

Instrumental Music **Grades 9-12**
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MYP Levels 5 and 6

"Every student in the nation should have an education in the arts." This is the opening statement of "The Value and Quality of Arts Education: A Statement of Principles," a document from the nation's ten most important educational organizations, including the American Association of School Administrators, the National Education Association, the National Parent Teacher Association, and the National School Boards Association.

The benefits conveyed by music education can be grouped in four categories:

- * **Success in society**
- * **Success in school and learning**
- * **Success in developing intelligence**
- * **Success in life**

How Playing Music Can Benefit Your Child

Aids academic aptitudes in mathematics, science, and the arts

Promotes large and small motor development

Increases scholastic participation

Teaches the value of achieving goals

Cultivates concentration and focused listening

Fosters early vocal development and enhanced social abilities

Bolsters self image and self assurance

Encourages parent/child bonding

Inspires self-sufficiency and appreciation for teamwork

DHS Music Aims and Objectives

- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music demonstrating proper air use and pitch recognition.
- Demonstrate characteristic tone qualities on an instrument, while playing a varied repertoire of music.
- Vocalize varied rhythms and diatonic melodies within standard band repertoire
- Demonstrate the ability to read and notate music and abilities to count duple, triple, and sixteenth note patterns on a method of systematic counting
- Improvise and understand chord structures in order to create melodies and compositions
- Identify band performances of superior quality and poor quality and being able to classify which factors effect the level of performance
- Formulate an understanding of the historic context and cultural significance of music.

Course Description:

Instrumental Music is open to all students who have successfully completed at least one year of middle school band. Students who do not meet this criterion should contact the band director to arrange an audition. It is expected that participants enroll in the course for the entire year, that they are serious about music, and that they will practice as needed outside of class in order to perform successfully. The Symphonic Band meets every day for one period (block) and performs several required performances throughout the year.

Materials:

Each student will be provided music and instructional books. It is the students' responsibility to provide instruments in good condition and accessories such as reeds, oils and mutes. Members are also expected to purchase concert attire; please see the section entitled "Concert Uniform."

Students are also required to have a 2" 3 ring binder with page protectors. This is to hold music, assignments, and their developmental workbook. This needs to be purchased during the first week of school.

Students who have the privilege of playing school-owned instruments are expected to perform regular maintenance (swab, oil) and store/transport these instruments carefully so they will last many years. Students will be charged for unreturned materials and repair/replacement of equipment due to neglect or damage.

At the beginning of the school year, students will complete forms releasing the school district from responsibility for securing personal property (individually owned instruments) as well as forms detailing students' responsibility for securing/maintaining school-owned equipment.

Students will be required to purchase the following items as soon as possible:

A metronome (available at all music stores for a very minimal price, \$10-15 dollars)

Reeds, valve oil, mutes, and essentials for playing each instrument

Percussionists - you will need to purchase a stick bag, a pair of yarn mallets, a pitch pipe, and snare sticks (SD 1 Generals).

Please see www.decatband.org for our performance schedule for the year.

Dates to Remember:

Rehearsal Schedule for Marching Band:

Monday – 3:45 – 5:45

Wednesday – Percussion – 3:45-5:45

Thursday – 4:15-6:15 *May be modified due to lack of rehearsal space

September 25 – **Required** Mini Camp – 8 am – 12 pm, Picnic to follow!

October 2 – ALL DAY Marching Band Competition – Location TBA

October 5 – Dekalb County Marching Exhibition

November 4 – Prism Concert, 7:00 pm

December 9 - Winter Concert, 7:00 pm

December 11 – First Round, District All-State Auditions

February 5 – **Mandatory** – Symphonic Camp with guest clinicians, 9 – 3 pm, DHS

February 7 – Pre-LGPE Concert, 7 pm

March 10-12 – LGPE – KEEP DATES OPEN!

May 5 – Spring Concert, 7 pm

Concert Attire:

All male students should secure a tuxedo by the first concert date (Nov. 4) Tuxes should be standard and must have all black components (no different colored cummerbunds/bow ties)

Women will be required to wear a long black skirt (nothing above the knee is acceptable, and the only students allowed to wear black pants are percussionists). Women will also be required to wear a long sleeve OR 3/4 sleeve solid black shirt (these are available everywhere, check GAP, Old Navy, Target, etc). Women are not allowed to wear any concert attire that does not comply with the school dress code.

Grading Breakdown:

30% - Performance Attendance (All performances are REQUIRED. Excused absences are: Documented Illness, Death in Family, Wedding/Religious Ceremonies)

10% - Written Final

10% - Playing Final

30% - Playing Exams

10% - Music Theory

10% - Non Academic/Class Participation (no show to a rehearsal or a performance results in a zero for your non-academic grade)

DHS Band Practice Standards:

ALWAYS practice with a metronome!

Practice things in this priority order for maximum success:

LONG TONES - Play long tones that are in the medium range on your instrument, and play no louder than mezzo forte. Do this for 5 MINUTES.

SCALES - Practice the scales that you are assigned for the week. Practice them slowly at first, and work your way faster with the metronome.

ARTICULATION - Practice tonguing on your instrument. Start slowly and work your way faster. Do this on the same note for a long time, and then try it with scales and other exercises.

REPERTOIRE - Practice the solo literature you have been assigned. Work on notes and rhythms first (always with the metronome!) and then work for correct phrasing and musical ideas. WORK FOR ABSOLUTE MASTERY!

BAND MUSIC - Practice the band music that you are currently working on. Focus on the parts that you CANNOT play, and work on those little by little.

How can I make an A in band class?

DO YOUR BEST!

Be PREPARED

Be ON TIME

COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS

Perform AT ALL Decatur High School Band performances