

Deweyville Pirate Band



HANDBOOK (2025-2026)

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Preface

This handbook has been written for the Deweyville Pirate band members and their parents with the intent of providing information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations and activities of the band program. **All band students and parents are expected to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies stated herein.**

As a member of the Pirate Band you have the honor and responsibility of participating in an organization with a high standard of excellence and pride.

We are extremely fortunate to have parents, administrators, faculty and school board members that are committed and dedicated to a quality band program. We look forward to having you as part of the band program!

Philosophy of Instrumental Music

A well-rounded education is enhanced by one of the most basic of all studies...the study of music. Music develops self-confidence. Music gives each student a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Playing in band teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them develop the social skills necessary to be part of a performing organization. Instrumental music engages students in a group activity that allows them to use their free time constructively. Band instills values, responsibility, purpose & direction, devotion to duty, spirit of cooperation, and sensitivity to beauty. Not all band students become great musicians, but certainly all become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined, hard working members of society with an appreciation of the arts. Music is a subject that affects all sides of a student's development. These include the intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual and social aspects of a person.

Pride is an important element of a quality organization. Pride is having a desire to succeed in what you do while respecting yourself and others around you. It is taking what you do seriously while enjoying what you do. Pride is a state of mind. A person's quality of life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence – whatever their field of endeavor.

Communication

In order to have a successful program good communication between parents and teachers is essential. The BEST source of information will be the band page of the school district website and through the BAND app. This website will have information as to upcoming events, calendars, etc. The BAND app will be used as a source of current information as well as up to the minute changes. Please check often for late breaking announcements and information. If you have ANY questions or concerns please contact Ms. Anderson directly. I am best reached by email which can be found on the school website. I am also available by phone at (409) 746-2685 ext.4114 (HS campus).

Introduction to the Band Program

Marching Band is composed of band students in grades 7 through 12. It begins with summer band practices in August and performs at all football games, pep rallies, parades and UIL competitions in the fall. This group rehearses mostly during the class period with a couple of after school practices each week through football season. No Pass/No Play is a UIL requirement for marching band events.

Concert Band is composed of band students in grades 7 through 12. Concert season begins in November at the conclusion of football season. This band will perform in 2 concerts and UIL concert and sight-reading contest. There are no after school practices for concert band.

Beginner Band is open to students in grades 6 through 8. Students should be willing to work hard, be academically eligible and have an acceptable discipline record. This band will perform in an end of year concert. * see first year in band information below

Elementary Band is open to students in the 5th grade. Students should be willing to work hard, be academically eligible and have an acceptable discipline record. This band will perform in an end of year concert. * see first year in band information below

***First Year in Band** – Students beginning the band process will have the opportunity to test every instrument available to play. After the completion of testing and the student's instrument selection has been made, students will not have the ability to change to another instrument. Any necessary instrument changes (ie. clarinet to bass clarinet; alto saxophone to tenor or baritone saxophone; etc.) will be at the discretion of the band director.

All Region Band is optional to band members in grades 7 through 12. Students will learn the audition music beginning in August and audition in November/December. There are 3 region bands, one for middle school students and two for high school students. Students earning a chair in the band will rehearse and perform a concert in January. High school students placing in the top chairs will qualify for Area and audition for the All State band in January. Students placing in the top chairs at the Area auditions will be selected as members of the All State band and will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention held in San Antonio in February.

Solo & Ensemble is optional to band members in grades 7 through 12. Students may perform a solo on their instrument and/or a small ensemble. There are separate contests for middle school and high school however; there may be some ensemble situations where middle school students would have the opportunity to perform on the high school level. High school students receiving a 1st division rating on a class one ensemble will advance to the state level. Students hoping to advance to state on a class one solo must perform the solo by memory. The Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest is usually held the last weekend in May and usually falls on Memorial Day in the Austin area.

Participation in athletics is possible. Marching band does conflict with Fall Sports and some students wish to participate in both sports and band. Special arrangements are made for band members who have a serious interest in JV or Varsity sports, etc. ***The band director needs to be made aware of all students who are participating in athletics so that all conflicts can be resolved in a timely manner.***

Conflicts with other school activities should be brought to the prompt attention of the band director. It is the student's responsibility to do this, as the director cannot foresee all conflicts. The band director will work out the conflict with the other involved party and give the student instructions.

Drum Major Tryouts take place during the spring semester. The requirements will be posted in advance; the drum major candidates will attend practices prior to the tryout date. The tryouts will be performed before a panel of judges who will rank each applicant. The student selected as drum major will be required to attend a summer drum major camp at a University selected by the band director.

Flag Line is open to band students through an audition process that takes place during the spring semester. This group will have extra practices outside of marching band rehearsals. The flag line will perform for pep rallies and football games.

Twirling Line is open to band students through an audition process that takes place during the spring semester. Twirlers must take lessons from a twirling studio or private lessons with a twirling teacher prior to auditioning. If selected as a Deweyville Twirler the student must continue taking twirling lessons. Twirlers will have extra practices outside of marching band rehearsals. Twirlers will perform for pep rallies and football games. Twirlers may perform for the UIL twirling solo & ensemble contest. High School twirlers receiving a 1st division on a class one solo will advance to the state level. The Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest is usually held the last weekend in May and usually falls on Memorial Day in the Austin area.

A Spring Trip is scheduled for the end of the school year. Students must perform in the End of Year Spring Concert to be eligible for this trip. Trip information will be sent home and posted on the school website when available. All students are expected to complete the necessary forms for the trip and to conduct themselves in accordance with the DISD student handbook as well as the guidelines included in the band constitution. It is recommended that the student and parent/guardian review these rules and policies together.

Grading Procedures

Grades are determined by a formula that includes participation/responsibility, public performances, and testing (including written and performance).

- 60% Daily Grades and Participation/Responsibility –Other daily grades, and written assignments will be used to determine mastery of skills. During the fall semester for marching band, students are required to attend all after school practices. Conflicts should be discussed with the band director in advance. Sporting conflicts will be handled through coach and band director communication.
- 40% Testing/Public Performances – All public performances are required, within the boundaries of NO PASS/NO PLAY. Testing grades will include playing the instrument and/or written exams. Playing test assignments are announced at least two days prior to testing. Testing materials are taken from class method books or an excerpt from a band composition.

Band Hall Rules

1. Respect all others.
2. Be prepared for class – instrument, music, supplies, and pencil – prior to the tardy bell.
3. You must be seated in your chair when the bell rings.
4. No food, open drinks, candy, or gum allowed inside the building, unless approved by director.
5. Throw trash in trash can. (This includes reed packaging)
6. If it does not belong to you, do not touch it.
7. Do not touch anyone at any time.
8. Keep instrument cases closed when stored in locker.
9. Keep your locker neat and clean of trash.
10. I will not send you anywhere else in the school without a pass from the person who needs to speak with you.
11. Practice at your house!!

**** STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE DEWEYVILLE ISD STUDENT HANDBOOK AS WELL AS THE DEWEYVILLE ISD EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT.**

School District Instruments

School District Instruments are available to students needing an instrument for band temporarily such as flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet and trombone. Larger instruments are expensive and therefore not a temporary choice. These instruments include: tenor and baritone saxophones, bass clarinets, baritones, tubas and all percussion instruments. Students and parents will be required to sign a rental contract with the district before handling the instrument. Any repairs needed for routine maintenance will be the responsibility of the district. Damage to the instrument out of carelessness will be the responsibility of the student renting the instrument.

Instrument Lockers are available for instrument storage. All students are expected to take care of their band room and instrument storage area. There will be **NO FOOD, CLOTHING, DRINKS OR EXCESS PAPERS STORED IN THE LOCKERS. ANY STUDENT WHO VIOLATES THESE RULES MAY BE ASSIGNED DETENTION.** All instrument cases are to be completely closed when not in use. Personal belongings (outside of marching band clothing) should not be kept in these lockers. Periodic inspections of these lockers will be made.

MARCHING BAND INFORMATION

Band Rehearsals & Time Commitment

Summer Band is held at Deweyville High School during August. All band members in grades 7 through 12 are required to be in Marching Band. Middle School students and new band members will attend 2 days preceding regular summer band to learn marching fundamentals. Summer band hours are from 8:00AM – 11:30AM and 1:00PM – 4:00PM on Monday through Thursday. When teacher workdays begin band rehearsals will be in the afternoon. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL STUDENTS IN MARCHING BAND TO ATTEND SUMMER BAND AS THAT IS WHEN 90% OF THE MARCHING PROGRAM IS LEARNED.**

Families are reminded to arrange vacation schedules so that their students can attend summer band. The Percussion Section, Twirler and Flag line will have a camp to learn new music/routines possibly in July.

Marching Band Season lasts approximately 15 weeks from the beginning of August to the beginning of November. Once school begins, marching band practices are typically held Monday through Thursday from 3:30PM – 6:00PM. Some of these rehearsals will be for sectional work and not for the full band. Please check the school website for detailed rehearsal schedules. Due to conflicts with students in fall sports we will learn a majority of our marching show during the band class period. Be prepared every day for marching outside during band class.

The marching band performs at all varsity football games and will compete in the UIL region marching band competition held in October. Advancement to the UIL area marching contest and UIL state marching contest is a possibility. The marching band will also perform in the Deweyville Homecoming Parade. The exact dates will be announced during summer band. Families are encouraged to attend the competitions, either as spectators or chaperones.

Concert Season begins its full-time status in November after Marching Band season. The Concert band will have few if any after school rehearsals in order for students to be involved in other school activities. School attendance is very important so that we may utilize our band period wisely.

A Spring Trip is scheduled for the end of the school year. Students must perform in the End of Year Spring Concert to be eligible for this trip. Trip information will be sent home and posted on the school website when available. All students are expected to complete the necessary forms for the trip and to conduct themselves in accordance with the DISD student handbook as well as the guidelines included in the band constitution. It is recommended that the student and parent/guardian review these rules and policies together.

Policy for Absences

ATTENDANCE FOR ALL REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS IS REQUIRED. Marching Band practices every Monday and Tuesday 3:30pm - 6:00pm. After-school employment is NOT considered a sufficient excuse for missing scheduled events. Make sure your employer does not schedule you to work at the same time as your rehearsals or performances. Employers must understand that schoolwork comes first. Other problems such as illness or family emergencies should be discussed with the band director. Attendance will be monitored and will be a part of the six weeks grade.

Written excuses from the parent/guardian, teacher or coach is to be presented **prior** to each rehearsal for tardiness, early departure or absences at least 3 days in advance. Excused absences include death in the family, unavoidable medical appointments, illness (with clinic or parent/guardian note), unavoidable teacher makeup work, or special circumstances gaining prior approval from the band director.

Marching Band Rehearsal Tips

Rehearsal Attire: The following guidelines are for marching band rehearsal (including summer band) attire. The list is not inclusive.

Shoes: The following ARE acceptable shoes to wear to rehearsal: Comfortable sneakers with laces and socks. The following ARE NOT acceptable shoes to wear to rehearsal: Flip-flops, boots, sandals, Crocs, hard-soled shoes and bare feet.

Rehearsal Etiquette:

Bring a great attitude and a smile.

Give your full attention to the rehearsal. You're letting down the rest of the band if you don't.

"Practice like you perform" – If you don't understand this phrase, ask the band director.

Give the director/sponsor/clinician and your fellow students the respect they deserve.

If there are more people in the band than there are spots in the show, this means there will be "shadows" in some sections. If you have a spot in the show remember that there are shadows who would love to have your spot. Conduct yourself accordingly.

Conflicts and problems can almost always be resolved with calm verbal communications.

Regardless of who you are, you never be disrespectful to either student leaders (Drum Majors, Section Leaders) or Staff/Clinicians.

Any discipline issues requiring principal intervention may be cause for removal from band.

Unexplained/unexcused tardiness is unacceptable because it is a detriment to both you and the Band.

When you are playing and not marching drill, ALWAYS Mark Time in the appropriate style.

When the Band Director, Drum Major or other Staff calls, "CHECK, SET or ATTENTION":

- IMMEDIATELY stop talking.
- IMMEDIATELY return to the appropriate position on the field/in the block.
- Body posture and horn carriage go IMMEDIATELY to the correct positions.
- You are not permitted to chew gum, eat or drink except on brea

Uniforms

Band uniforms are the property of Deweyville ISD.

Uniforms will be issued during summer band.

Each uniform consists of: 1 pair of black bibbers, 1 jacket, 1 hat and hat box and 1 plume

Each marching band member is furnished with a band shirt to be worn for each band event. The band shirt is to be worn under the uniform jacket.

Marching shoes are purchased by the student however, there are a few previously owned shoes available in the band hall. Shoes should be clean and/or polished for all performances. Shoes are to be kept in the uniform garment bag for storage. Personal shoes should be marked with the student's name for identification.

Students must wear long black socks. Any student who is not wearing proper socks will be issued socks at a fee of \$2 per occurrence.

Alterations – Bibber length should be so that the pant hangs without a break in the crease but are not too short. Uniforms needing alterations can be hemmed but must not be cut. If a uniform is cut to adjust the fit the student will be charged the replacement cost of the damaged uniform.

Uniforms are kept in the Deweyville High School Band Hall; each student will have an assigned garment bag to keep his or her uniform in for travel purposes.

Each student is expected to hang up his or her uniform correctly, in its proper place, after each performance. Bibbers should be hung neatly to insure a pressed crease at the next performance.

The complete appropriate uniform must be worn at all times in public during a band function. Students will wear shorts and a regulation band shirt underneath the uniform. Jackets are to be zipped and or snapped at the collar at all times unless the band director gives specific instructions. When in uniform, the student/musician is expected to wear the uniform in an appropriate manner. While in uniform or doing anything in the name of the band, students are under the policies and authority of the school.

- No jewelry may be worn with uniforms.
- All long hair must be tucked up and covered neatly inside the marching band hat.

Football Game Procedures

ATTENDANCE AT ALL GAMES IS MANDATORY INCLUDING PLAYOFF GAMES. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO STAY FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GAME UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE BAND DIRECTOR. STUDENTS WITH AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED GRADE.

- Students will have a predetermined report time to change into uniform and warm-up for home games. Away games will have a report time to load equipment and leave.
- Band members will be assigned a spot in the stadium. You will remain in the assigned area during the game. Only band members will be permitted in this section. A few parents will be needed at both home and away games to keep non-band people out of the area.
- While in uniform students are expected to maintain their professionalism.
- When the band plays, everyone is expected to play. This is our job.
- No food or soft drinks will be allowed in the bleachers except during the 3rd quarter. Water will be provided for students while in the bleachers. The band will have the 3rd quarter off to eat at the concession stand. All band members must return to the bleachers without food with 1:00 before the 4th quarter starts. We will play music at the beginning of the 4th quarter.
This 3rd quarter break is a privilege and may be revoked at any time.
- Students will need to properly hang up their uniform and return it to the uniform rack. Hats should be placed neatly in the designated area. Instruments must be placed properly in the case and stored in the band locker. Students will be taught the correct way to hang the uniform during summer band. Any student that does not hang their uniform properly will be asked to try again.

Away Game Procedures

- All of the items listed above apply to away games.
- Game notes with departure times will be sent home the Monday prior to the game.
- Food will be provided either prior to leaving DHS or fast food in route to the game.
- You may ride home with only your parents from away games. Students must have returned a signed yellow note prior to leaving DHS. Parents must sign out their student at the bus after the student has taken care of their uniform and instrument.

Travel Guidelines

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO...

1. Fill out and return all travel forms.
2. Arrive on time (15 minutes before the scheduled time)
3. Double check to confirm you have all necessary music and equipment.
4. Stay seated while the bus is moving..
5. Keep hands, arms and heads inside the windows.
6. Students are permitted to bring smart phones, ipods or games only with headphones or earbuds. The volume must be turned down so that only the wearer can hear it. Reminder: Deweyville ISD is not responsible for any personal belongings if they are stolen, lost, etc.
7. No loud singing, yelling, or cheering is allowed on the bus so as not to distract the driver.
8. Eating and/or drinking on a bus is a privilege that we enjoy as long as everyone helps keep the bus clean. Buses should always be left clean. Students will dispose of all trash accumulated before departing the bus.
9. Notify the director or chaperone immediately in cases of emergency.
10. Follow all school rules and guidelines. Remember that you are representing the Deweyville Band, Deweyville ISD, your family, your director and most importantly – **yourself**.

Letter Jacket Point System

A student may earn his/her letter jacket by accumulating a total of six (6) points using the point system below. If a student has not acquired the necessary points by the end of his/her junior year, he/she will automatically be awarded a jacket his/her senior year.

Earn a total of 6 points to earn a band letter jacket.

Automatic jacket = Senior Year or Member of the All State Band.

½ (.5) point for 7th grade HS band member (Fall & Spring)

½ (.5) point for 8th grade HS band member (Fall & Spring)

½ (.5) point for making the MS All Region Band

½ (.5) point for 1st Division Rating MS Solo

½ (.5) point for 1st Division Rating MS Ensemble

1 point per year for HS band member (Fall & Spring)

1 point for making the HS All Region Band or All Region Jazz Band

2 points for making the Area Band or Area Jazz Band

1 point 1st Division Rating HS Solo

1 point 1st Division Rating HS Ensemble

3 points for State Solo & Ensemble

Volunteer Opportunities for Parents

A Volunteer, according to Webster “is someone who offers themselves for a service of their own free will.” The Pirate Band program is fortunate to have so many parents willing to help. Our band program could not function without the support of all parents. Some parents are able and willing to invest large amounts of time and effort to the band program; while others may not be able to do as much. Please remember that there are many ways to get involved, every little bit helps.

Services Needed:

Sewing (hemming band pants, flag and twirler uniform alterations)

Chaperoning

Transportation (band trailer)

Halftime Announcer (someone energetic!)

Video recorder (halftime performances)

Repairs

Special Skills: If you are a business owner and can donate any professional services to support the Band activities, please let us know.

Parents please list any volunteer opportunities you would like to assist with throughout the year.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE DEWEYVILLE PIRATE BAND HANDBOOK AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS.

PARENT NAME: _____ (PRINT)

SIGNATURE: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ (PRINT)

SIGNATURE: _____