



DESTIN  
HIGH SCHOOL

# MUSIC Program Handbook

*Welcome to the Destin High School Music Program. We are excited to have you as a part of our program this year!*

Please take some time to read over the Handbook . This will prepare you for your work and responsibilities as a member of the music program. If a problem should arise, consult the handbook first. If you still cannot find the answer feel free to contact Mrs. Noe.

The mission of the Destin High School Music Program is to team with parents, students, and Destin High School to provide an atmosphere where students progress musically and academically as an ensemble while maintaining a commitment to excellence within each student. We strongly believe that music is a part of a student's comprehensive education.

A positive experience must begin with an understanding of the expectations for those who participate in the DHS Music Program. This handbook will help explain those expectations.

If you follow the guidelines as laid out in this handbook, your reward will be like nothing you have experienced before. You will feel pride, a sense of accomplishment, self-satisfaction, and you will have FUN!!!! You will be impressed to see how much you can accomplish! I can't wait to work and grow with you. Let's have a fantastic year!

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Destin High School  
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# DESTIN MUSIC PROGRAM RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All members have **rights and responsibilities**.

Members...

Have a **right** to develop their personal musicianship through new knowledge and skills.

Have a **responsibility** to accept and apply instruction, encouragement, and constructive criticism with a positive attitude.

Have a **responsibility** to practice on a regular basis outside of regular band class time in order to prepare for class rehearsals and band performances.

Have a **responsibility** to regularly contribute their best efforts to band rehearsals.

Have a **right** to a safe and supportive learning atmosphere.

Have a **responsibility** to do their best to support and respect their band peers as well as any teacher.

Have a **responsibility** to listen silently when others talk or perform.

Have a **responsibility** to be kind.

Have a **right** to use appropriate music equipment and facilities as part of being a band member.

Have a **responsibility** to store all instruments, equipment and music properly.

Have a **responsibility** to treat all school facilities and equipment with respect.

Have a **responsibility** to leave other students' belongings alone.

Have a **responsibility** to leave school-owned instruments alone unless you have signed up to learn to play them in class.

Have a **responsibility** to follow rules that preserve our facilities and equipment: No eating or drinking, refrain from leaning on stands or instruments, leave your chair and storage area neat, refrain from defacing property, etc.

Have a **right** to contribute to the goals of the band.

Have a **responsibility** to prioritize toward the goals of the band at all times.

Have a **responsibility** to attend all band functions and communicate with those who provide transportation (parents) and those who organize events (teachers).

Have a **responsibility** to be on time (which is to be as early as possible, prepared with supplies).

**\* Be Safe \* Be Respectful \* Be Responsible \* Own Your Actions**



# MATERIALS

**ALL students** are required to be on time to class with a *three ring binder, pencil, their instrument, individualized materials (shown below) and their music* to receive full points for their participation grade. If a student's instrument is being repaired, a note from home or receipt from the music store will be necessary to excuse them. Otherwise, points will be lost. Playground Music has a list of our materials on file to help you pick out the right materials when shopping with them. You can also order materials online.

## Individualized Materials:

Clarinets: Must have at least 5 reeds at all times. Recommended: Vandoren 2 ½-3.5 strength

Saxophones: Must have at least 5 reeds at all times. Recommended: Vandoren 2 ½ strength

Oboes and Bassoons: These instruments are available for rent from DMS. Must have at least 2 reeds at all times. I recommend you purchase these from a dealer who makes them by hand rather than manufactures them. They last longer and have a quality sound.

Trumpet: Recommended mouthpiece size 11B4 and valve oil

Trombones: Recommended mouthpiece size 6 ½ AL and slide oil

French Horns: Recommended mouthpiece size 32C4, rotary valve oil

Euphoniums: Recommended mouthpiece size 6 ½ AL, valve oil, and tuning slide grease

Tuba: Recommended mouthpiece size Bach 18, Yamaha 66, Conn or Schilke, tuning slide grease, and valve oil

Percussion: Standard beginning band bell set. (can be rented/purchased from Playground) and 5B Regal Tip drumsticks plastic or plain wooden tip in any brand.

## **Destin High School Bands 2021-2022**

### Beginning Band Schedule:

The Beginning Band is where students start from learning to open their instrument cases to performing as an ensemble. All students will be taught to read music and rhythms and are expected to play them correctly on their new instrument. Beginning Band does not require any prior musical experience.

### After School Responsibilities:

- Fall Concert in the evening
- Spring Concert in the evening

Optional: Solo and Ensemble Festival in February

### Concert Band Schedule:

This is the intermediate group at Destin High School. We begin to progress into higher level music but still focus our efforts on improving the basics of our playing skills. This band is meant to challenge and strengthen playing abilities while preparing them for a place in the Symphonic Band in the following year. Placement in this band and Symphonic Band is determined by the band director.

### After School Responsibilities

- Full Group or Sectional Rehearsals as needed in preparation for concerts or competitions
- Fall Concert
- Possible MPA performance in March
- Spring Concert

Optional: ALL COUNTY

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL



### Symphonic Band Schedule:

This band is the top band at Destin School and is our competing ensemble. This group is held to very high standards and is expected to practice individually, rehearse together, and perform at a high level. Placement in this ensemble is determined by the band director. This band requires more after school involvement than any of our other ensembles. Students who cannot make the time commitment should notify the band director so they can be placed in Concert Band to avoid scheduling conflicts.

### After School Responsibilities:

- Fall Concert

- *Spring Sectionals*

*After School until 4 pm*

*Sectionals: Dates in which Symphonic Band students of separate sections meet to prepare their music in a concentrated group in order to prepare for the Music Performance Assessment. **Sectionals begin the first week of February after school and end the second week of March.** Sectionals will be every week on their designated day for their particular instrument unless otherwise noted. Occasionally, a sectional will be cancelled for holidays. Students will be notified in advance for any cancellations. **Sectionals are MANDATORY.***

- Pre-Festival Concert

The Pre-Festival Concert is our last performance before the Music Performance Assessment. Not all parents are able to attend our MPA since it is usually during school hours each year. This concert gives us the opportunity to get out last minute nerves and put on a performance that encompasses all we have been learning for a good portion of the year. Parents are encouraged to attend and see the final product of several months of hard work.

- \*\*\*MPA Judged Competition in March\*\*\*

The Music Performance Assessment is the biggest day of the year! Some say it is the FSA of the band world, though a lot more exciting. Middle and High Schools from all over Florida participate in this event. The students perform for adjudicators who judge on musicality, presentation, and preparation. This is a **MANDATORY** date for Symphonic Band members.

- Spring Concert

Optional: ALL COUNTY Band  
ALL STATE Band  
SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL



## Destin High School Choirs 2021-2022

### 6<sup>th</sup> Period Vocal Techniques

This class is designed to teach students from the very beginning of their high school choir experience. We will learn fundamental music reading as well as begin singing together and learning how to control our own singing voices. No choir experience is required. Students from this class period will frequently interact/rehearse with 7<sup>th</sup> period for concerts and competitions.

#### After School Responsibilities

- Full Group or Sectional Rehearsals as needed in preparation for concerts or competitions
- Fall Concert
- Spring Concert

Possible MPA performance in March

### 7<sup>th</sup> Period Chorus

This class is for students with prior Choral and music reading experience. Students will improve their individual singing skills as well as dive into higher level music as a group. This group will frequently interact/rehearse with 6<sup>th</sup> period for concerts and competitions.

#### After School Responsibilities

- Full Group or Sectional Rehearsals as needed in preparation for concerts or competitions
- Fall Concert
- Spring Concert
- Pre-Festival Concert

The Pre-Festival Concert is our last performance before the Music Performance Assessment. Not all parents are able to attend our MPA since it is usually during school hours each year. This concert gives us the opportunity to get out last minute nerves and put on a performance that encompasses all we have been learning for a good portion of the year. Parents are encouraged to attend and see the final product of several months of hard work.

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## Grading Policy

Grades for music classes are based on a point system per nine weeks: Class Participation is 10% of total grade

- Students can lose a point for missing materials, leaving their instrument at home, or not participating in class activities. Occasional binder checks may occur to make sure students have their materials. STUDENTS WHO FORGET THEIR INSTRUMENT OR CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE LOSE 5 POINTS FOR THE WEEK. They can earn their points back by making up practice time at home for the class instruction they missed.
- If a student is unable to participate in class for any reason, but is well enough to attend school, a written parental excuse is needed for the student to be excused from playing their instrument or singing in class. (Eg: braces tightened; mouth, hand or arm injuries; instrument in the shop, etc.) Students without an instrument in class will lose points that day without a parent note. Mrs. Noe will not assume or investigate these instances. Students are responsible for requesting and relaying this information to Mrs. Noe or the points will be deducted without question.



#### Performance, Sectionals and Full Group Rehearsal Participation 70% of total grade

- Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances, sectionals, and rehearsals. Without a PRIOR excuse for absence, students will lose 100 points for each event missed
- **Missing these events will drop the student a full letter grade or more**
- Performances and group rehearsals are used to assess the student's abilities as it pertains to full group sound and therefore take the place of major tests or exams in class
- These activities are crucial to helping the student improve musically

#### Pass Offs, Quizzes, and Homework 20% of total grade

- Individual playing/singing quizzes are sometimes given so the director has a chance to hear every student and monitor their progression.
- Students are expected to practice at home and be prepared to play an excerpt in class to be graded on preparedness and musicality.
- Students in beginning band and concert band will have regular pass off days for their instrument every week. Passing off one line per week will earn 5 points
- Students who are absent on the day of pass offs can make it up before/after school or send in a video from home

## **Attendance Policy**

### **MUSIC STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES!!**

The DHS Music Groups function as a team and cannot create the desired product if all members are not present. We are highly dependent on every student. Missing one French Horn or one Soprano can have the impact of missing the quarterback in a football game. With this in mind, students are required to attend the scheduled dates.

## **Excused Absences**

Since participation in music activities correlates with the grading policy, students will receive a 0/F for every unexcused absence in music events. **THIS WILL LARGELY AFFECT YOUR STUDENT'S GRADE.** Students may be excused from some after-school rehearsals under special circumstances with parent communication, but only by advanced, written notice. Exceptions to this rule may occur in cases of emergency and can be worked out individually at the director's discretion. In all circumstances, a written note to the band director is required to consider giving an excused absence. (email or handwritten)

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE: Participation in performances is required of all members. With rare exceptions, absences from these will be excused for the following reasons only:

- Student or family health emergencies
- Family death
- Religious convictions

Rehearsal and performance schedules are created as far in advance as possible but are subject to change.

A follow-up note to the band director is needed when any absence is unforeseen. Circumstances may dictate certain exceptions to the rehearsal/performance attendance rule and will be dealt with individually. \*An unexcused absence results in a failing grade for that performance or rehearsal. "I forgot" or "I did not arrange transportation" is not a viable excuse for an absence. Please plan ahead.

Please be as detailed as possible in any follow-up note so that an excused absence can be granted if possible. Generally, excuses after the fact are the same as the performance exceptions above: health emergencies, family death, and religious convictions. Of course, in matters of personal illness, religious holidays, or a death in the family, absences are immediately excused.



## Extra Costs

Music Fees are collected to help pay for the various events and instruments we need to continue growing and learning. Fees are used to purchase music, instruments, travel, clinicians and pay for students to attend All County, All State and other optional opportunities. Payments can be fundraised throughout the year or paid directly to DHS Music. All remaining balances that have not been fundraised are due by Dec 1st. The fees are as follows:

Band Students: \$150  
Chorus Students: \$150  
School-Owned Instrument and Percussion Usage: *Additional* \$100  
Uniform Cost: \$70  
Spirit Tshirts (when available): \$16

Optional Opportunity fees:

*Accompanied Solo for Solo and Ensemble Festival: \$40*

*Unaccompanied Solo or Ensemble Fee: \$5*

*Band or Chorus End of Year trips: varies TBD*

*Field Trips: varies TBD*

## School Owned Instrument Usage

The Destin High School band program owns limited instruments for student use. There is a \$100 per year fee for all instruments that are checked out that serve as a student's PRIMARY instrument. Saxophones and clarinets who double on school instruments will not pay this rental fee since they are expected to retain their regular instruments. This usage fee covers routine maintenance, annual cleaning, and emergency maintenance. If there is a problem with the instrument, it should be reported to Mrs. Noe IMMEDIATELY so that it can be repaired and returned to the student in a timely fashion. Please note that mouthpieces and reeds are NOT provided and will need to be purchased separately. Those using school instruments must fill out a Usage Form.

## Placement Auditions

Audition: A music student will continually "audition" throughout the year on behavior, practice habits, understanding of class lessons, participation in performances and rehearsals, motivation level, teamwork skills, and a variety of non-musical but necessary skills. In addition to these qualities, students may be subject to an end-of-the-year audition to be placed in a higher or lower level music class based on their performance of major scales, note reading, knowledge of their voice or instrument tendencies, technique, articulation, and range. In some cases, a short sight reading exercise may be required and/or a short prepared exercise. All students will be given specific audition requirements in advance so they can have adequate time to prepare. Requirements will change from year to year. Higher level ensembles are balanced by the director according to proper voicing/instrumentation and proficiency of students.



# Music Awards

## Golden Shark Award:

- i. Audition for ALL STATE
- ii. Audition for ALL COUNTY
- iii. Play a SOLO for Solo and Ensemble Festival (ensembles do not count)
- iv. Earn a minimum of 120 pass off points
- v. Maintain an A average in band all year
- vi. Participate in all band events

## Silver Shark Award:

- i. Audition for ALL COUNTY
- ii. Play a SOLO for Solo and Ensemble Festival (ensembles do not count)
- iii. Earn a minimum of 80 pass off points
- iv. Maintain an A average in band all year
- v. Participate in all band events

## Bronze Shark Award:

- i. Play a solo or participate in an ensemble for Solo and Ensemble Festival
- ii. Earn a minimum of 60 pass off points
- iii. Maintain an A average in band all year
- iv. Participate in all band events

**Grand Champion:** Student who acquires the most pass off points for the year

**Second Place Champion:** Student who acquires the 2nd most pass off points for the year

AWARDS: Students can earn PASS OFF POINTS, which help all students earn honors and awards. Mrs. Noe will provide each student with a list of pass offs for their particular class period. They may be passed off in person before/after school, online, or during class on designated days.

## Students Who Participate in Sports

Music students ARE permitted to participate in sports from all seasons. Every year Mrs. Noe will work out a compromise with your coaches to make sure you do not miss any important rehearsals for band or practices for sports during the seasons when band and sports may collide. It is the students responsibility to notify Mrs. Noe of any foreseen scheduling conflicts AT THE START of your sport's season so she can begin working out the conflicts in advance.



# Classroom Management Plan

*Discipline is the cornerstone of an exceptional band program. Students who insist on interrupting both their own and others' learning will be subject to the following plan. Severe breaches of the OCSD Code of Conduct may necessitate the skipping of some of the early steps of this plan. Repeated offenses in the early steps may also place the student higher on the plan (in other words, students' year long behavior is taken into consideration...not just that day's behavior).*

*The Rules of the Band are clearly communicated by the band director.. All rules are expected to be followed every day. The consequences are as follows for students who break one or more of the rules.*

First Offense: Student will be issued a warning. This warning can be to an individual (*John Doe, please stop talking*) OR to a section or group (*Trumpets, pay attention please*).

Second Offense: Student will be given a final, individual warning. If the offense is repeated again throughout the class or regularly throughout the year, they will move directly to the third step. Parent notification.

Third Offense: Students will be assigned lunch detention for their first offense and be directed to administration after repeated offenses to receive their consequences. (detention, ISS, OSS, etc). Parent will be notified.

*Band Students are expected to display exceptional behavior in ALL of their classes. Students who receive 3 or more office referrals will not be permitted to attend our annual band trip in the Spring. Furthermore, band students who receive a grade lower than a C average for their first semester grade in ANY class will not qualify to attend our band trip.*

## Optional Opportunities

All County Band and Chorus: Audition Required to earn the Silver Marlin Award and Gold Marlin Award  
Students from chorus and band are allowed to audition for All County Chorus or All County Band which is an ensemble formed of the top high school musicians in all of Okaloosa County. Auditions are held in September for Chorus and November for band and the dates for rehearsal and performances of those selected members will be scheduled and distributed at the beginning of each school year. Those interested in auditioning should see Mrs. Noe for more information and music.

All State Band and Chorus : Audition Required to earn the Gold Marlin Award Students from chorus and bands are allowed to audition for the All State Chorus and All State band Band which is an ensemble formed of the top high school musicians in the entire state of Florida. Auditions are held in September and the rehearsals/performance for those selected members will be the second week of January in Tampa, Florida. This audition will require practicing over the summer and those interested may want to sign up for summer lessons. Those interested in auditioning please see Mrs. Noe for more information.

### Solo and Ensemble Festival: Performance required to win ALL Awards

Students from band and chorus are allowed to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival. This is an excellent opportunity for individual students to practice a solo and perform for a judge's ratings and critiques. I encourage ALL students to participate. Not only do they receive a solo experience but the judge's they will perform for are experts in their particular instrument or voice. The judge will give them a rating (and a medal if they receive a superior!) and offer feedback, extended instruction and tips on how to improve as an individual. The Solo and Ensemble festival will be held on a Saturday in February. The cost is \$40 for a piano accompanied solo or \$5 for an unaccompanied solo, ensemble or percussionist.



## **Jazz Band**

DHS Band students are invited to join the Power Hour Jazz Band. The jazz band performs in the fall and spring concerts with the other ensembles as well as performing at "Jazz in the Park," an event held on a Saturday in May. Please see Mrs. Noe if you are interested in joining. Jazz students must be able to regularly attend rehearsals since our time together is limited.

## **Private Lessons**

There are many coaches in the area that specialize in every instrument and voice. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these services and take private lessons. Mrs. Noe has a list of recommended teachers for those interested. Students can also take private lessons at Playground Music Center in Fort Walton Beach. I will guarantee that with private instruction, they will improve above their grade level in class. There is only so much in class that we can teach in a group setting but in private lessons, the individual student is assessed and progressed to their specific needs. Private instruction is a wonderful and highly beneficial program and I encourage every student to be a part of it. Especially if they intend to play or sing competitively as an individual in the music world.

### **Parent involvement:**

Parents are invited to register as volunteers through the Okaloosa County School District website.

<https://www.okaloosaschools.com/depts/ca/volunteer>

### **Opportunities include:**

- ❖ Chaperone on trips
- ❖ Uniform fittings
- ❖ Parades – chaperone/walk with the band for security
- ❖ Concerts – Driver for instrument transport
- ❖ Check the calendar for parent meetings. Updates are sent home periodically but parents generally only meet at the beginning of the year.
- ❖ Serve as an organizer: Uniforms, Treasurer, Chaperones, Fundraising, Trip Planning, and Instrument Transport