small ensemble skills, and will explore music literacy and performance concepts more in-depth.

Members of the Concert Band will participate in the following activities:

FBISD Band Night
Winter Concert
Spring Concert

DHS Varsity football game performance
Solo and Ensemble
Chamber Ensemble Concert

Course Content and Focus:

Students will explore advanced method-oriented studies with emphasis on tone production, embouchure, intonation, balance, blend, breath support, fingerings, hand position, posture, scales, rhythm and counting, and musical terminology. Emphasis will be placed on developing individual and small ensemble performance skills.

**Dulles Middle School Band Course Description:
Beginning Band, Mr. Edward Odeh, Ms. Tiffany Ye, Directors**

The Beginning Band is the entry-level group at DMS. Membership in the Beginning Band is open to any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student interested in learning to play an instrument. Emphasis is placed on individual performance with basic to more advanced fundamentals stressed throughout the year. Daily attention will be given to music theory concepts, characteristic tone production, intonation, and rhythm pattern recognition. Each student's goal should be to become well-rounded as a musician, team player, and leader. Students are expected to consistently demonstrate a positive attitude and healthy work ethic.

Members of the Beginning Band will have the opportunity to annually participate in the following activities:

Winter Holiday Concert

Spring Concert

Spring Music Competition

Full-band rehearsals for Concerts or Contest

Course Content and Focus:

Students will begin with fundamental method-oriented studies in a like-instrumentation environment, with emphasis on tone production, embouchure, intonation, balance, blend, breath support, fingerings, hand position, posture, scales, rhythm and counting, and musical terminology. The focus of this class is the development of musical and social skills for students with 0-1 year previous band experience.

GENERAL BAND EXPECTATIONS

Students are to respect their own and the property of others

- Students will not deface (write on), play with, or lean on music stands.
- Students using school-owned instruments will be responsible for loss or damage. Parents will receive an invoice for repairs caused by student's negligence. The directors will give explicit instructions on how to care for the instruments- parents may also obtain these instructions to help their kids at home.
- Percussionists only are allowed to touch or play the percussion instruments. Wind players should avoid the percussion area of the band hall.
- Any intentional damage to school instruments, equipment, or property will not be tolerated. Any student caught intentionally damaging school property will be referred to the assistant principal and campus police officer.
- Students will not touch any other student's property (lock, instrument, music, cell phones, purses, backpacks, etc.)
- Running or horseplay is never permitted in the Band Hall.
- No gum, candy, food or drinks in the Band Hall or practice rooms.
- Student's may come into a director's office only after express permission from a director - with that said, you are always welcome unless we are on the phone, with a parent, etc.
- Be quiet and respectful of students and directors who are in section rehearsals before and after school in the band hall.
- Non-band students are not permitted in the Band Hall (any part of the building).

Students will display proper etiquette during rehearsal

- Bring all supplies for Band to class each day:
 - *instrument * reeds, neck strap, mouthpiece, valve
 - *pencil & highlighter *band binder/method book
- Always be prompt to rehearsals and performances. Students must be in their assigned chair, with all necessary equipment, instrument assembled, and independently warming up, one minute after the tardy bell sounds, or they will be counted tardy. Do not be late for band class!
- Stay in your seat and refrain from talking during rehearsal unless specifically asked by a director to say something or go somewhere.
- Please put away all equipment after class. Percussionists are responsible for covering and storing all equipment--help each other.
- No cell phones or other electronic devices will be allowed out during band or sectional rehearsals unless the director has specifically instructed you to bring them for a lesson.

GRADING POLICIES

Daily grades (50%) and major grades (50%) will be averaged together to comprise 100% of the nine-week average.

The daily grades include:

- Homework (music theory, worksheets, music preparation);
- Written assignments (quizzes, worksheets, short compositions, etc.);
- Sectional attendance;
- Practice cards;
- Daily rehearsal (rehearsal etiquette & participation);
- Playing assignments (live and recorded).

The major grades include:

- Written tests
- Musical compositions;
- Performance tests (live and recorded);
- Curricular performances.

Campus policy on late work:

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

HOME PRACTICE

Home practice is expected and required as your daily assignment for band. It is important to develop consistent practice habits. Parent support and guidance are the key factors in establishing a regular practice schedule. Parents are asked to designate in the home a time and space for musical study. Parents must hold the student accountable to the practice expectations in order to guarantee success for their young musician. No instrument should spend the night in the band hall.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE LOCKERS

Each member of the DMS Band will receive a storage locker and a combination lock. Please follow the guidelines below so that you may enjoy the privilege of your locker throughout the school year:

- Securely lock your belongings in your locker each morning. Do not leave valuables in your locker overnight - this includes your instrument and band binder. Take your instrument home each day.
- Always secure your lock onto the locker. Do not leave it hanging loosely-even at the end of the school day.
- Correctly store your instrument in its case with the lid closed and latched.
- A fee of \$10 will be assessed to any student who loses his or her combination lock.

PRACTICE ROOM RULES

The practice rooms are available to Dulles Middle School band students only. The use of the rooms is a privilege, not a right. These privileges can be taken away at any time if the practice areas are misused in any way. Your directors want you to get the full benefits of practice here at school, so please keep these guidelines in mind:

- No gum, candy, food or drinks at any time.
- Horseplay is not allowed at any time.

Practicing your instrument will be the only activity taking place during your time in the practice room.

- Be respectful of each other-Do not interrupt others' practice.
- Any vandalism should be reported to a director immediately.

If a student(s) has to be disciplined while in the practice rooms by a director or anyone working for the DMS Band program, the student(s) will forfeit their use of the practice rooms the remainder of the grading period or longer.

There will be times during the year when the practice rooms will be closed to all students. These usually occur during the first weeks of school, during Semester exams, during TMEA week, or when directors are absent/off campus.

ATTENDANCE & SECTION REHEARSALS

Students will attend all scheduled rehearsals, sectionals, and performances held outside of the school day.

A calendar of events and rehearsal schedule will be given to each student. The director will notify students as soon as possible with details, changes, etc. Please schedule other activities and appointments around the designated dates. These activities are required.

At times, an absence at a scheduled rehearsal is inevitable. Absences from scheduled rehearsals will only be under considered for an excused absence if:

- the student receives an excused absence from school that day for an illness, or
- the director has been given written/email notification by the parent that the student will be absent well in advance of the date, or
- in family emergencies, the parent contacts the director as soon as possible before or after the absence occurs.

Absences from performances will only be excused for family emergencies, serious illness (must bring a doctor's note), and religious holidays (must bring a note and information well in advance). Performances are curricular activities, thus grades will be given during this time.

All students in Honor Band and Symphonic Band will be required to attend sectionals once a week, before or after school. Sectionals are curricular rehearsals, thus grades will be given during this time. Sectionals will begin promptly at 7:45 a.m. or 4:15 p.m. Students late for sectionals will have points deducted from their grade. Students that are more than 15 minutes late for a sectional will be counted absent for that sectional.

Before/after-school rehearsals will be held for all band students periodically throughout the year. Written notice of these special rehearsals will be sent home to parents well in advance of the dates.

Doctor, Dentist, and Orthodontist Appointments

Please make every attempt to schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist visits for times other than when you will be involved in rehearsal (class or sectionals) or a performance or contest.

Because of the group dynamic involved in band, all students are needed in attendance for all rehearsals and performances. We do recognize, however, that there are situations where this is impossible to avoid. Please remember to communicate to avoid problems! Unless the doctor's appointment is due to sudden illness, the absence may be considered unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence from a required event may result in suspension from future activities, grade reduction, or removal from the ensemble.

ELIGIBILITY

Students are expected to pass all classes each nine weeks grading period. In order to be eligible to participate in extra-curricular events and competitions, students cannot earn a grade below 70 on a term in any subject. If a student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular events until:

- 7 days after the next progress report is issued (4 weeks after the beginning of a new nine-weeks grading cycle) and the progress report verifies that the student is not failing any classes, or
- 7 days after the end of the next nine weeks (7 days after the beginning of a nine-weeks grading cycle) and the student has not received a grade lower than 70 in any class.

Events affected by No Pass/No Play:

Band Night

All-region Auditions

All-region Clinic/Concert

Solo/Ensemble Contest

Ft. Bend, UIL or a Festival Band Contest

Reward trips

Events not affected by No Pass/No Play:

Sectionals

Before/after-school rehearsals

Concerts that are non-competitive (Spring Concert, Winter Concert, etc.)

SUPPLIES

Beginning Band Supplies

Band Binder (\$5.00 /payable to VBB)

Includes Cover Sheet, Pencil Pouch, 2 Pencils, 5 Dividers.

Rhythm Master Book I

Band T-shirt

TonalEnergy Metronome and Tuner – (\$3.99 on App store)

Recommended Instrument and Supplies (see below)*

Honor, Symphonic, Concert Band Supplies

Band Binder (\$5.00 /payable to VBB)

Includes Cover Sheet, Pencil Pouch, 2 Pencils, 5 Dividers.

Band Uniform

Band T-shirt

TonalEnergy App - Metronome & Tuner – (\$3.99 on App store)

Charms Blue App (recording assignments)

Recommend Instrument and supplies (see below)*

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENTS/EQUIPMENT

Students will furnish their own instrument, mouthpiece, ligature, reeds, reed cases, swabs, valve oil, neck strap, and case. Oboes, Bassoons, Bass Clarinets, French Horns, Euphoniums, and Tubas will be furnished by the school district; however, students need to furnish all other accessories. **All instrument cases must be labeled with the student's name and DMS Band. Percussionists must label all sticks, mallets and equipment with student's initials.**

Below is a list of recommended instruments. Recommendations have been made based on playing quality, overall workmanship, durability, tone quality, and pitch accuracy.

FLUTE

Yamaha YFL 221, 261H, 281S, or 481 or Trevor James PR-HR

Tuning rod

Ann Hodge- Flute Silk Swab

Flute Polishing Cloth

CLARINET

Buffet E-11

D'Addario X5 Bb Clarinet Mouthpiece

Rovner Dark Ligature with cap

Box of 2.5 Vandoren Reeds (blue box)

Reed guard (4 minimum)

Ann Hodge Clarinet Silk Swab

Cork Grease

OBOE

School Provides Instrument (\$80)
3 Oboe Reeds – Emerald Medium
Oboe Reed Guard (Holds three or more reeds)
Ann Hodge Oboe Silk Swab
Cork Grease

BASSOON

School provides instrument (\$80)
3 Bassoon Reeds – Jones, Medium
Bassoon Reed Guard (Holds minimum of four reeds)
Ann Hodge Bassoon Silk Swab
Cork Grease

SAXOPHONE

Yamaha Model YAS 23 or Selmer models
Vandoren AL3 Optimum Mouthpiece
Rovner Dark Ligature with cap
Box of Size 3 – Vandoren Reeds (Blue Box)
Alto Sax Reed Guard (holds 4 reeds)
Pad Saver
Neck Strap (Neotech)
Ann Hodge Alto Saxophone Silk Swab
Cork Grease

CORNET

Bach Model CR 300H or Yamaha Model YCR-2310
Bach 7C Mouthpiece
Trumpet Bore Cleaner (Snake Brush)
Valve Casing Brush
Trumpet Mouthpiece Brush
Al Cass Valve Oil
Schilke Tuning Slide Grease
Polishing Cloth

FRENCH HORN

School provides instrument – pay fee at beginning of year
French Horn Mouthpiece – Holton Farkas MC
Mouthpiece Pouch
Mouthpiece Brush
French Horn Bore Cleaner (Snake Brush)
Hetman Rotary Valve Oil
Schilke Tuning Slide Grease

TROMBONE

BACH – Model TB 300 or YAMAHA – Model YSL 354

BACH 6 ½ AL Mouthpiece (small shank)

Trombone Bore Cleaner (Snake Brush)

Brass Mouthpiece Brush

Schilke Tuning Slide Grease

“Trombotine” Slide Cream

Spray Bottle

Lacquer Polishing Cloth

EUPHONIUM

School provides instrument – pay fee at beginning of year

Bach 6 1/2 AL Mouthpiece (small shank)

Mouthpiece pouch

Valve Casing Brush

Euphonium Bore Cleaner (Snake Brush)

Mouthpiece Brush

Al Cass Valve Oil

Schilke Tuning Slide Grease

Silver Polishing Cloth

TUBA

School provides instrument – pay fee at beginning of year

Tuba Mouthpiece – Conn Helleberg

Mouthpiece Pouch

Valve Casing Brush

Tuba Bore Cleaner (Snake Brush)

Mouthpiece Brush

Al Cass Valve Oil

Schilke Tuning Slide Grease

Laquer Polishing Cloth

PERCUSSION

Marimba Warehouse MWX Xylophone w/stand (for home practice) or Yamaha equivalent

RF 12 D Real Feel Practice Pad

Pearl S700 Concert Snare Stand **or** Yamaha SS-665 Snare Stand

Innovative Percussion **or** *Salyers* Intermediate Mallet Pack, which includes:

1 pair – *IP-LD* **or** *Salyers PCS1* Concert Drumsticks

1 pair – *Innovative Percussion F2* **or** *Salyers* Percussion E30 Yarn Mallets

1 pair – *Innovative Percussion F9* **or** *Salyers E70* Hard Rubber Mallets

1 pair – *Innovative Percussion CT3* **or** EGT 20 Timpani Mallets

Innovative Percussion **or** *Salyers* Stick Bag

Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion by Kennan Wylie

General expectations regarding supplies:

Percussionists, no marching sticks or novelty sticks will be used in rehearsals, sectionals, or performances.

Reed players are expected to have four good, playable reeds (not cracked, chipped, or otherwise damaged) in all rehearsals. Store your reeds in a plastic reed guard- not the plastic holders they are packaged in to protect them from damage.

Brass players are to keep their instruments clean and in good working condition. Valves and slides must be kept well oiled. Instruments should be flushed out with soapy water and a snake brush on a regular basis. Mouthpieces should be cleaned with hot, soapy water and a mouthpiece brush every two weeks.

If an instrument breaks, notify the band director first. Often it is a repair that the director can fix at school. If the director cannot fix the instrument, take it to the shop immediately. Learning and skill-building is interrupted each day that the student is without an instrument.

The directors will check for equipment and supplies very frequently. Points will be taken away from the daily participation grade if students do not have their proper equipment and supplies.

STEP UP INSTRUMENTS

Step up instruments are professional models that play more in tune, have more resonant tone qualities, and work better mechanically than do beginner models. If your child is advancing on his/her instrument and is dedicated to band, it may be time to consider “stepping-up.” These are the recommended models that will last you child through high school and beyond:

INSTRUMENT BRAND/MODEL

Flute	Yamaha Prof 677H
Clarinet	Buffet R13
Trumpet	Bach Stradivarius Standard
Trombone	Bach 42BO Stradivarius F-Attachment
Trombone	Yamaha Xeno YSL-8820
Trombone	Yamaha YSL-448G (Intermediate)
Alto Saxophone	YAS 82ZII Custom Z
Alto Saxophone	YAS 62III Professional
Alto Saxophone	Selmer Series II Model 52

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Students and parents must sign a liability statement on the “Instrument Check-Out Form” when assuming responsibility for a school instrument. As a rule of thumb, you are not responsible for repairs of school instruments caused by normal wear and tear. The instrument checkout form will list any existing dents, scratches, etc. The checkout form must be signed and returned before the instrument will be released to you. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the instrument in top condition by regular maintenance. Notify your director immediately if the instrument has problems.

Poor care (negligence) will result in paying for repairs and/or losing the privilege of using the instrument. Intentional destruction of school property will also result in further disciplinary procedures and possible removal from the program. An \$80 per year school-instrument rental fee will be assessed for each school instrument checked out. This fee helps to defray yearly maintenance and chemical cleaning charges and is **non-refundable**.

Instrument Use Fee must be paid by check only. Checks should be made out to FBISD, and should be turned in directly to your band director.

TRIPS & TRANSPORTATION

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.

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.

Itineraries will be distributed for all Viking Band events electronically. DMS Band Forms submitted at the beginning of the school year serve as official permission slips for each event. The band calendar lists all events for the school year.

Parents, please pick up your children at the scheduled time. Directors often have other personal responsibilities following band events, and cannot wait extended periods of time for students to get picked up. When picking up a student, use the front of the band building, (Rodgers parking lot)

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.

UNIFORMS

Honor Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band - Formal Concert Attire

BOYS:

- Tuxedo Uniform (\$50.00 - tux shirt, pants, bowtie & cummerbund combo)
 - Tuxedo Shirt (\$15)
 - Solid black tuxedo pants (\$25)
 - Black bowtie (\$3) and cummerbund (\$7)
- Solid black dress socks (mid-calf)
- Solid black dress shoes

GIRLS:

- Black dress (\$50.00)
- Black stockings/hosiery
- Solid back closed-toe flat dress shoe.
- No distracting accessories.

All Students – Band Shirt Casual Attire:

- Band T-shirt (purchased through band program only)
- Jeans - no holes, appropriate fit
- Belt
- Tennis shoes

UNIFORM POLICY

Each member of the Dulles Middle School Viking Band, when representing our school, community, and our organization, will wear the appropriate clothing representative of the event we are participating in. This will exude professionalism, unity, and pride within our organization; these qualities are at the forefront of every great band program!

The required uniform for each event is mandatory. Participation in the event will be forfeited by the student if the correct attire is not worn at the time the event takes place. This will also result in an unexcused absence if the event is a performance. Please help each other by reminding your sections of upcoming events.

Band Shirt Casual Attire

Casual school/community concerts
Fort Bend Band Events
Pep Rallies/FB game
Region Band auditions
Band Social Events
Recruiting Trips

Formal Concert Attire

Holiday Concert
Region Concerts
UIL Competitions
Out of town concerts
Festivals
Formal school/community
concerts

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. Band T-shirt - \$10 (all students)
2. Formal Uniform - \$50 (CB, SB, HB members only)
3. Region Band entry fee - \$10 (All HB and select SB members only)
4. Solo & Ensemble entry fee - \$10 – (CB, SB, HB members only)
5. Solo Accompanist fee -\$25
6. Private Lessons - \$20 per half hour lesson (Optional, but STRONGLY encouraged!)
7. School owned instrument fee - \$80 (oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, tuba, percussion)

Not all fees are due at once. T-Shirt, Uniform, and School-Owned Instrument fees will be due at the beginning of the year. All region entry fees will be collected in October. Solo and Ensemble entry fees will be collected in December. Solo Accompanist Fee will be paid in February. If for any reason you are unable to meet any of these responsibilities, please contact the directors.

Methods of Payment

1. Electronic Payments via CHARMS/PayPal are the preferred method for uniforms, shirts, binders, and entry fees.
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.
3. School Owned Instrument fee is paid directly to Ms. Ye (checks only, address to FBISD).
4. Private Lesson payments are made directly to the private lesson teacher providing the service.
5. Solo accompanist fees are paid directly to accompanist providing the service.

AUDITION PROCEDURES

Students are required to audition for placement in one of the 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.

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.

The All-Region Bands are similar to "All Star Teams" 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. Each student will be assigned an accompanist. Students must rehearse with their accompanist before the contest. An Accompanist Fee (\$25) is assessed 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 a judge. The judge will award students a rating of (1) Superior, (2) Excellent, (3) Good, (4) Poor. Students receive a medal for receiving a superior rating (1).

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 will be responsible for an additional ensemble entry fee. Honor Band students will be required to perform in an ensemble.

BAND LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Band Leadership Team exists to give students the opportunity to serve and support their organization. The Band Leadership Team members will be selected based on band auditions and previously observed performance. Directors will select from each section at least one of the following:

- **Section Leader**
- **Principal Player**

The section leader and principal player can be the same student in a section, or the positions can go to two different students. Additionally, directors will select a **Band President** through an application process. The Band President may be a student who also serves as a section leader or principal player.

The Section Leader will be a student that demonstrates superior organizational leadership by being responsible, on-time, always prepared, and demonstrating a positive attitude and healthy work ethic.

The Principal Player will be the student that demonstrates superior performance in the section, serving as the musical leader of the section. This student must also demonstrate appropriate leadership qualities as expected of the section leader.

The Band President will be a student who demonstrates a selfless desire to help improve the quality of the band program for all students. He/she will serve as a spokesperson for the band and will assist the directors and the rest of the leadership team in making decision that are in the best interest of all students. The Band President should demonstrate outstanding musical performance skill, an unequivocal work ethic, and kindness and compassion toward others.

Section Leader Responsibilities

Exchange phone number/contact info with all students in section.
Remind section of scheduled sectionals, rehearsals & performances.
Check for pencils at beginning of each class.
Check section for organization of materials.
Call sectional/one-one one session as necessary.
Assist in preparing for events during and outside the school day.
Help maintain organization and order in the band hall.

Principal Player Responsibilities

Lead section through warm up each day.
Instruct section during student led rehearsals.
Call sectional/one-one one session as necessary.
Assist in preparing for events during and outside the school day.
Help maintain organization and order in the band hall.

Band President Responsibilities

Serve as spokesperson for the band.
Assist other Band Leadership Team members.
Assist in preparing for events during and outside the school day.
Help maintain organization and order in the band hall.

Students selected for a leadership position will be held to the highest standard of behavior, performance, and work ethic. Failure to uphold these standards may result in removal from the leadership team. Band Leadership Team members will learn what it means to be a servant-leader, and should strive to help improve the band experience for all Viking band members.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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 ISD 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.

All-Region Band: Students who earn a seat membership in the All-Region bands will receive a patch and participate in a special concert with a guest conductor. Region band is very competitive, and earning a seat in one of the bands is one of the highest honors a middle school musician can receive.

Solo & Ensemble: Students will perform a solo appropriate for their skill level with a professional pianist for a judge. Some students will also perform in small ensembles (trios, quartets, etc.) Students who receive a 1st Division rating will receive a medal. Students will receive medals for each performance for which a 1st Division rating is given. Each year (throughout middle and high school), students will have the opportunity to earn at least one more medal.

How to access

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, finances and the online store.**
 - 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.
If you change your password – remember it! If you forget it, email a director and we can reset it to you 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. Only enter one email address per space
 3. Birthdates must have hyphens
 4. Type: LCE, ME, DE, HE, or other for Elementary School
 5. Personal Instrument – enter brand and serial number
 6. Make sure that there is a Parent/Guardian listed -
At the bottom of the student information page, you should be able to click on a parent/guardian to update parent info. Or you can “add new adult” to your child’s file if one is not listed.
 7. **Click the green “Update” button in the top right to save your information once finished.**
 - 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. The CHARMS calendar will be the official calendar for the DMS Band. Please check it frequently.
 - Please make sure you maintain an up to date email address & check spam/junk email folders just in case for communication from your directors.
-

**Dulles Middle School
Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form**

Please read and sign below as indicated:

Students:

I have read the Dulles Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I have received a copy of the DMS band calendar for the current school year and am aware that a copy also exists on the DMS Band website and in Charms.

As a member of the Dulles Middle School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Demonstrate respect to all adults and students while I am with the DMS Band;
- Be punctual and prepared for class, weekly sectionals and rehearsals outside of class;
- Practice with a purpose and complete my assignments on time;
- Demonstrate my greatest effort on playing assignments, during rehearsals, and during performances;
- Attend all concerts, clinics, rehearsals, contests, and scheduled band events;
- Respect all rules regarding the DMS Band Hall facility including use of practice rooms, food/drinks, and conduct before, during, and after class;
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement;

Student Signature

Date

Student Printed Name

Date

Parents:

I have read the Dulles Middle School Band Handbook and am willing to support it and my child. I also understand all policies and procedures set forth by the Dulles Middle School Band program as outlined in this handbook.

Parent Signature

Date

Phone
