



Handbook/Syllabus

2026-2027

Contact Information & Communication

Band Director: Daniel Barthel **Email:** dbarthel@washoeschools.net **Band Website:** www.drhsband.org

Infinite Campus: Please set your message settings to allow Teacher messages to go to email. I will use this as the primary method of communication with parents/guardians.

Band App: The Band App will be used to send out rehearsal plans & information to students/parents and to gather information as needed for events throughout the year. Please join the Band App(s) that apply to you:

- [Band Parents/Guardians](#) (this is main one parents need to join, you're welcome to join others as well)
- [Marching Band Parents](#) (Marching Band parents need to join this one as well)
- [Colorguard](#)
- [Concert Band](#)
- [Jazz Band](#)
- [Marching Band](#)
- [Percussion Tech](#)
- [Wind Ensemble](#)

Calendar/Events Schedule

The calendar can be found on the calendar tab of the band website: www.drhsband.org . You can also find the calendar for each specific group in the Band App for the corresponding group.

Concert Attire

Formal Concert Black Dress Code:

- Attire must be black, formal, and provide full coverage.
- All clothing and shoes must be clean and unwrinkled.
- Upper body must be covered from the collar bone line downward.
- Arms must be covered to at least the elbow, and legs must be covered to the ankle.
- Black socks, hosiery, or similar should be worn with black dress shoes.
- Jewelry, hairstyles, and clothing should not be distracting.
- Please do not use products with strong smells (perfume, cologne, etc)
- Formal clothing, such as suit jackets, ties, and floor-length skirts, are encouraged but not required.

Marching Band Performance Attire

- Football Games at beginning of the year: band t-shirt (to be given out), blue jeans (need to be purchased)
- Base layer to go under marching uniform: black calf-length socks/shorts/shirt that are form-fitting and breathable. Ex-spandex shorts, athletic shirt (Under armor, etc).
- Marching Shoes: Freshmen will need to buy these. Other students can trade theirs in for a used pair. Colorguard will buy dance shoes. A shoe order will be done in the first few weeks of school.
- Performance/Competition Uniform: students will have pants (bibbers) and a marching shirt checked out to them for the season.
- Other notes: Dangling jewelry, baseball caps, hats, etc. are not to be worn with the uniform. All members will wear their hair in a fashion to be decided by the Director and staff for each performance. Students are not to alter uniforms in any way unless directed by the staff. **No consumption of any food or drink while in uniform unless permitted by band staff.** Water is permitted.

Band Course Descriptions

Concert Band* **Full year** = 1 credit (repeatable) **Course #6703-6704**

Prerequisite: *must have taken band before or have teacher permission*

This course is designed to provide instrumentalists with experience in all aspects of the modern wind band technique. The Concert Band will consist of students who are at an intermediate playing level and will perform appropriate standard wind band repertoire. Most rehearsals will take place during the required classroom time. There may be after-school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year.

Jazz Band **Full year** = 1 credit (repeatable) **Course #6707-6708**

Prerequisite: *must have taken band the school year prior or have teacher permission. There may be an audition to place students depending on the level of interest.*

This group is for students who wish to further their musical knowledge and skill through the study of Jazz. Membership in this ensemble may be by audition. Members of the Jazz Band will be required to enroll in Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Tech, or Choir/Orchestra (for students not in band) unless by special permission of the director. The focus of the Jazz Band will be on the performance of various jazz styles, articulation, and improvisation. The Jazz Band performs at various concerts as well as festivals and competitions. *Members of Jazz Band may audition for Honor Jazz Band & All State Jazz.*

Marching Band **One semester** = 0.5 credit (repeatable) **Course #6701-6702**

Prerequisite: *must have taken band the school year prior or have teacher permission.*

The Marching Band offers all students a comprehensive music and visual program. Members of the Marching Band will be required to enroll in Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Tech, or Choir/Orchestra (for students not in band) unless by special permission of the director. Colorguard members are exempt from this rule. Students enrolled in Marching Band will perform at competitions, football games, school assemblies, and parades. Students must participate in all scheduled Marching Band practices/events (including 'Band Camp' that occurs in the weeks leading up to the start of school). Students earning credit in this course may also earn a 0.5 credit PE exemption during the fall semester.

Percussion Technique* **Full year** = 1 credit (repeatable) **Course #6715-6716**

Prerequisite: *must have played percussion in band the school year prior or have teacher permission.*

This class will provide the percussion students with a comprehensive study of all aspects of percussion music and performance. Studies will include snare drums, mallets, drum set, auxiliary instruments, and styles of percussion from world music to jazz. There will be required after school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year. All members of the Percussion Ensemble are members of the band program and are expected to perform at all band performances. This is an intermediate to advanced level band class.

Wind Ensemble* **Full year** = 1 credit (repeatable) **Course #6711-6712**

Prerequisite: *must have teacher permission. This group is normally filled by audition.*

This course is designed to provide instrumentalists with experience in all aspects of the modern wind band technique. The Wind Ensemble will consist of students who are at a playing level of upper intermediate to advanced level and will perform appropriate standard wind band repertoire. Exploration of various styles, theory, and techniques of wind instrument performance will be offered. There will be required after school rehearsals and performances throughout the school year.

**Students in these classes are eligible to audition and participate in the WCSD Honor Band, Nevada All-State Honor Band, and Solo and Ensemble Festivals.*

Grading Procedures for: Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Tech, Jazz Band

Grading Categories	Grading Scale
30% - Assessments	A: 90%-100%
30% - Contribution to Rehearsal	B: 80%-89.9%
25% - Contribution to Performances	C: 70%-79.9%
15% - Final Exam	D: 60%-69.9%
	F: 59.9% and below

ASSESSMENTS

- Playing tests: students will play a test in front of the class for a grade once per quarter to monitor their progress. As part of this process, they will also receive individual feedback to improve their musicianship. Playing tests may be re-taken for a higher grade until the end of the quarter.
- Pass-off tests: Pass-off tests will occur every time class lands on a Friday and will cover a fundamental musical element we are currently working on in class. We will test 'down the row' meaning that each student will play the test in front of the class one right after the other. The requirement of these tests is to pass with near 100% accuracy as they cover the basic building blocks of musicianship. Students may retake to pass until the end of the quarter and if they are unable to pass with 100%, I will enter the grade they earn on their third attempt.
- Written/Self assessments: these will be given to show knowledge of music reading, symbols, terms, and to analyze self-progress.
- *To note for all assessments: You will always be given ample notification and will only be tested on concepts that have been covered in class. If you are practicing regularly, you will not have a problem with any of the tests.*

CONTRIBUTION TO REHEARSAL

The individual contribution to the group is one of the most important skills students learn in band. This grade is earned by being prepared for class and contributing to the rehearsal. A breakdown of the 20-point grade earned each class is below:

- Prepared for class: Instrument/sticks (10 pts), music (5 pts), supplies for instrument (3 pts), pencil on stand (2 pts).
- Contributing to rehearsal: the assigned music is prepared (10 pts), the student plays as expected during the entire class (10 pts)
- Absence make-up: if a student is absent, this grade will be entered as missing until the make-up assignment is completed. Students will earn their missing grade by completing 40 minutes of practice during Instructional Center or after school when the band room is open. They will have until a designated day at the end of each grading quarter to make-up missing Contribution to Rehearsal grades.
- Tardies: if a student is tardy, it will impact their grade according to the amount of rehearsal missed (ex: missing 25% of class would lower the grade by 25%, etc)

CONTRIBUTION TO PERFORMANCES

We will have several performances & events during the school year. **Student attendance at these events is mandatory and a major part of your grade.** If you must miss a concert, please submit an [excused absence request form](#) either: two weeks before the concert for pre-arranged absences or within one week after the concert for unexpected absences (*severe sickness, family emergencies, etc*). An alternate assignment will be given for excused absences. Please avoid scheduling elective surgeries/procedures before concerts (*especially dental*). See the band calendar on the band webpage to ensure attendance at all concerts this year – concerts are a fun way to show what we've learned and an important part of being a musician.

FINAL EXAM

Every class at Damonte Ranch is required to complete a written final at the end of each semester. The final will include information from the entire semester and will be taken online through one of our communication platforms.

Grading Procedures for: Marching Band

Grading Categories	Grading Scale
15% - Assessments	A: 90%-100%
30% - Contribution to Rehearsal	B: 80%-89.9%
40% - Contribution to Performances	C: 70%-79.9%
15% - Final Exam	D: 60%-69.9%
	F: 59.9% and below

ASSESSMENTS

- **Pass-off tests:** These tests are to ensure accuracy and memorization. These tests will take place throughout the first quarter. We will test 'down the row' meaning that each student will play the test for Mr. Barthel or a band staff member on the designated date. The requirement of these tests is to pass with near 100% accuracy as it is essential that every student have the music memorized accurately. Tests may be retaken until the designated day and students who have not passed a test may be asked not to play that part of the music until they have the test passed.

CONTRIBUTION TO REHEARSAL

The individual contribution to the group is one of the most important skills students learn in band. This grade is earned by being prepared for class and contributing to the rehearsal. A breakdown of the 20-point grade earned each class is below:

- **Prepared for class:** Instrument/sticks (10 pts), music (5 pts), supplies for instrument (3 pts), pencil (2 pts).
- **Contributing to rehearsal:** the assigned music is prepared (10 pts), the student plays & marches as expected during the entire class (10 pts)
- **Absence make-up:** if a student is absent, this grade will be entered as missing until the make-up assignment is completed. Students will earn their missing grade by completing 80 minutes of practice during Instructional Center or after school when the band room is open (this is designed to be split into two 40-minute practices). They will have until a designated day at the end of each grading quarter to make-up missing Contribution to Rehearsal grades.

CONTRIBUTION TO PERFORMANCES

We will have several competitions, performances, and events during the school year. **Student attendance at these events is mandatory, a major part of their grade, and more importantly – needed for the band to be successful.** If you must miss, please submit an [excused absence request form](#) either: two weeks before the event for pre-arranged absences or within one week of the event for unexpected absences (*severe sickness, family emergencies, etc*). An alternate assignment will be given for excused absences. Please avoid scheduling elective surgeries/procedures before events (*especially dental*). See the band calendar on the band webpage to ensure attendance at all events this year.

FINAL EXAM

Every class at Damonte Ranch is required to complete a written final at the end of each semester. The final will include information from the entire semester and will be taken online through one of our communication platforms.

Other items

Band Parent Organization (BPO)

- All Band Parents/Guardians are automatically a member of the BPO. There is much help needed throughout the year, and all families are expected to volunteer to help with at least a few events/items.
 - BPO Contact Information
 - **President:** Kandice Simpkins
 - Email:** damonteranchbpo@gmail.com
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Class Fees

- Each class will have a fee of \$25 except Marching Band which is \$500.
 - Instrument rental fees: school instrument rentals are \$50 per year per instrument. Students may need to rent/buy from somewhere other than the school depending on the availability of their chosen instrument. For students in Marching Band, the \$500 class fee covers one instrument rental.
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Required Supplies

- Flute: swab, polishing cloth
 - Single Reeds (clarinet, saxophone): at least 4 reeds (strength 3 of Vandoren or Rico Royal – no orange box Rico), swab, grease, polishing cloth
 - Jazz saxophone: jazz mouthpiece. See Mr. Barthel for recommendations
 - Double Reeds (oboe, bassoon): at least 2 reeds (recommend Forrest Music or Bocal Majority to source hand-made reeds), water cup, swab, grease, polishing cloth
 - Valved brass (trumpet, euphonium, tuba): valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth
 - Rotor brass (horn, trombone with F-attachment, some tubas): rotor oil, slide cream, polishing cloth, spray bottle (trombone only for the spray bottle)
 - Percussion Tech Students: set of general sticks (Vic Firth SD1 Generals or similar), practice pad, stick bag (the Vic Firth Small bag is ok)
 - Wind Ensemble Percussion: stick bag with concert snare sticks and a set of mallets for vibes, xylo, or marimba. Practice pad.
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Reference Materials

I am in the process of creating a reference guide for other band items that aren't covered in this Handbook. Items in this document will include:

- Awards
- Honors Credit Requirements
- Leadership Positions
- PAC Diploma Requirements
- Travel Policies