

Daniel Hand High School

Tiger Bands

286 Green Hill Road

Madison, CT 06443

September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! This packet contains information that will be crucial to a successful year for your son or daughter in band. Included is a calendar of performances, class expectations, and much more. I have also included a list of required equipment that each student must own in order to fully participate in the band program. If there are any issues getting these items or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me and I will be glad to help you. As I mention on that page, Madison Music Center is the most affordable and efficient place to buy these items, but there are certainly more options that you may choose to use.

The most up-to-date source for DHHS band information, besides my emails to you, will be the Band Page on the Hand website (go to www.madison.k12.ct.us → Schools → Daniel Hand High School → Students → Band). This packet and other information throughout the year will be available here.

As much as possible, I strive for paperless communication. In fact, I hope this packet is the most paper you'll receive from me all year! **Please review this packet with your child, fill out and sign the attached contract, and return to me no later than Friday, September 20th.** At this point, if you have not been receiving emails from me about the band program, please include your current email address on the contract and I will make sure to get you on the list. Between email and the band webpage, you should be kept in the loop regarding all things Tiger Bands.

If you ever need to reach me, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Email is the quickest and easiest way to reach me: gagej@madison.k12.ct.us. I am looking forward to another great year of music making, and I hope you are as well! See you at the Surf Club on Friday the 13th.

Sincerely,

John Gage, Director of Bands

Uniforms/Concert Attire

MARCHING BAND: All students have been issued a marching band uniform for football games and a black Tiger Band polo for the Memorial Day parade. Students are responsible for all parts of their uniform for the entire marching season (polo the whole year) and are expected to keep their uniform in good condition as we use them for all performances at football games. A dry cleaning fee of approximately \$15 will be required when students turn in their uniforms at the end of the marching season. Black socks and ALL black shoes are to be worn with the uniform at all performances.

CONCERT BAND:

9th and 10th Grade Band:

Boys: Black dress pants; white, long sleeved button down collared shirt with a dark, solid colored tie; black dress shoes and black socks.

Girls: above attire is acceptable; or **knee-length dress or skirt;** white long or short sleeved blouse or shirt; black shoes and black socks.

11th and 12th Grade Band:

Boys: Black dress pants; black long sleeve button-down collared shirt; black shoes and black socks.

Girls: above attire is acceptable; black long or short sleeved blouse or shirt; **knee-length dress or skirt;** black dress pants are fine; black shoes and black socks.

****Drillmaster marching shoes are acceptable for all concerts****

DHHS Bands Performance Attendance Policy (marching season)

Students are required to attend all home football games, the away football game, and the Memorial Day parade. Students are also expected to remain at football games until the end, as we play often during the second half. If there is a conflict with a home DHHS athletic event, students are expected to make every effort to be at the Surf Club no later than 7:30 in order to participate in the halftime show. If a student has an away DHHS athletic event that precludes him/her from getting back to Madison in time, the student is expected to provide written notification from a parent **in advance**. The following reasons for missing a football game performance will not be accepted: work, failure to find a ride, sports practice. Failure to abide by this attendance policy will result in a lowered grade.

DHHS Bands Performance Attendance Policy (concert season)

Students are required to attend all concert band performances, including graduation.

Students are also expected to remain at a concert if other performing groups are playing on the same concert. The following reasons for missing a performance will not be accepted: work, failure to find a ride, sports practice. In the event that a student has a conflict with a school athletic event, both the coach and Mr. Gage should be notified as soon as possible so that a solution can be worked out. Students missing a performance will be required to complete an alternate assignment. Failure to abide by this attendance policy will result in a lowered grade.

Grading

Grades in the DHHS Bands for 1ST TRIMESTER will be calculated based on the following:

50% Class Work: Students will receive a class participation grade based on their overall work in class (preparedness for class, active and positive participation, effort, etc.). Written homework in band is rare, but can include written reactions to performances, turning in important forms, etc. Students participating in varsity football, and therefore not in marching band, will receive credit for playing their instruments in class and helping out with moving equipment when the class rehearses outside.

50% Performances: Students will be given a grade for each performance at the football games. Full credit will be given to students who arrive on time for performances, are prepared with appropriate equipment/uniform, and participate fully. Students who are not excused from a football game will lose credit for a missed performance.

Grades for 2ND and 3RD TRIMESTERS will be calculated based on the following:

40% Class Work

40% Performances

20% Playing Assessments: students will perform one playing exam per trimester, either recorded at home or at school, or arranged to play for Mr. Gage. These exams will consist of excerpts from our Sound Innovations book and/or concert music, announced ahead of time. More specific details about these assignments will be provided during second trimester.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are not needed in band and are therefore not allowed in class. On the rare occasion that students need their phones (signing up for Google Classroom for example) I will let them know at the beginning of that class period. If there is a circumstance whereby a student needs to be reached (family emergency, etc.), the student should discuss this with me ahead of time. Students who are unable or unwilling to comply with this reasonable request will be referred to the administration and may face disciplinary consequences.

Resources for Repairs, Equipment, etc.

Please notify me of any repair needs and I will have the instrument sent in

If I am notified of a repair need, I will arrange for the instrument to be picked up at school and brought back the following week. Often I am able to provide a loaner instrument as well so that the student is able to continue playing while the instrument is being repaired.

Required Equipment/Accessories

On the next page is a list of required equipment for students participating in the DHHS Bands. These items are absolutely essential to successful participation in the program. If an item is listed as required, it is something that the students will be using daily, or almost every day in class. If an item is listed as recommended, it is either something that will help protect an instrument from damage, or something (such as a new mouthpiece) that will upgrade the performance of an instrument to a suitable level for high school. **Students should have all the necessary equipment (reeds, valve oil, etc) as soon as possible**, but items needed specifically for concert band (mutes, folders, etc.) can wait until late October.

Books/Folders

Marching Season: all members of the Tiger Band must have a flip folder and appropriate lyre (if applicable) for marching band. The flip folders must contain enough windows to hold all of our music for marching season (17 windows are needed this year--more for trombonists). Students must have their flip folders at all rehearsals and games. It is required that students label their flip folders with their name.

Concert Season:

1. all students must have a black DHHS music folder at every rehearsal. These may be purchased from Mr. Gage at school.
2. We will be using **Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development for Intermediate Concert Band**. These books will be used on a daily basis during concert season for warm ups and technical practice. ALL students in band must own a copy. Make sure that you purchase the book specific to your instrument. Students may purchase these at Madison Music or online.

Flute

Required: Cleaning/tuning rod and cloth for swabbing

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

Required:

- 1 box of 10 reeds; **Vandoren, strength 3**
- Cork grease
- Clarinet swab

Highly recommended:

Good quality mouthpiece and ligature. (Most mouthpieces and ligatures that come with student clarinets are of very poor quality). A high quality mouthpiece and ligature can make a student instrument sound like a newer, more professional model. If the student is playing on the same mouthpiece they had when they first bought the instrument, it is time for an upgrade.

Recommended brands:

David Hite, Premier clarinet mouthpiece: excellent quality and value

VanDoren B45 Bb clarinet mouthpiece: top quality

Rovner Dark Ligature

Saxophones

Required:

- 1 box of 10 reeds; **Vandoren, strength 3**
- Neck strap: Neotech is recommended
- Cleaning swab (please avoid “snakes” as these just collect spit and gunk and trap it there!)

Highly Recommended:

- Good quality mouthpiece and ligature. (Most mouthpieces and ligatures that come with student saxophones are of very poor quality). A high quality mouthpiece and ligature can make a student instrument sound like a newer, more professional model. If the student is playing on the same mouthpiece they had when they first bought the instrument, it is time for an upgrade. Recommended brands:

David Hite Premier (excellent quality and value)

Selmer C-star (top quality)

Rovner Dark Ligature

Double Reeds: consult your private teacher

French Horn

Required:

- Rotor oil

Highly recommended:

- Schilke #29 mouthpiece or Holton/Farkas MDC 29 mouthpiece
- Mouthpiece brush

Trumpet

Required:

- Straight mute. Recommended brands:
Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)
Humes and Berg stone lined mute

- Valve Oil. Recommended: Al Cass

Highly Recommended:

- Bach 3C mouthpiece
- Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake

Trombone

Required:

- Yamaha Slide cream and spray water bottle OR Slide-o-Mix Trombone Lubricant
- Straight mute. Recommended brands:
Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)
Humes and Berg stone lined mute

Highly Recommended:

- Bach 6 ½ mouthpiece
- Tuning slide grease
- Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake

Euphonium/Tuba

Required:

- Valve Oil: recommended: Al Cass

Highly Recommended:

- Bach 6 ½ mouthpiece for euphonium—see Mr. Gage for tuba recommendations
- slide grease Mouthpiece brush

Percussionists

- 1 pair of marching sticks (Vic Firth Ralph Hardimon) and 1 pair of general concert snare drum sticks. Recommended: Vic Firth SD1 General.

DHHS Bands Contract

Due: Friday, September 20th

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Please check all that apply, sign below, and return to Mr. Gage by Friday, September 20th.

_____ We have read and understand the policy regarding attendance at concert band and marching band performances.

_____ We have read and understand the list of equipment required for participation in band.

_____ We have received the calendar of performances for the 2019-2020 school year.

_____ We are aware that any updates to the schedule will be posted on the DHHS Tiger Bands website and emailed to us.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

****if you are not yet receiving emails from me:****

Parent Email _____

Student Email _____