

Duxbury High School Music Handbook

Welcome to the Duxbury High School Music Program. The programs, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Orchestra, and Concert Choir are open to all students. The participation in the following groups is by an audition selection process; Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble, and Chamber Singers. In addition, the following auditioned music ensembles are offered as Co-Curricular activities; Jazz Band, Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Chamber Orchestra, Men A capella, and Pit Orchestra.

The Duxbury High School Music Program has a long tradition of music excellence. Performance students learn music literacy, performance level techniques, and an appreciation of music as an art form. Self-esteem is built through successful and cooperative performing experiences.

Due to the vast scope of the music program, we have compiled this supplemental handbook to assist you in understanding the rules and requirements needed for participation and continued success for your child in the music program. Please read and review the following policies and sign the appropriate form at the end of the handbook.

1. GROUP COMMITMENT

Music groups are not like other classes, nor are they exactly like a team. Instead, they possess characteristics of both:

(A) Music classes are similar to other classes in that there are concepts and skills that must be learned through a definite curriculum, and

(B) Music classes are similar to teams in that success depends on all individuals performing their parts and relating with others in a cooperative and supportive spirit. All music students are expected to do their very best at all times to ensure a successful performing group experience.

2. GRADING (Music Courses)

(A) Daily rehearsal perceptions and observations on student's participation, preparedness, effort, attitude, and conduct.

(B). Exams and quizzes, Assessment of performance skills through play checks and auditions, Attendance -An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a point reduction in the grade for that term. (See #3 Attendance Policy)

(C) Practice Records: Students are expected to practice every week and submit practice records to their respective teachers.

3. ATTENDANCE

A). Attendance for Music courses

Part of being in a musical group involves attending performances outside of the school day. It is very important that all group members be present for these events, as an absence of even one performer can make a big difference in the success experienced by the whole group. Performances are the culmination of the curriculum and serve as the equivalent of a Final/Unit Exam; however, a missed performance is impossible to make up. Work conflicts are not excusable absence for rehearsals or performances. There are four reasons for being excused from a performance: (a) Medical Emergency, (b) Student Illness, (c) Unavoidable Conflict, (d) School Activity conflict.

Unavoidable conflicts need a parental excuse letter one week prior to the concert. To remain eligible, students in Wind Ensemble, Chamber Singers, and String Ensemble are not allowed to miss more than 10% of their performances, even with parental excuse notes due to the smaller nature of these groups.

School Activity conflict involves Duxbury High School games, performances, rehearsals, and practices. Games and performances take preference over rehearsals and practices. In the event that a game and performance are scheduled on the same evening students should make every attempt to do both. Prior notice to coaches and directors as to how they will attempt to resolve the conflict.

(B). Attendance for Co-Curricular Ensembles Attendance for Co-Curricular ensembles follows the same guidelines as the attendance policy for music courses, with the additional stipulation that two unexcused absences will result in expulsion from the group.

4. GENERAL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

General policies and regulation from the DHS student handbook apply at all music events.

5. TRIP RULES AND REGULATIONS

On trip years, students are given a handout regarding trip rules and regulations.

6. EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to use proper care when using school instruments and equipment as stated in the DHS handbook under books and materials.

7. MUSIC AWARDS

The Music Awards Program is designed to reward students for the many hours required of them for rehearsals and performances. Points are given for all music activities that take place outside of the school day. Extra points can also be earned through private study, service, and participation. The Music Promoters Organization will sponsor these awards and the Annual Awards Night as long as they are financially able.

8. Website

Music new, class information, documents, and important dates and times can be found on the music department website.

www.Duxburymusic.net