

Decatur High School Band Handbook

2010-2011 School Year

Dear Students and Parents,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Decatur High School band program! Over the past several years, this program has established itself as a strong organization with a high level of excellence and achievement. This year promises to be another great year, and we are delighted that you have chosen to be a part of it. This combined Student and Parent Handbook contains a detailed description of the concert and marching band programs and the policies and procedures under which they operate. It also contains detailed information about the Band Parent Association and information on how every family can get involved. Please read the handbook thoroughly so that you are familiar with its contents. Parents and students are responsible for knowing this information.

Again, welcome! I am so excited you have chosen to continue to make music a priority in your life!

Sincerely,

Megan Williams, Director

Goals and Objectives

1. Students will continually improve their individual playing ability and musical knowledge by participating in full ensemble experiences, chamber groups, and solos.
2. Students will increase their skill and comprehension levels by understanding and working towards mastery of various musical concepts, including, but not limited to: posture, breath control, embouchure structure, specific instrument background information, technical facility (including scales, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading, sight singing, terminology, interpretation, form, style, etc.). These improvements will be monitored in class, but will require outside practice to master.
3. Students will be evaluated through various methods, including playing quizzes, verbal comprehension questions (in class), observation of class performance and participation, written work, teacher feedback and coaching in class, and performance outside of class time.

Positive Contribution

Providing a positive experience for all students is a weighty task and requires **cooperation** on the part of students, student leaders, and staff. We are dealing with students over their four-year high school career. Individual ability and comprehension levels will vary greatly from student to student over the four years. Consequently, students are requested to maintain a positive and helpful decorum as we work toward both individual skill enhancement and comprehension, and group progress and performance readiness.

Students should use class time to the best possible advantage. They should: concentrate, make a positive contribution, and study music when waiting for rehearsal to move on, etc. Individual learning styles will vary. Students will be evaluated on the basis of progress from their own starting point. The goal is to progress as far as possible toward the written objectives of the experience.

Specific Objectives

By the time a student graduates from Decatur High School, he or she will be able to demonstrate the following competencies to a high level of mastery as defined by the Quality Core Curriculum:

1. The student will demonstrate - while standing or sitting - proper playing position, taking into consideration growth and motor ability.
2. The student will identify, define, and utilize the musical terms and symbols encountered in the musical literature being studied.
3. The student will perform music using mixed meters, changing meters, asymmetrical patterns, free rhythms, and non-traditional notation. Additionally, the student will perform music using rest and note values through the 32nd-note.
4. The student will play all major and minor scales and arpeggios in as many complete octaves as possible within the legitimate range of the instrument at a variety of speeds, articulations, and rhythms.
5. The student will play a chromatic scale encompassing the legitimate range of the instrument, performed in eighth-note values at a minimum tempo of 120 beats per minute, with a variety of different articulations.
6. The student will identify key signatures and apply them to any music being performed.
7. The student will describe - as a consumer and performer - musical literature of various styles, composers, and compositional techniques.

8. The student will interpret music with historical perspective and style.

9. The student will demonstrate sight-reading skills in music containing moderately difficult rhythmic structures and keys.

10. The student will demonstrate instrumental techniques including the use of advanced alternate fingerings and positions, as well as advanced techniques that are idiomatic to the full range of the instrument.

11. The student will demonstrate the ability to balance and blend his or her tone-quality within a performing group.

12. The student will describe career and vocational opportunities in music.

13. The student will produce a controlled and centered tone-quality throughout the legitimate range of his or her instrument.

14. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to perform an articulation found in the music in and style or period.

15. The student will produce a controlled and centered tone-quality throughout the legitimate range of his or her instrument.

16. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to perform any articulation found in the music in any style or period.

17. The wind student will demonstrate the ability to play within the equal temperament system of intonation.

18. Percussion students will play with expertise all instruments utilized in the band repertoire.

19. Percussion students will play the following rudiments from opened to closed to open position:
•Single stroke roll •Single paradiddle •Multiple bounce roll •Double paradiddle •Double stroke roll
•Flam •Five stroke roll •Flam accent •Seven stroke roll •Flam tap •Nine stroke roll •Drag •Single ratamacue

20. The student will attend class regularly with music, instrument, musical equipment, and a sharpened pencil. Additionally, the student will complete homework assignments, pay attention in rehearsal, and participate fully in class and all performances.

Program Structure

The band program at Decatur can be divided into four interactive parts: the Concert Bands (including Symphonic Band and Chamber Winds, the Marching Band, Solo and Ensemble activities, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble. Only through participation in all four aspects of the program may students fully achieve the goals and objectives detailed above.

I. The Decatur High School Concert Bands

The foundation of the music education experience at Decatur is established in the concert band courses. These bands rehearse all year during the school day, as well as during co-curricular after-school rehearsals. It is in this setting that music principles and fundamentals are taught, practiced, and developed. Therefore, participation in all other aspects of the band program is contingent upon enrollment in one of the concert bands classes. Students at Decatur will enroll in any ensemble (including zero period both semesters). In the following years, ensembles will be organized by audition and ability level. Each course will be designed to cater to the individual needs of the students and is therefore ability-based. Auditions for placement into these ensembles will be held prior to registration for the 2010-2011 school year.

Scheduling Band into your four-year schedule

High School band is a four-year educational process. The development of musical skills requires daily reinforcement of individual and ensemble skills. It is imperative for all students to be enrolled in band each and every term during their high school careers. It is much easier to fix scheduling errors prior to the start of school, so please be prompt in letting either a director or counselor know about the scheduling error, and we will all try to work with everyone to fix the issue.

II. The Decatur Marching Band, Color Guard, and Drill Team.

The Decatur Marching Band, which includes the color guard and drill team, begins rehearsing in the summer and continues through the football season. Required performances include all **home and away football games, pep rallies and community events**. This ensemble is unquestionably the most visible performance group in high school. The marching band is an extracurricular activity open to any current ninth through twelfth grade band student. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band curriculum, only students currently enrolled in a band class are eligible to march.

Since the marching band enters into competitive events, all students must meet the Georgia High School Association and City Schools of Decatur academic and residency eligibility requirements. The details of these requirements are outlined in the Decatur High School Student Handbook issued to all students by their first period teacher. The marching activity is a demanding activity, both musically and physically. All participants must commit themselves to maintaining high musical performance standards and good physical condition.

Color Guard

The term "Color Guard" has been handed down from the era of military marching bands, originally referring to those who presented and "guarded" the American and military flags - the "colors". Nowadays, the term refers to the marching band members who add visual impact and color to the musical performance in a challenging activity that combines equipment work (flags, rifles, sabers) with dancing, and marching. Auditions for the guard are held in April and are open to all Decatur High School students. Specific audition requirements vary each time, but often will include equipment work, movement, and marching fundamentals. Any incoming or current Decatur student is eligible to participate. Current 6-12th grade band students must meet eligibility requirements on this page of the handbook.

Color Guard and Drill Team participants are full members of the marching band. Therefore, they are expected to participate in all marching band activities, to help in fund-raisers, and are required to follow all applicable rules and regulations contained in this handbook.

III. Chamber Ensembles

Chamber Ensembles or **Solo and Ensemble activities** are year-round, self-actuated activity. The study of solo and small ensemble literature places performance demands on the individual that are often not found in music for full band. Every student, regardless of ability, can benefit greatly from participating in solo and ensemble activities. Solos and Ensembles will perform at concerts in school, and additionally may perform in solo competitions, in recitals, and at the GMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival in April.

IV. Jazz Ensemble

This year, Decatur will have a jazz ensemble that rehearses after school on a yet to be determined day. This ensemble will employ the standard big-band instrumentation of saxophones (doubling on clarinet and / or flute preferably), trumpets, trombones, drums, piano, guitar, and bass. Participants in these ensembles must have strong performance and sight-reading skills. Students should be currently enrolled in band class in order to be eligible to participate in jazz band OR speak to one of the directors and schedule an informal audition. Performances may include school concerts and events, and various other festivals.

V. Music Theory

It is highly recommended that all band students, at some point in their high school careers, enroll in AP Music Theory. The study of how music is constructed assists greatly in a student's understanding and appreciation of it. This course is taught by Mrs. Megan Williams, Band Director. Students study "the grammar of music" including scales, chords, intervals, harmony, melody, rhythm, part-writing, and both written and aural analysis. In addition, a significant portion of the course is devoted to the development of aural skills through dictation examples, error-detection exercises, and sight-singing.

For students potentially considering majoring in music in college, the study of music theory is essential. In addition, students who receive a high enough score on the AP Test administered in the spring, may, depending upon where they go to school, receive college credit.

Musical Development

I. Individual Practice

Absolutely essential to improving as a player is **daily** practice on your instrument. Your homework for band is to practice. Here are some practice tips for making the most out of your practice sessions:

1. Practice every day! Remember, it is much better to practice 30 minutes each day than it is to practice 1 hour every other day.
2. Consider practicing in shifts. In other words, instead of playing for 60 minutes straight, practice for 30 minutes, take a break (do some homework), and then finish later.
3. Try to have a set time every day during which you practice.
4. Have a set place where you practice. Make sure that this place is where you will not be disturbed and where you may concentrate on your playing.
5. Have a goal or goals established for every practice session - be careful not to fall into the trap of simply playing your instrument and stumbling through a practice session.
6. The old adage of "practice makes perfect" is not totally accurate. Only **perfect practice makes perfect!** Isolate trouble areas by breaking them down. Begin slowly and then increase tempo.

7. Always begin each practice session with a good warm-up.
8. Spend time every day working on your sound - this is your musical signature.
9. Spend time every day playing scales in as many different ways as you can.
10. Spend time every day working on technical skills including facility, range, tonguing, dynamic range, and endurance.
11. Spend time every day practicing your band music. Make sure you reinforce concepts covered in class on this music.
12. Spend time every day sight-reading.

II. Private Lessons

While participation in large and small ensembles is an integral part of musical development and promotes camaraderie and mutual effort, class instruction is, by necessity, very general. Those students who truly wish to excel musically are strongly encouraged to study privately with an instructor outside of school. In private lessons a professional player on your instrument will spend time with you individually, to develop your strengths as a musician. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of musicians who earn spots in the Decatur Band receive placement in District and All-State Bands, and college scholarships study with great private teachers. With a world-class symphony orchestra and many other professional ensembles, the Atlanta area is full of professional musicians who also teach privately. Shop wisely when in the market for a private teacher. Be sure you find someone who is truly a professional on your instrument, and who you feel comfortable with. Mrs. Williams will provide students with a list of local qualified individuals who, in some cases, may be available to teach after school at DHS.

III. Instrument Upgrades

Just as participants in any other specialized activity move up to better equipment in order to improve their performance, musicians are constantly striving to find mouthpieces, reeds, and instruments that enable them to progress towards their full potential. For many students, the first two years of high school is the time to consider investing in a better quality instrument. The beginner model that you started on in sixth grade was fine then, but you have undoubtedly outgrown the limitations imposed by your mass-produced student-line instrument and mouthpiece. You will never be able to perform any better than the quality of the equipment you use. Race car drivers do not drive economy cars and top-notch musicians do not play the instrument that they rented when they started "way-back-when". The more advanced models of instruments do cost more, of course, but it is a worthwhile investment. For most of us at this time, an instrument upgrade can be low on our priority list, and if you cannot afford the cost of a full upgrade, we strongly encourage that you invest in a higher quality mouthpiece or reeds.

IV. Additional Performance Opportunities

Band students are strongly encouraged to continually seek opportunities outside of the band program to make music. In addition to District and All-State Bands, etc. there are many

opportunities for talented high school musicians to make music in the Atlanta area. Groups such as the Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble, Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony at Emory University, and the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra hold auditions in the fall. In addition, many of our students perform in a variety of church and community ensembles on a regular basis. Such outside experiences will only serve to further develop musical skills and concepts.

Assessment Plan

Students in all band classes will be graded according to the following plan:

30% - Performance Attendance (All performances are REQUIRED. Unexcused absences will be considered require a 10 page music research assignment will be the make up work for missing a performance)

10% - Written Final

10% - Playing Final (Final Etude for the semester)

30% - Playing Assignments throughout the semester

10% - Music Theory (worksheets, comp project, listenings, history, terms quizzes, etc)

10% - Class Participation/Non-Academic (2 times of being asked to pack up because of talking in class will result in a 0% participation grade)

Attendance Policy

Absence affects performance and the success of performance-oriented activities such as band depends upon full participation. Each student's participation affects the group outcome, and each student plays a valuable role in this process. Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and the group. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made-up. A calendar of events is published in advance for your planning. Students and their families are requested to plan appropriately when scheduling appointments, etc. so that rehearsals and performances are not missed. The following attendance policy applies to both the band class rehearsals and all after school rehearsals including marching band, concert band, color guard, and jazz band.

Excused Absences

Excused absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. ***Personal conflicts such as doctor's appointments, jobs, homework, etc. are not excused.***

If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student must submit a request, in writing, to the director at least one week prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the

student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval. In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, **the student is required to email the band director (mwilliams@csdecatour.net)** to inform her of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend class during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Additionally, the student is required to bring a parent note to the director on the day of his or her return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed previously for excused absences. Two unexcused absences will result in the student not performing in the next performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Multiple attendance issues may also result in an alteration of the student's participation status. Absences hurt the whole group because adequate progress cannot be made if the group doesn't function together as one. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events.

Promptness

The most important part of any band rehearsal occurs in the first five or ten minutes. It is during that time that, in addition to warming-up physically, the student will focus his or her mind into the group rehearsal process. Tardies also follow the same guidelines and excuse procedures listed above. Two unexcused tardies equal one unexcused absence and with that comes all of the ramifications listed above. With respect to promptness students are encouraged to keep the following adage in mind:

To be early is to be on time To be on time is to be late To be late is to be left!!!

During the school day, students are expected to be in the band room preparing for rehearsal at the beginning of the assigned class time. Precisely two minutes after class is scheduled to begin, students must then be in their chairs warming up for class. Those students not in class when the tardy bell rings and/or not in their seats warming up two minutes afterwards will be marked tardy. Tardies will have an adverse effect on the daily participation grade.

Concert Attendance

A performance is the culmination of weeks and/or months of learning. Because concerts are the final step in this educational process, it is essential that students fully participate in all performances. Students will receive a grade for each concert. Full participation in the concert will result in the student receiving full credit. In the event that a student misses a concert, he or she has missed an educational experience that can not be replaced or "made-up". However, an alternate assignment is available, for students who must miss a performance. This assignment is available, upon request, from the director and is due on the day following the performance.

Chair Placement and Challenges

At the beginning of each term, students enrolled in band class are placed in an initial chair order based upon audition results. Following this initial placement, students then have the opportunity to improve on their chair placement through the challenge system. This system operates under the following guidelines:

- Students may only challenge up one chair at a time.
- Students may only challenge within his or her own band.
- Students must wait at least 5 school days to re-challenge after losing a challenge.
- Failure to appear at a challenge will result in the forfeiture of that challenge.
- Challenges tainted by ill will or negative feelings will be canceled or forfeited at the director's discretion.
- All challenges must be concluded two weeks prior to any concert.

Procedures for seat placement challenges:

Making the challenge:

1. The person wishing to challenge must first notify the person that they wish to challenge of their intent to do so.
2. Once this challenge has been placed, both the challenger and the challengee must go to their director together. At this point the director will assign the music and schedule a date and time for the challenge.

On the day of the challenge:

1. The challenge itself will be “blind” in that the director listening to the challenge will not be able to see the players. To preserve the anonymity of the challenge neither student may talk when he or she is in the performance room.
2. Prior to playing the challenge, the students will determine who will play first (“#1”) and who will play second (“#2”).
3. When it is your turn to play you may enter the room and perform the music. *Remember, you must not say anything while you are in the room!*
4. The person who performs the music with the highest level of excellence will be declared the winner of the challenge and will then either assume or retain the higher chair.

Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate positive and cooperative behavior when associated with the bands of Decatur High School. When you are wearing a Decatur High School band uniform you are representing your school. Inappropriate or offensive behavior or language will not be tolerated. We represent ourselves, each other, and the school, and we strive to represent the *best* in high standards and traditions.

Specific Behavior Guidelines

1. All Decatur High School and City Schools of Decatur disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law-enforcement authorities. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
3. No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.

4. No unauthorized use of school instruments. A signed permission form must be on file for students to play school instruments.

5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.

6. No profanity will be tolerated.

7. No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.

8. No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral and participation in extra-curricular events may be modified or suspended. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from extra-curricular events.

In the Band Room

1. Students must be prompt and prepare for rehearsal in a positive manner (see attendance policy).

2. Over 100 students use the band room each day. Let's keep it clean and orderly. Trash cans are provided for your use. Instruments are to be kept only in the instrument storage located in the band room, and music is to be kept in the music file cabinet. Inappropriate behaviors include activities such as playing percussion (or other) instruments without permission, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than practice or music rehearsal. Common sense should take care of these issues.

3. There is to be absolutely no food, drink, or gum in the band room - EVER!

4. Music stands and chairs are to be put back on the racks if requested, after each rehearsal.

5. Books are not to be stored in instrument cubbies. Band room cubbies are to be used only for instrument storage.

6. Vandalism, use of school equipment, or other student's property without permission is not tolerated.

Care of Instruments

All instruments should be treated with care whether they are student owned or school owned. Store them properly. Keep mouthpieces, reeds, valves, etc., in good playing condition. Have extra reeds. It is the player's responsibility to maintain his or her instrument and to keep the director informed of any problems with the instrument that could affect the player's ability to participate fully.

- Students may be excused for no more than two days of playing while an instrument is being repaired.
- An excuse will only be granted if a repair note is provided.
- If a store must keep an instrument for longer than two days to complete the repairs, a "loaner" instrument should be requested.
- Students who use school owned instruments must sign a contract and bring back that instrument in the same condition as it was checked out. If a school owned instrument is damaged, repairs will be made at the student's expense.

Care of Music

Band music is extraordinarily expensive. Music folders are designed to help protect this music from damage. Despite this we still must be very careful handling the music.

- All marks must be made in pencil and erased before turning in.
- Music not returned in good condition will be charged at the replacement rate.
- If replacement music parts are not available, the student may be required to purchase the complete set of parts.

Bus Trip Rules

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.

2. Only instruments saxophone size and smaller go on the bus. All other instruments go on the equipment truck. You are responsible for getting large instruments to the loading dock where they will be loaded for you.

3. Unless told otherwise, the complete uniform will be worn on the bus.
4. Keep the bus clean...in words and actions too.
5. All county and coach bus rules apply as well as specific rules of the individual driver.
6. Buses will be loaded in the following order: chaperones, then leadership and staff, then seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, then freshmen.
7. All students will ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent ONLY if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus before leaving the school prior to the event. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times. Students that do go home with their parents must return their uniforms to school that evening.
8. All students must stay for the entire game or event.
9. No changing from one bus to another.

Football Game Rules

1. NO food or drink is allowed in the stands while in full uniform. Food and drink is only allowed during the third quarter. Students will dismiss from the half-time show in an orderly manner and must return with 2:00 left on the game clock in the third quarter. Failure to return on time will result in loss of third quarter privileges.
2. All students must remain in full uniform, until the third quarter, and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
3. No conversations with friends outside of the band during the game. We must pay attention to the team in order to give our full support.
4. No non-band members in the stands during the games.
5. Only people of authority (directors, police officers, administrators, etc.) may break rank.
6. No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by a Drum Major or director.

Marching Band Uniform Rules and Regulations

1. *You must wear your entire uniform to perform.* Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include band T-Shirt underneath the jacket, black socks, cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations - possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items - in order to perform.
2. All band members must *remain in full uniform* (with the exception of plumes) with jacket and shakos on unless told otherwise by a director or Drum Major. This includes while in transit to events.

3. No jewelry is to be worn other than post earrings. This applies to males and females.
4. Hair that is long enough must be worn up inside the shako. This applies to both males and females. No hair should hang down under the shako or touch the collar.
5. When boarding the bus, students must be in full uniform with the exception of the shakos which are to be carried onto the bus correctly.
6. Change into uniform in the restrooms only. Do not change in practice rooms, storage rooms, or on the buses.
7. Plumes will be placed on shakos just before performance time and removed immediately thereafter. **Plumes are to be handled gently only by band parents with gloves**, keeping hands off the feathers.
8. Upon return to the school, the same rules regarding changing are in place.
9. After each use, the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with creases aligned according to the instructions, which will be provided.

Marching Uniform Care Instructions

Hanging

It is absolutely essential that the uniforms be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of your uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform's shape. **Do not use a plain hanger on your uniform.** Once you have hung your uniform correctly please place it on the appropriate spot on the racks. As you do so, make sure that it maintains its shape.

Cleaning

The new uniforms are made of polyester fabric. While they are washable, **no student should ever attempt to wash their own uniform.** Only certain washing machines will be certified for cleaning the uniforms. When cleaning is required, the uniforms will be washed as a group to maintain their consistent appearance. If you think that your uniform needs cleaning or repair, please contact the appropriate booster club member.

Student Leadership Positions

Drum Major

1. Direct all field rehearsals and performances of the marching band.
2. Set standards in attendance, punctuality, attitude, musicianship, and loyalty that the members of the band can and should try to follow.

3. Act as a liaison between band members and the directors and staff.
4. Responsible for keeping the student leadership working together as a team.
5. Coordinate bleacher activities for football games, oversee behavior and maintain proper discipline.
6. Inspect section leader uniforms prior to the full band uniform inspections.
7. Pass-off music for captains.
8. Have the band in the correct place at the correct time for rehearsals and performances.
9. Show patience, consideration, and understanding in dealings with the band while not compromising standards.
10. Assist the directors and staff in administrative and organizational tasks.
11. Exhibit and demand discipline within the band.

Assistant Drum Major

1. Conduct backfield during any sections of the show which require a second conductor.
2. Set standards in attendance, punctuality, attitude, musicianship, and loyalty that the members of the band can and should try to follow.
3. Act as a liaison between band members and the directors and staff
4. Responsible for keeping the student leadership working together as a team
5. Conduct one quarter in the stands.
6. Coordinate bleacher activities for football games, oversee behavior and maintain proper discipline.
7. Inspect section leader uniforms prior to the full band uniform inspections.
8. Show patience, consideration, and understanding in dealings with the band while not compromising standards.

Band Captain

1. Organize and supervise clean-up of band room after rehearsals and performances. .
2. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

3. Assist in the teaching of the drill during marching rehearsals, if needed.
4. Serve as a liaison between the student leadership and the band directors.
5. Motivate others on the field.
6. Assist Drum Major with responsibilities.
7. Supervise bus sign-ups

Section Leaders /Drill Team Captains

1. Learn all parts for your particular section.
2. Pass-off all members of your section by the appropriate dates.
3. Run efficient and effective sectional rehearsals throughout the marching season.
4. Tutor all students in your section that need help with music and/or marching.
5. Enforce the rules and regulations of the band.
6. Refer disciplinary issues to the directors.
7. Conduct uniform inspection of section and report any infraction against dress code.
8. Assume any extra assignments deemed necessary by directors, staff, or chaperones.
9. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

Librarian

- Copy, collate, and distribute all parts to the music.
- Make and maintain concert and marching folders.
- Keep music in the library in order.
- Coordinate all drill charts.

Pass-Offs

Pass-offs are designed to insure that all players have memorized their music. All section members must play each piece of music by memory with two mistakes or less to pass it off. We have pass-offs for both Concert Band and Marching Band. All of the concert band pass-off dates are listed below. Marching Band pass-offs will be scheduled as the director sees necessary.

Student Materials

All students are responsible for the care and maintenance of class materials and instruments. All students will be furnished with a Foundations Method Book and class music. Replacement cost for a lost method book is \$6.50. If a *copy* of a piece of music is lost, the student will be responsible for going to the media center and making another copy on their own, media center copy fees do apply. If the *original* to a piece of music is lost, the replacement cost will be around \$2.50 depending on the piece and when it was published. All students are responsible for replacing lost or damaged materials.

Fundraising

The Decatur High School band program is funded, almost exclusively, through fundraising projects organized by the Decatur High School Band Parents Association. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for both students and parents to raise money for the band program as a whole, and for their individual student accounts. Details of fundraisers are covered in the parent handbook and are discussed in the monthly booster club meetings.

Spring Trips

Spring Trips are an educational part of the band program at Decatur High School. The Spring Trip will be international in nature every four years. Every two years, the band will take a domestic trip. The change to a trip every four years is to enable all students to go on international trips and to prepare financially. To be eligible to go on an international or domestic trip students must:

Be in good standing financially with the band program

Participated in band without gaps in participation as long as the student has attended Decatur High School (e.g. if a student joins as a sophomore, the student must continue to participate in order to continually go on trips. Students are permitted to join band at any time in their high school career, but will not be allowed to participate in trips if their participation is sporadic.)

Not have excessive absences from rehearsals or from school. Participation in trips should not interfere with academic progress. Excessive absence from rehearsal for marching or concert band will be deemed as reason to deny participation in any spring trip.

Student Accounts

Student accounts are established once a student becomes a member of the band program. Deposits are made into student accounts based upon their participation in fundraising events. The student may then use his or her available balance to help cover various band expenses (excluding commitment fees in the spring). The student account is a great way to defray some of the costs of fees, trips, promotional items, and other band expenses. .

Payment Information

All checks for fees, etc. should be made out to Decatur Band Parent Association. Checks should then be placed in a **clearly labeled** envelope and deposited in the Drop Box in the SHS Band Room. If students wish to use their student account money to make a payment, a separate form is available by the drop box. This check should also be clearly labeled and placed in the drop box. More detailed information is contained in the Parent Handbook.

Parent Involvement

Our parent organization is **vital** to the operation of the Decatur High School band program. We need everyone's participation in order to be successful. Even if your time is very limited, there are numerous ways in which you can help to make the Decatur Band program even better! Your talents and abilities are greatly needed and appreciated.

Band Booster meetings are on the third Monday of each month time TBA in the band room. The best way to stay informed and avoid confusion and/or miscommunication is to be at the booster meetings, hear the facts for yourself, and ask questions. For more detailed information see the Decatur Band website at www.decaturband.org.

Parents: Please get involved - together we can make it happen for our students!

Please sign below and return by August 5, 2010.

I have read the 2010-2011 Decatur Band Handbook and I understand and agree to adhere to the policies stated.

Signed _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Signed _____ (Student)