

Instrumental Music Code and Band Handbook Del Valle High School

1.0 Purpose

The Instrumental Music Code has been written to help students gain the most from their band experience as well as provide guidance to the practical everyday experiences of the band program.

1.01 Our Mission

To create an organization that strives to perform at a quality level, while maintaining unity and fun through common goals.

1.02 General Goals and Objectives

- I. Mental and physical discipline
 - A. Develop powers of concentration
 - B. Memorize music
 - C. Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
 - D. Develop self and group discipline

- II. Citizenship through group endeavor
 - A. Develop leadership abilities
 - B. Develop responsibility
 - C. Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
 - D. Develop diligence

- III. Physical conditioning
 - A. Develop strength, stamina, and endurance
 - B. Develop coordination

- IV. Cultural growth
Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature.

V. Value Judgments

Ability to make musical value (as they pertain to a musical setting) judgments through critical listening. The student will recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.

VI. Music theory

- A. Know and use note values and rest
- B. Know and use keys, key signatures, and scales
- C. Know and use musical terms, signs, and symbols
- D. Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- E. Ear training / listening skills

VII. Proper instrumental technique

- A. Care of the Instrument
- B. Assume correct posture and playing position.
- C. Develop the embouchure / stick grip / hand position
- D. Develop characteristic instrumental tone.
- E. Develop proper breathing techniques
- F. Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

VIII. Creative self-expression

- A. Express oneself in every performance experience
- B. Explore careers

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the Del Valle High School Band will strive to:

1. Provide any interested student with the opportunity for musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band.
2. Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students.
3. Instill pride and discipline in each student.
4. Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction.
5. Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement.

2.0 General Conduct / Expectations

Band Members will observe all policies set forth by the Ysleta Independent School District, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
2. Students will follow director's instructions.
3. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time.
4. Students will bring all equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily. (See detailed supply list for each instrument.)
5. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
6. Students will maintain a high level of acceptable behavior.
7. Students will not bring food, drinks, candy or gum in the Band Hall area without permission from a band director.
8. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
9. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising your hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
10. When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
11. Students will be allowed to use the student telephone before or after school without asking permission as long as such call relates to school business.
12. Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Each student is responsible for keeping his or her storage area clean.
13. Students will not enter the directors' offices without permission.
14. Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls.
15. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
16. Students will utilize their assigned storage slot / locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director.
17. Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal

from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

18. Students are expected not to bring students (friends) that are not part of the band program into the band room.
19. Students are asked to refrain from showing “public displays of affection” or PDA, in the band hall. See School and District Handbook

Discipline Plan Del Valle High School Band

The purpose of discipline is to create an environment that enhances learning and performance. This plan is based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference. Responsibility for behavior lies directly with the individual student. Therefore, anyone who interferes with the effectiveness of the classroom, performance, travel situations or learning environment in general, CHOOSES to accept the consequences as outlined below.

GENERAL STANDARDS

1. Lack of preparation: Each student is expected to be in class, on the field, or present for travel on time, with the correct equipment, and with the proper attitude.
2. Interruptions: Verbal or nonverbal are considered inappropriate behavior. Students are expected to maintain a mature level of behavior.
3. Refusal to do as instructed: Students are expected to respond with a positive attitude toward instruction.
4. Profanity and/or Obscenity: Students are expected to refrain from this type of activity.
5. Chewing gum: Food or Drinks of any kind are prohibited in the Band hall.
6. Use of Illegal Drugs and/or Alcohol is prohibited (refer to school handbook).
7. Failure to take proper care of equipment, including uniforms and facilities is unacceptable.

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

- 1st offense - Warning
2nd offense - Warning - conference
3rd offense - Warning - conference - call to parents - loss of chair and/or marching position
4th offense - Warning - conference - call to parents - sent to principals office (referral) - loss of chair and/or marching position. Possible

removal from participation in performing group and moved to a different class.

Any student who severely disrupts the class will be sent directly to the principal for disciplinary action. He or She will notify parents. Removal from the band class may result as well.

3.0 General Daily Supplies

- A. All Issued music
- B. Pencil
- C. Instrument
- D. All Supplies relative to their instrument
- E. All marching related equipment (during marching season)
 - 1. Drill/chart/dot book
 - 2. Lyre/folder
 - 3. All issued music
 - 4. other equipment as needed.
- F. Metronome (for home use)

Flutes

- 1. Tuning and cleaning rods
- 2. Cleaning cloth
- 3. Key oil
- 4. Approved instrument type

Clarinets

- 1. Three good playable reeds. Vandoren V-12
- 2. Reed guard
- 3. Bonade ligature
- 4. Proper mouthpiece with cap (Forbes-Debut)
- 5. Key oil
- 6. Bore Oil (home storage)
- 7. Cleaning swab
- 8. Approved type instrument
- 9. Cork grease

Saxes/Low reeds as applicable

- 1. Three good playable reeds. Vandoren V-16
- 2. Reed Guard
- 3. Ligature
- 4. Proper Mouthpiece (Selmer C star or S-90)
- 5. Pad and neck saver
- 6. Approved instrument type

Trumpet

- 1. Valve oil (Al Cass)

2. Polishing cloth
3. Mouthpiece (Bach 3c / 5c) or other director approved mouthpiece
4. Approved type instrument

French Horn

1. Rotary / Valve oil (Al Cass - Marching Horn) (Holton Rotary - Concert Horn)
2. Polishing cloth
3. Approved mouthpiece (Holton Farkas)
4. Approved type instrument

Trombone

1. Slide cream
2. Spray Water Bottle
3. Polishing Cloth
4. Mouthpiece (Bach 6 ½ AL) or other director approved mouthpiece
5. Approved type instrument

Baritone / Euphonium

1. Valve oil (Al Cass)
2. Mouthpiece (Bach 6 ½ AL) or other director approved mouthpiece
3. Polishing cloth
4. Approved type instrument

Tuba

1. Rotatory / Valve Oil (Al Cass -Valves / Holton - Rotors)
2. Mouthpiece (Bach 24 AW / Miraphone Rose Model)
3. Polishing cloth
4. Approved type instrument

Percussion

1. Snare sticks - Vic Firth General
2. Vibes / Marimba mallet (Medium Hard)
3. Timpani mallets (Firth Staccato)
4. Stick bag
5. List of approved equipment provided by the percussion instructor.

Color Guard

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Pole | 5. Electrical Tape |
| 2. Flag | |
| 3. Rifle (if applicable) | |
| 4. Saber (if applicable) | |

4.0 School Owned / Issued Instruments

The Ysleta Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments such as bassoons, oboe, Baritone Saxophones, French Horn, Euphonium, Tubas, and general Percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

1. If at all possible, students will be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. Order of distribution will be done based on chair order.
2. Ysleta ISD does not provide insurance for individual or school owned equipment. It is recommended to all students with school owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the said instrument. Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance needed not caused by normal use.
3. Students must check-out Instrument by a director which will then be issued through the Charms website.
4. Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition; each instrument will be checked and cleaned by a music company prior to issue.
5. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
6. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

Special Note:

School owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” instruments. Basic Supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most school owned instruments exceed a \$2000.00 value. Since the expense of purchasing, leasing or renting is deterred; students using school owned instruments are strongly encouraged to participate in a private lesson program.

5.0 Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on both school and commercial busses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

1. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parents, must notify a director and the principal in writing prior to the event.
2. Students must have all necessary forms completed and returned to travel on any trip with the band.
3. Failure to fulfill and comply with any travel contract will result in full monetary penalties pertaining to the specified trip
4. While on the bus students will:
 - A. Remain seated at all times
 - B. Sit properly in a forward position.
 - C. Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris
 - D. Keep all body parts inside the bus.
 - E. Use only approved type/headset radios.
 - F. Remain silent when an adult is addressing the bus.
 - G. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
 - H. Refrain from any public displays of affection.

Special Note:

Students are reminded that all performances / concerts start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, DO NOT DO IT ! Your conduct must be such that at no time could it be considered a bad reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself or the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program at all times.

6.0 Marching Band

The Del Valle High School Marching Band is the most visible organization of the instrumental music program. All band students in grades 9-12 are expected to participate in the Marching Band. Students who participate in certain school sponsored varsity level events such as cheerleading, drill team, or football may be excused from participation at the discretion of the band director. Please note different solutions will be presented for varying situations. Students may also be excused from participation in the marching band for other reasons such as medical complications or physical disabilities. Such exemptions will be at the discretion of the directors.

Marching Rehearsal Schedule

Monday	Full Band 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Tuesday	Sectional (am or pm)
Wednesday	Full Band (5:30 – 8:30 pm)
Thursday	Sectional (am or pm)
Friday	Full Band 6:45 –8:00 am

6.2 Marching Band Positions

Primary Marchers

Students who earn a position in the marching band will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary marcher is a student who:

1. Successfully completes the memorization requirement for music by the appropriate time. If student does not have music memorized they will be allowed to perform with out their instrument.
2. Demonstrates high quality marching skills.
3. Is punctual in report times.
4. Is present at all rehearsals and performances.
5. Maintains academic eligibility.

Alternates

1. Alternates are students who substitute with certain primary marchers.
2. Alternates will meet the same requirements of primary marchers.
3. A minimum number of alternates is preferred.
4. The position of alternate will be utilized for those students who display difficulty in meeting the criteria of a primary marcher.

6.3 Marching Band Student Leadership Positions

Drum Major(s)

The drum major audition process will select Drum major(s). Drum majors will be used in the instruction of marching skills as well as the general marching drill. The drum major will be the field commander and conductor for the marching ensemble. An audition process that will involve chart reading, quality marching skills, use of vocal commands and conducting skills will select Drum Majors. Drum Majors will serve the marching season for which they are selected. Once selected, individual drum major duties and positions will be assigned at the discretion of the directors. In the event an underclassman is selected as drum major, he/she must reenter the selection process the next school year.

Special Note: Please see conduct expectation in all sections pertaining to general conduct of students as well as band council positions.

6.4 General Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high quality marching band, attendance from all members is essential. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band.

Roll Check

Roll check will be promptly at the start of rehearsal and in the attendance block.

Tardiness

Students not in the attendance block at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments etc... Will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall be subject to one of the following consequences:

1. Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
2. Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game.
3. Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make-up lost time.
4. Student's who are tardy will be required to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader.
5. Consequences will be issued at the discretion of the band directors.

Absence

A tardy will be converted to a mark of "absence" 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc... Will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, and serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students, who are continually ill, may need to provide a doctors note releasing them for participation in order to insure the well being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence will be subject to one of the following consequences:

1. Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
2. Loss of marching privilege for one game.
3. Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
4. Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education credit.

Marching Band Performances

The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various competitive marching festivals, the U.I.L. Marching Contest, as well as local and national parades.

6.6 General Performance Procedures

1. Report Time: this will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.
2. Load Time: this will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded. (THE SECTION LEADERS WILL CHECK ALL EQUIPMENT. STUDENTS WITHOUT APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT WILL BE SENT HOME AND AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE RECORDED.)
3. Return Time: this will be the time of return to the band hall.

Music Inspection

Music inspection will occur before all football games and marching band performances that will utilize music which is not part of the field / competition show. Students will be asked to display music, lyre (if appropriate), and flip folder. Students who do not pass music inspection will not be allowed to perform.

6.8 Uniform Inspection

Prior to student departure for a marching band performance, students must pass a uniform inspection. In order to board the bus, students must have complete uniform, raincoat, music, flip folder, and other components for the marching performance. Students who do not pass the uniform inspection will not be allowed to attend the event.

6.9 Instrument Loading / Unloading

Students who play large instruments such as Percussion, Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, French Horn, Trumpet, Sax, Low Reeds etc. shall be allowed to transport their instrument on the band trailer / instrument truck. All others will transport their instruments in the bus. Students will be responsible for seeing that their instrument is in the proper location. Students will also be responsible to see that their instrument is picked up and stored correctly upon the unloading of the instrument truck. Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck and be charged a maintenance fee.

7.0 Football Game Procedures

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such performance includes all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

1. Students will arrive at the set report time. Students will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
2. Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.

The section leaders will inspect all students boarding buses prior to departure. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines will be sent home and not allowed to participate. Students will receive an unexcused absence for such occurrences.

3. Upon arrival at the performance area, students will don all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload busses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director.
4. Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Students will march in to drum cadence upon instruction from a drum major or director.
5. Students will report to seating area. Students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a drum major or director. (Students will sit in assigned section. Students will remain in that section at all times.)
6. Students will remain in the band seating section at all times during the game. Drinks will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
7. Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by a chaperone. Restroom breaks will not be granted until the 3rd quarter (emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis).

8. Students are to bring their water jugs for football games. Please drink responsibly as restroom breaks are limited (See No. 7). No other food or drinks are acceptable during the game.
9. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
10. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles.
11. At the discretion of the Head Director, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum majors instructions.
12. At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.
13. During the 3rd quarter, we will participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions. The band president will create a schedule of which student leaders participate in this event.
14. At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently.
15. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

8.0 Band Uniform Guidelines

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed.

GENERAL

1. Band uniforms will be issued during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and its' components should it be damaged in anyway other than normal wear and tear.

ISSUE AND RETURN

1. Students will pick up uniforms from the storage room at least 15 minutes prior to report time for any event.
2. Students should follow the posted pick up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be sent to the end of the pick up / return line.
3. Students will be issued a uniform storage number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform from the storage room.

DONNING THE UNIFORM

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat. The band tee shirt is to be worn under your uniform. The band shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections.
2. You must wear approved black band shoes and black socks (student purchases).
3. Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. is unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
4. Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances.
5. Natural hair colors will be the only style of color accepted.
6. No consumption of food and drinks while in uniform without permission.

ALTERATIONS and CARE

1. Never cut any material from the band uniform. Hem your pants so that the crease does not “break” when you are standing straight up with your band shoes on. The pant leg should come to the top of the band shoe.
2. Keep the collar hooked while hanging to retain the shape of the coat. Always hang the pants by the crease.
3. Label your uniform bag, and tape your name under your hat brim.

Color Guard

1. Make-up will be worn as instructed by the director
2. Hair will be styled as instructed by the director.
3. Skin colored tights are to be worn underneath the uniform.
4. Only accessories that are a part of the uniform may be worn.

Color Guard Uniforms

1. Never cut any material from the guard uniform. The pant leg should come to the top of the jazz shoe.
2. Wash the uniform separately in “cold” water on the “delicate” cycle. Use a mild detergent such as Woolite.
3. The uniform may either be drip-dried or placed in the dryer. If a dryer is used, place a bath towel inside with the uniform and dry until damp. Remove from dryer and drip-dry the remainder of the time.

UNIFORM COSTS

If a uniform part is damaged beyond repair or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs.

9.0 Concert Ensembles

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition. The concert ensembles will be:

Wind Ensemble
Symphonic Band
Concert Band

To be selected into the Winds, Symphonic, or Concert Band students must:

1. Participate in the audition process.
2. Have successful participation in the marching band.

(To be considered for a position in the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, the student must participate in the All Region Band Process in addition to

any “in house” audition. Any member of these two ensembles who fails to participate in the All Region audition process is subject to be placed in an ensemble at the discretion of the directors. Students of the top 2 ensembles must also participate in Solo and Ensemble. Failure to participate can result in the removal from that ensemble.)

Winter Guard:

Students in the color guard will also take part in the winter guard program during the second semester. Winter guard competitions and rehearsal dates to be announced. When traveling, students will wear wind suits with white socks and tennis shoes (80% white).

9.1 Performance / Rehearsal Requirements for the Concert Ensembles

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances will result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors. (See general attendance policies.)

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Fall Concert (Marching Band Concert)
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Band Festivals / Pre U.I.L. Contest
- U.I.L. Contest

9.2 Concerts / Performances

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be sent home.

Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

1. All concerts are a group effort, thus, attendance is required.
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance / concert.

4. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!
5. The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform. (See Uniforms.)
6. Students are expected to stay the entire concert.

9.3 General Attendance

In order to have and maintain high quality concert ensembles, attendance from all members is essential. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for concert ensembles as it relates to after school rehearsals and section rehearsals

Roll Check

Roll check will be promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not seated at the appropriate time will receive a mark of tardy.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director.

Absence

Students not seated at the appropriate time or those not tardy will be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness, death in the family, and serious problems will be considered as excused absences. Students who are continually ill, may need to provide a doctors note in order to insure the well being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, this should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence will be expected to make up missed time at the discretion of the director. Also, a student may lose his/her position in the band for such absences.

9.4 Section Rehearsals

Students will have a weekly section rehearsal for the fundamentals of instrument technique, region music preparation, and solo and ensemble preparation. Section rehearsals will begin in August and will be held the entire school year. These are separate from all other rehearsals.

All students in the Wind, Symphonic, and Concert bands will have a weekly section rehearsal. Section rehearsals for concert ensemble will begin at the conclusion of the marching band season. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared on a week by week basis. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

9.5 Region Band / Orchestra Guidelines *

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All Region Band. Hundreds of Students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

1. All Honors, Symphonic, and Concert band students should plan to audition for All - Region Band. If selected, you will perform a concert. (Check your calendar for dates.)
2. All other band students are encouraged to audition. Students will be graded on preparation for this event. Any person who is fortunate to be selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance.

9.6 Jazz Band

Students who participate in jazz band must be a member of the band program; the only exceptions are rhythm section players. All rehearsal and attendance policies must be abided in the jazz ensemble rehearsals. Jazz ensemble rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are averaged accordingly in your band grade. You will receive 10 points toward your letter for participation.

- Participation in the jazz ensembles will be through Audition. To be considered for Jazz I and II, a student must participate in the All Region Jazz process.
- Anyone who fails to participate in the Audition process, will be placed in an ensemble at the discretion of the Director.

10.0 Solo and Ensemble *

All band members in the band program will prepare and perform a solo or ensemble. All Honor and Symphonic Band members will participate in an ensemble unless other permission is granted. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process. See Appendix I and II for rehearsal suggestions.

11.0 Eligibility

Many band activities are designated by the state as extra-curricular. The state laws regarding participation therefore govern these activities. The state law is such that a student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any one class. However, the student may not be suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer. Also, students are not suspended for practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities. Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he / she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Thus, he/she may regain eligibility at the conclusion of the 4th week of the suspension period. A few band activities are designated by the state as co-curricular. These activities are those, which occur on campus, and are a natural extension of the learning taken place in the classroom. Examples of this type of activity are the public concerts, which are presented at Del Valle High School. The state eligibility law does not govern these activities.

12.0 General Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following scale:

Daily / Participation 40%
 Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, Concentration,
 Class work, Weekly Music checks, Hearings etc...

Extension of Class 40%

Includes: Co-curricular events such as concerts and section rehearsals.

Tests 20%

Includes: Playing and Classroom Tests

**Failure to participate in a performance or failure to attend a mandatory performance function without prior approval from the Head Director may result in a failing grade for that grading period.*

13.0 General School Conduct

As a band member, you are expected to display above average conduct at all times! This is not limited to band activities, but encompasses daily classroom and campus behavior. Failure to maintain good conduct will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the band director.

13.1 Anti Hazing and Bullying

All members of the program are required to attend the YISD anti-hazing/bullying presentation on a yearly basis. Students are expected to refrain from participating in any hazing/bullying activities. All students are expected to report any type of hazing/bullying activity to a director immediately. Any form of Hazing/Bullying (physical or cyber) will be immediately reported to campus administration and will not be dealt with “in house” unless instructed to by campus administration.

14.0 Private Lesson Program

When possible, the DVHS Band collaborates with local professional musicians to provide private lessons. All are all specialists on their instrument. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the El Paso area, and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged. When lessons are granted through the band program, students are expected to participate and follow through with the expectations of their lesson teacher. Students are also encouraged to seek outside lesson teachers as well. Fees for lesson teachers not contracted through the DV band will be negotiated between the teacher and the student. Please see the directors for a list of available teachers on their specific instrument.

17.0 Letter Award System

All Band students will have an opportunity to letter. The following are guidelines for the lettering process which, consist of both fall and spring semester participation.

- Participation at all Marching Band and Concert Band Performances
- Pass Off 12 Major Scales/12 Minor Scales (2 Octaves)
- (All Contest and Parades etc... Included)
- Placement in the All Region Band or Jazz Band
- Participation in Solo & Ensemble
 - Class 1 solo or ensemble (1st Division)
 - Class 2 solo or ensemble (1st Division)
- Participation in the Spring Semester (must finish the complete season)
 - Member of the Wind Ensemble
 - Member of the Symphonic Band
 - Member of the Concert Band

Color Guard Letter Award System:

A color guard member needs to accumulate 30 points to earn a letter. Color guard can accumulate points toward letter jacket in the following manner:

- 7.5 points (Cumulative) Marching Guard (Fall semester)
(Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion.)
- 7.5 points (Cumulative) Indoor Guard (Spring semester)
(Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion.)
- 10 points (Non-Cumulative) Summer Attendance
- 10 points (Non-Cumulative) Winter Attendance

Assessed Fees

Shoes:

All marching band students must have the approved black shoes. No other shoe will be acceptable. Black MTX Approximate Cost-\$25.00 - \$45.00.

Band Shirt:

Will be worn at all games.

Misc. Supplies:

These will be such supplies as lyres, flip folders, raincoats, water jugs etc. The costs will vary from year to year.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POLICY

It is the policy of the Del Valle High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. Arrangements can be made with the director for those students who are in need of such considerations.

Financial Responsibility

It is the student and parent's responsibility to adhere to all payments and to make sure that the end of the school calendar year collects all debts. Failing to do so will result in holding the student's records upon graduation until all debts have been accounted for.

FUND RAISING

The Del Valle High School Band engages in several fund raising activities each year. The monies raised from fundraising activities will be credited to an account held by the Band Parent Association. This money will be used only for the direct benefit of the students. Money in fund raising accounts is subject to state law regarding the collection of sales tax, and cannot be transferred to another student. A student may use the money in his/her account for the following band expenses:

1. Supplemental Band Parent Association Donation
2. Travel or trips with the band
3. Solo and Ensemble Fees, All TMEA region fees.

Because the above constitutes the vast majority of costs associated with the Del Valle Band, these are the only expenses to which fund-raising profits can be applied. Money from fund raising is by law the property of the school district, and cannot be transferred from one student to another. A student who ends the school year with a positive account balance may carry that balance over to the next year.

15.0 Band Officers

President

The President has numerous responsibilities. Primary responsibilities of the President are to:

- (a) Plan and guide of all band council meetings.
- (b) Plan and publish an agenda for meetings.
- (c) Serve on every band council committee and ensures that all committees and council members are performing their assigned duties to a satisfactory level.
- (d) Insure that all members of the band council are executing their duties.
- (e) Assist other band council members in the performance of their duties as needed.

Vice President

The Primary Responsibility of the Vice President is to:

1. Assist the President in all duties assigned.
2. Execute the duties of the President in the absence of the president.
3. Organize all aspects of the annual Band Banquet.
4. Oversee the leadership and the execution of their duties.

Social Officer

The Social Officers have numerous responsibilities. Primary duties of the Social Officers are to:

1. Will coordinate all aspects of the Freshman Acceptance Team. (FAT Friends)
2. Plan all aspects of social events
3. Assist the Vice President with the Band Banquet
4. Other Special Engagements
5. Create programs for each class based upon assigned group
6. Plan an activity every six weeks for the band.
7. Encourage and insure that section leaders are planning events for their sections.
8. Be involved all across the band in all events.
9. Coordinate and communicate the clean up plans to the section leaders.
10. Communicate to the BAND Members and Staff regarding social events
11. Create a system to accurately determine which students will participate at social events such as sign up sheets.

Section Leaders

1. Support and assist band directors and staff.
2. Assist in all music rehearsals
3. Maintain an attendance log of rehearsals
4. Check memorizing of all music.

Quarter Masters

Quarter Master responsibilities will be delegated amongst the entire leadership team Primary responsibilities of the quartermasters are to:

1. Manage the uniforms of the band program in all areas such as cleaning, racking, storing, and issuing.
2. Maintain a thorough inventory of all uniform related items such as water bottles, old shoes, seat cushions, rain coats, gloves, etc...
3. Establish a uniform crew to manage the uniform room.
4. Insure that the uniform room is functional at all times.
5. Insure proper care and storage of all uniforms.

6. Administrate the issuing of equipment for check out on a weekly basis.

Librarians

The Librarian has numerous responsibilities. Primary responsibility is to:

1. Organize and maintain the music library in proper working order.
2. Copy and pass out all music the group needs throughout the season.

Secretary

1. The secretary has numerous responsibilities. Primary duties of the Secretary are to:
2. Keep an accurate record of all band council meetings.
3. Meet weekly with Mr. Gamez for assigned tasks.
4. Work with the Vice-President of Administration on bulletin boards.
5. Assist the other student officers when requested
6. Maintain weekly phone system information.
7. Prepare and copy the weekly band announcement sheet.
8. Assist in fund raising operations.

Historian (*When applicable*)

1. The Historian has numerous responsibilities. Primary duties of the Historian are to:
2. Create and maintain a historical record of the school year as it pertains to band.
3. Work with the reporter to insure as much exposure of the band program as possible to the general public including the school newspaper and the yearbook.
4. Work with the Vice President in maintaining a bulletin board of photographs.
5. Maintain a record of student accomplishments. (solo & ensemble, all region, etc.)
6. Organize and administer “fun” events for the band students.
7. Assist the other student officers when requested

Freshman Representative

1. Represents the freshman class at all band council meetings.
2. Insures that freshman receive all information
3. Assist the other officers as requested.

We can only continue to build on the successes of the past if we continue to have outstanding student leadership. Section leaders are selected based on

musical accomplishment, service, dedication and loyalty. These appointments are made by directors and staff and are not a popularity contest. Student leaders are expected to be the first students to arrive and the last to leave. Good leaders look for jobs that need doing. They don't wait to be asked. Good leaders know that respect comes from peers only when it is earned. Therefore, the leadership team should strive to always set an example by their behavior.

It is an obligation of the leadership team to keep directors and staff informed about any situation which might hinder the progress of the Band program. Members of the leadership team never ask a member of their section to do anything they are not prepared to do. You should be the first to rehearsal, the first on line, the first to have music memorized...in short; you should be first at everything.

The man at the top of the mountain did not fall there. Leaders must set the right example every day. Immaturity will often encourage us not to push ourselves to achieve our personal best until the week of a major performance. Unfortunately, that is too late. Success is built a piece at a time, every day. Lead your sections this way.

Students who wish to have leadership roles should act and set their goals accordingly. Remember, directors and staff are watching for future Del Valle Band leaders throughout the year.

18.0 Color Guard General Information:

Dressing Out

Dressing out is required during rehearsal and is part of the daily grade. Dress out clothes consist of:

Refer to Flag Contract

Tote Bags

The following items are to be kept in the tote bags. Additional items may be included at the discretion of the director.

- hair spray
- bobby pins
- hair clips
- deodorant
- make-up (in zip-loc bag)
- feminine products
- kleenex
- uniform parts (i.e. gloves)
- electrical tape
- towel (in zip-loc bag)
- wind suit (when applicable)

Care of Flags

Flags may be washed either by hand or by machine (check with director first). If flags are washed by machine, wash in a mild detergent such as Woolite on the Delicate cycle. Flags may either be drip-dried or placed in a dryer. If a dryer is used, dry flags until DAMP. Drip-dry the flags the remainder of the time. Wash days will be assigned.

Practice

When practicing, concentrate on technique. Pay attention to the details of both body and equipment. Do not “just go through the moves/routines” half-heartedly reiterating mistakes. Define each move as explained in class.

Appendix I

Guide to Region Band and Solo Preparation

When you play a solo or region music, you must understand that it is classified as serious music literature. Further, you must perform and practice the music accurately and precisely. By following the steps listed below, you can achieve a high level of performance.

1. Play all the notes in the music correctly. Make sure that each note has a clear and good sound. Good sound is achieved by maintaining good air support and a firm embouchure. Strive to keep your facial muscles still as you play. Make the best possible sound every time you play your horn!
2. Play all the rhythms accurately. Make sure that each rhythm is counted correctly. Make sure that you maintain a steady slow tempo when learning your solo. USE A METRONOME!
3. Play the entire selection at a slow pace. One half of the correct tempo is a good starting tempo. For instance, if a selection is marked 120 beats per minute, then a good beginning tempo is 60. Once you can accurately play all notes and rhythms at half the tempo, the tempo should be increased by 10 beats per minute, per week. If the tempo is not marked, a director or private teacher will be glad to give you a tempo marking.
4. Play the music with the correct style. For instance, make sure you are aware of accented notes, staccato notes, legato notes, slurs, and non slurred notes. Articulation and achieving the correct style go hand in hand.
5. Play the music with all dynamic markings in place. Make sure that you are aware of crescendos, diminuendos, volume marking (f,ff,p,mp,etc...), and any other listed change in volume. It is a good idea to highlight dynamic markings with a color that will catch your attention as you play.
6. Lastly, it is important that your music be practiced daily with all of the above items in place. You must play with the best possible sound on your instrument each and every time that you perform or practice!! High level work is difficult!! A little hard work will go a long way. Remember, hard work guarantees nothing, but without it, you do not stand a chance for top performance!

Appendix II

General Guide to Daily Practice Practicing!!

by Mike Fischer Baylor University School of Music

Playing any musical instrument well takes work. You must practice daily and develop a sense of pride in your musical endeavors. Studying with a qualified private teacher will certainly be to your advantage. So, ask your band director about the Private Lesson Program in your school.

I. Warm-up

Warming up correctly prepares our entire body for a productive practice session. It especially relaxes and stretches our embouchure muscles for the upcoming session.

Exercises

1. Breathing (We play wind instruments, so we must practice taking deep and relaxed breaths.)
2. Mouthpiece Buzzing (5 - 10 minutes of buzzing before you play the instrument)
3. Long Tones
4. (Woodwinds) - Embouchure exercises

II. Daily Routines

Daily routines allow the musician to focus his attention on proper breathing, tone production and articulations needed for playing.

Exercises

1. Listen
2. Lip Slurs
3. Upper/Lower Registers
4. Scales
5. (Woodwinds) - Finger coordination exercises

Specific needs of individual

1. i.e. tonguing, multiple tonguing, slurring, range, tone, breathing, etc.
2. Listen

III. Fix-it Now!!

This portion of your practice time is aimed at fixing specific problems in your band music, solos, private lesson materials, etc.

Achieving Results

1. Listen
2. Have a reasonable goal to achieve each day.

3. Work on the sections that you are having problems playing. Practice a difficult measure until you can play it right several times in a row. Then add another measure until you can play both measures right several times in a row. Continue this routine until you have worked out the difficult parts.
4. Slow down.
5. Listen
6. Use a metronome.
7. Use a tuner.
8. Be patient.
9. Listen

Technique Development

1. The metronome is a very important tool for playing fast.
2. Begin very slowly and learn the notes. BUT USE THE METRONOME!
3. Don't be afraid to SLOW the metronome DOWN. (You must be able to walk before you run.)
4. Practice the difficult passages away from the instrument by fingering the notes and tonguing the rhythms. USE THE METRONOME! Alternate the fingering and tonguing technique with practicing the music on the instrument. AFTER you can play the passage two or three times in a row without any mistakes, increase the tempo by three to five beats. Then, work on the passage again until you can play it two or three times in a row without any mistakes. Continue this method every day until you can play the passages at the desired speed.
5. Have a reasonable goal every day. Learning and playing two to four measures correctly is a much smarter method of developing fast technique than playing eight to sixteen measures incorrectly.

Ear Training

Sit at a piano or electronic keyboard with your instrument and music.
Play music on the piano and try it on the instrument. ALSO, BUZZ

THE MUSIC ON THE MOUTHPIECE!

Range Development (Brass)

- A. Playing Higher and Higher

Practice Scales: Start on a lower scale and play it up and down. Then, play the next higher scale. Continue ascending through the scales until you reach your limit. Then, when you think you can't go any higher, try one or two more scales. You may surprise yourself and play a higher scale. Eventually, you will increase your high register.

B. Playing Lower and Lower

Do the opposite of Playing Higher and Higher: Start on a higher scale and play it down and up. Then, play the next lower scale. Continue descending through the scales until you reach your limit. Then, when you think you can't go any lower, try one or two more scales.

IV. Perform Your Music

Performing your music from beginning to end without stopping builds the physical endurance required for playing that particular piece. It also enables you to become familiar with the complete work and see how the phrases fit together.

V. Fun-time

Play music you enjoy playing.

We spend a lot of time and effort learning to how play our instruments and it is enjoyable to play, so take time to have fun.

VI. Stage Fright - Solo Performances

How to overcome stage fright.

1. Breathe slowly and deeply two or three times before you begin.
2. Perform your music for family and friends.
3. Perform your music for the band directors and private teachers.
4. Practice performing in similar situations.
 - A. If you will be performing on stage with hot lights, practice in a hot room or wear a heavy coat while practicing.
 - B. Wear your performance attire during a practice session.
5. Eliminate unnecessary worries.
 - A. Empty all tuning slides before entering stage
 - B. Oil the valves regularly
 - C. Have four good reeds available
 - D. Make sure all pads and keys are in good and working order.

BAND HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE 2017-2018

Please return this page to your band director.

I have received, reviewed and understand the policies and guidelines in the Del Valle High School Band Handbook and the Instrumental Music Code.

I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth.

Student Name: _____ (print)

Student Signature _____

Grade _____

Class Period _____

I have received and reviewed the 2017-2018 Instrumental Music Code and Band Handbook.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Permission Slip

Date: _____

My/Our son/daughter _____ has my/our permission to attend all band sponsored trips and school approved functions, for the school year 2017-2018. Travel will be by School bus/Charter Bus or director/chaperone personal vehicle. While I/we realize that every precaution will be taken for the safety of the students, I/we understand all chaperones nor the Ysleta Independent School District will be held responsible in case of an accident. If an accident or sickness should occur, I/we authorize the school's designated representative(s) consent to physician and/or hospital emergency medical and/or surgical treatment. It is understood that all cost of such treatment are my/our responsibility. It is further understood that school authorities will notify parents/guardians as soon as possible if an emergency arises, but in no way is treatment to be delayed until that time.

Circle one:

My/Our son/daughter may / may not swim

My/our son/daughter may /may not be given Tylenol, etc. by chaperones.

Insurance Company: _____ Policy # _____

Prescription Medication: _____
(Please sent extra medication for the chaperones in case the student misplaces theirs)

Medical Conditions _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Address: _____

Home Phone# _____

Work # _____

Emergency # _____

For Your protection please list the following information about your personal instrument(s)

Instrument 1 _____

Brand _____ Model _____

Serial # _____

Instrument 2 _____

Brand _____ Model _____