

# BAND HANDBOOK

## **FORWARD**

This handbook has been compiled to serve as a guideline of the DAC Band Program. It has been written for both band students and their parents to explain the various phases, activities, policies, and regulations of the instrumental music program. All students and their parents must read this manual carefully and then return the last page, signed by both student and parent, to the next rehearsal. This will acknowledge that all policies are understood and will be upheld by both the students and their parents.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

It is the goal of the DAC band program to represent itself through excellence in performance and respect for ourselves and others. This excellence can only be attained through discipline, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and pride. Respect and courtesy for others shows in our ability to work together and encouragement of each other in our progress. Each student learns to respect hard work and dedication through their own musical journey and that of their fellow musicians. Our success as a group and as individuals is based on our willingness and determination to work to the best of our ability. Also important to our program is for students to develop a sense of responsibility to themselves and their fellow band members. This responsibility is not only concerned with music - it represents itself in a feeling of obligation, loyalty and whole-hearted participation in the band. Let us remember that each of us is dependent upon the other for the success of our musical journey.

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## **COST OF THE BAND PROGRAM**

### **TUITION FEE**

**\$385.00 YEARLY BAND FEE FOR FIRST STUDENT IN FAMILY  
\$330.00 FOR SECOND STUDENT, \$300.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL STUDENT**

Paid in seven payments of \$55.00 each (the amount for the final payment will be \$45 and different for additional students in the family). If you are making payments a band tuition contract must be signed. The payments are due on or before September 1, October 1, November 1, December 1, January 1, February 1 and March 1. ANY PAYMENT NOT PAID BY THE DUE DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A \$10.00 LATE FEE. If any parent has a concern with tuition they should contact the band director - all efforts will be made to be as flexible as possible.

**ALL PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**  
**REFUNDS WILL NOT BE MADE FOR ANY REASON.**  
**THERE WILL BE A \$20.00 CHARGE FOR ANY RETURNED CHECKS.**

**TUITION COVERS THE COST OF INSTRUCTION ONLY**

### **FUNDRAISING**

#### **\$90.00 FUNDRAISER FEE**

Throughout the year the DAC Band Program has at least one fundraiser to earn money for the program. Fundraising helps cover the cost of such items as music, equipment, awards, etc. Each student is responsible for earning at least \$90.00 in fundraising (profit from fundraiser). If you choose not to participate in the fundraiser you are responsible for a \$90.00 donation. Families with more than two students in band will only be asked to sell candy/pay fundraiser fee for two students. Any returned checks for fundraising will be assessed a \$20.00 fee.

### **INSTRUMENT RENTAL OR PURCHASE**

Each student is responsible for obtaining his/her own instrument. For your convenience, we deal with the Quinlan and Fabish Music Company of Valparaiso, IN, who will provide instruments for rent or to own at the registration meeting. You are not obligated to purchase an instrument from them. Regardless of where you obtain an instrument, your child must have his/her instrument for the first lesson. The student and parents are responsible for any and all maintenance and supplies necessary for the instrument.

### **ACCESSORIES**

Any additional supplies, such as reeds, valve oil, swabs, cork grease, etc., are the responsibility of the student and must be with the student at all times. Many of these supplies are available from the band director at a reasonable cost.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM**

### **LESSONS AND REHEARSALS**

Each child in the band receives at least 1/2 hour group lesson at his/her school during the school day. Public and home school students receive their lessons in the afternoon or evening. Here the student learns how to play his/her instrument and read music. In addition to the group lesson each child must participate in band rehearsals. At band rehearsal, the theory each student learns at his/her lesson is put into practice. Each student in the band program must participate in both the lessons and rehearsals. Additional rehearsals - such as dress rehearsals for performances - may be required and are mandatory.

### **BAND BOOSTERS**

The parents of each child who joins the band program automatically become members of the Band Booster, our parents organization. The backbone of any good music program is a strong parents' organization, so your active participation and support in this organization is greatly desired. The band boosters help with many of the operational task of the band program such as chaperoning, fundraising and helping with band performances and the moving and transporting of band equipment.

## **LEVELS OF THE BAND PROGRAM**

**BEGINNING BAND** - This group is made up of students who are just starting on their instruments. Instruction starts at the very beginning with the basics of reading music and the first steps in playing an instrument. No previous music instruction is needed for this level.

**INTERMEDIATE BAND** - This performance group is the next step for progressing students. Intermediate Band is a combination of students who have completed one year of music instruction and those students who are working on their second instrument.

**SYMPHONIC BAND** - Symphonic Band is the highest level of bands in the program. This group is comprised of students who have had at least two years of music instruction on their instrument. One of the goals of this band is to challenge its members with advanced junior high level music as well as performing high school level compositions.

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## **BAND POLICIES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Students should attend all lessons, rehearsals and performances. Each student is responsible for letting the band director know in advance of any conflicts with lessons, rehearsals or performances. Every effort will be made to work with sports and other activities.**

### **BEHAVIOR**

Each student is always expected to be on his/her best behavior. Students should refrain from these behaviors during lessons and rehearsals:

1. Talking or playing while the director or other adult is addressing the group.
2. Eating food or chewing gum during lessons or rehearsal.
3. Playing another's instrument (this includes drum equipment).
4. Using/playing on cell phones or other items during lessons/rehearsals

The following behavior will result in dismissal from the program:

1. Talking back to the director or any adult.
2. Physically harassing a student or adult.
3. Destruction of property.
4. Any public misconduct which reflects poorly on the group.
5. Verbally harassing a student.

**EACH STUDENT REPRESENTS THE DAC BAND PROGRAM. RESPECT FOR OTHERS - PERSON AND PROPERTY - IS EXPECTED AND REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES**

### **PERFORMANCE DRESS (CONCERTS)**

#### **ALL BAND MEMBERS MUST WEAR THE FOLLOWING**

DAC Band shirt  
Black Dress Slacks or Skirt  
Black Socks or Hose  
Black Dress Shoes

#### **DRESS FOR MORE CASUAL PERFORMANCES**

Band t shirt  
Nice jeans

**AWARDS:** Awards are given for loyalty, dependability, and outstanding contributions to the DAC Band Program.

**Dedication Awards:** Presented to graduating members who have been in the program five or more years

**Outstanding Member**(from each group): These awards are presented to loyal, dedicated students who have a high level of performance in the band. Punctuality and attendance are taken into consideration.

**Most Improved Member** (from each group): These awards are presented to those students who have shown marked improvement during the year through continuous hard work and practice.

**Directors Award**(from each group): These awards are presented to students who display a high level of dedication to the band through leadership, attitude and performance.

**Perfect attendance Award:** An award is presented to the students who do not miss any band rehearsals or performances during the school year.