



Desert Vista High School

Thunder Band

Handbook for Performing Ensembles

Concert Band

Symphonic Band

Wind Ensemble

Percussion Ensembles

Director of Bands: Mr. Josh Thye

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Director of Percussion: Mr. Vicente Lopez

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www.thunderband.org

ALL Students

- ♪ Complete the online form: *Performing Ensemble Handbook Acknowledgement & Uniform Contract*.
- ♪ Form is at thunderband.org/performing-ensembles.

NON-Marching Students

- ♪ Complete the online form: *Thunder Band Registration*.
- ♪ Print, Sign and Return the [Consent For Emergency Care](#) form (must be notarized, or signed by DV front office school administrator).
- ♪ Both forms can be found at thunderband.org/performing-ensembles.

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1) Admission

a) Concert Band

- i) Admission to the group is open.
- ii) For all freshman students interested in concert performance band.
 - (1) Exception must be approved by the band director.
- iii) Meets 5th and 6th Periods.
 - (1) "Intermediate Band"
 - (a) Brass players will meet 5th period.
 - (b) Woodwind players will meet 6th period.
 - (2) "Honors Music Exploration and Performance"
 - (a) Brass - optional: must sign up for and complete checklist.
 - (b) Woodwind - optional: must sign up for and complete checklist.
- iv) At least 1 year of instrumental training is expected.
 - (1) Exceptions must be approved by the band director.

b) Symphonic Band

- i) Admission to the group is open.
- ii) For all sophomore through senior students interested in concert performance band.
 - (1) Exception must be approved by the band director.
- iii) Meets 2nd Period.
 - (1) "Junior Varsity Band"
 - (2) "Honors Music Exploration and Performance"
 - (a) Optional: must sign up for and complete checklist.
- iv) At least 2 years of instrumental training is expected.
 - (1) Exceptions must be approved by the band director.

c) Wind Ensemble

- i) Admission to the group is by audition only.
 - (1) Exception must be approved by the band director.
- ii) For sophomore through senior students interested in concert performance band.
 - (1) Exception must be approved by the band director.
- iii) Meets 1st Period.

- (1) "Varsity Band"
- (2) "Honors Music Exploration and Performance"
 - (a) Optional: must sign up for and complete checklist.
- iv) At least 2 years of instrumental training is required.
 - (1) Exceptions must be approved by the band director.
- d) Beginning Percussion**
 - i) Admission to the group is open.
 - ii) For freshman through senior students interested in percussion ensemble.
 - iii) Meeting Period varies and is determined each school year.
 - (1) "Beginning Percussion"
 - (2) "Honors Music Exploration and Performance"
 - (a) Optional: must sign up for and complete checklist.
- e) Intermediate Percussion**
 - i) Admission to the group is open.
 - (1) At least 1 year of percussion ensemble training is required.
 - ii) For freshman through senior students interested in percussion ensemble for Honors credit.
 - iii) Meets 2nd Period.
 - (1) "Intermediate Percussion"
 - (2) "Honors Music Exploration and Performance"
 - (a) Optional: must sign up for and complete checklist
- f) Advanced Percussion**
 - i) Admission to the group is by audition only.
 - (1) Exception must be approved by the band director.
 - ii) For sophomore through senior students interested in percussion ensemble.
 - (1) Exception must be approved by the band director.
 - iii) Meets 1st Period.
 - (1) "Advanced Percussion"
 - (2) "Honors Music Exploration and Performance"
 - (a) Optional: must sign up for and complete checklist.
 - iv) At least 1 year of percussion ensemble at DVHS is required.
 - (1) Exceptions must be approved by the band director.

2) Expectations of Members

a) Band Room Behavior

- i) No food or drink allowed.
 - (1) Water is the only exception.
- ii) No running or horseplay is permitted.
- iii) No balls, Frisbees, etc., or any kind of athletic ball or flying projectile is permitted.
- iv) No cell phone use is permitted.
- v) No MP3 player use permitted, unless pre-approved by the director.
- vi) Percussionists in a percussion class, performing ensemble, and/or marching band are the only band members permitted to play on percussion instruments.
- vii) Do not write on either whiteboard unless given permission.
- viii) It's your band room, keep it nice.

b) Rehearsal Conduct

- i) Students are expected to arrive to class on time.
 - (1) In some 1st hour circumstances, students will need to show up early to be set up before the bell.
- ii) Upon arrival students are to warm up and prepare for the rehearsal.
- iii) The daily agenda will be posted on the board to ensure that students are prepared and the rehearsal is efficient.
- iv) Rehearsals will begin once the director steps onto the podium.
- v) Rehearsals will begin 5 minutes following the bell.
 - (1) Any student not inside the band room door when the bell rings will be marked tardy.
 - (2) Any student not in his/her seat and ready to play when the rehearsal begins will be marked tardy.
 - (3) Attendance will be entered into the band/percussion office computer each day.
- vi) Throughout the rehearsal, students are expected to remain quiet and attentive.
- vii) Students must behave in accordance with all rules and regulations laid out in the Desert Vista High School Student Handbook.

- viii) Students must always have their instrument, music (in a 1" binder with sheet protectors), any necessary instrument accessories, and a pencil at rehearsals.
 - (1) Percussion students will also need a practice pad, stick bag, white electrical tape, ear plugs and sticks.
 - (a) Advanced Percussion sticks = 2 pairs concert snare drum sticks + 2 pairs keyboard mallets + 1 pair timpani mallets
 - (b) Intermediate & Beginning Percussion sticks = 1 pair concert snare drum sticks + 1 pair marching snare drum sticks
 - ix) If the director decides to allow students to use class time for individual or group practice, students are expected to do as instructed.
 - (1) Students who do not use class time as directed will face consequences.
 - x) Rehearsal ends at the director's discretion. With the director's consent, students may begin to put away their instruments.
 - (1) The director will ensure that students have adequate time to reach their next class. If the director holds the rehearsal late he will excuse band members from tardies.
 - xi) Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the loss of daily points and/or alternative consequences.
- c) Practice:** Members are expected to practice daily outside of class.
- i) Concert Band an average of 30 minutes per day.
 - ii) Symphonic Band an average of 30 minutes per day.
 - iii) Wind Ensemble an average of 60 minutes per day.
 - iv) Advanced Percussion an average of 60 minutes per day.
 - v) Intermediate Percussion an average of 30 minutes per day.
 - vi) Beginning Percussion an average of 30 minutes per day.
- d) Private Lessons**
- i) Concert Band members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.
 - ii) Symphonic Band members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.
 - iii) Wind Ensemble members are required to take private lessons.
 - iv) Advanced Percussion members are required to take private lessons.
 - v) Intermediate Percussion members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.
 - vi) Beginning Percussion members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

- vii) A list of private instructors is available on the band website at thunderband.org/performing-ensembles/recommended-teachers .
- (1) Costs will vary depending on the duration of the lesson and the instructor.
 - (2) This list is not all instructors in the area.

e) Sectionals and Rehearsals

- i) Performing Ensemble members must attend all sectionals and all additional rehearsals, as well as class period rehearsals.
 - (1) Sectionals will be required by the director throughout the year.
 - (2) Additional rehearsals will be held as necessary at the discretion of the director.
 - (3) Notice for sectionals or additional rehearsals will be given at least 3 days in advance.
- ii) Sectionals and rehearsals will be a portion of the student's grade.
 - (1) Failure to attend a sectional or an additional rehearsal will result in a change of grade, the amount of which is at the director's discretion. Failure to attend may also result in the loss of the band letter.

f) Concerts and Festivals

- i) Concert attendance for Beginning and Intermediate Percussion students will only be required for the members who are participating in the concert.
 - (1) An Intermediate Percussion student not in Symphonic Band does not need to attend a band concert if the Percussion Ensemble is not performing.
 - (2) A Beginning Percussion student does not need to attend a band concert if the Percussion Ensemble is not performing.
- ii) Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Advanced Percussion members must attend all concerts and festivals.
 - (1) Concerts and festivals comprise the main portion of the student's grade in the class.
 - (2) Concert and festival dates will be posted on the website Calendar (<http://thunderband.org/calendar/>) and the students will be notified in advance. However, the dates and times of these events are subject to change due to extenuating circumstances.
 - (3) Students are expected to arrive at the designated time in the proper concert attire (see the Uniforms section in this Handbook).
 - (4) Failure to attend concerts or festivals will result in a change in grade.
 - (5) Students are required to attend the concert in its entirety.

- (a) This entails watching the performance from the earliest possible until the conclusion of the final piece.
 - (b) Students who fail to comply with this policy will be marked absent for the concert.
 - (c) Individual exceptions or change in this policy will be at the discretion of the director.
- (6) Students may not be permitted to participate in a performance if the director feels that he/she is not prepared, based on poor attendance or lack of practice.
- (7) No student may participate in a performance if he/she is failing a class.

g) Regional Band Auditions

- i) Participants in Regional Band & Orchestra Auditions
 - (1) Concert Band members may choose to audition for Regional Band.
 - (a) Honors students are **required** to audition for Regional Honor Band.
 - (2) Symphonic Band members may choose to audition for Regional Band.
 - (a) Honors students are **required** to audition for Regional Honor Band.
 - (3) Wind Ensemble members are **required** to audition for Regional Band.
 - (4) Advanced Percussion members are **required** to audition for Regional Band.
 - (5) Intermediate Percussion members may choose to audition for Regional Band.
 - (6) Beginning Percussion members may choose to audition for Regional Band.
- ii) A fee is charged by the Arizona Band & Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) for participation.
- iii) Auditions take place in January.
- iv) Auditions entail
 - (1) all (12) major scales
 - (2) three etudes
 - (3) sight reading exercises
- v) Members who are accepted into the North Central Regional Band or Orchestra are strongly encouraged to audition for the All State Band & Orchestra.
 - (1) Failure to audition for All-State will not result in a change in grade.

h) Solo & Ensemble Festival Performance

- i) Participants in Solo & Ensemble Festival.
 - (1) Concert Band members may choose to audition for Solo & Ensemble Festival.
 - (2) Symphonic Band members may choose to audition for Solo & Ensemble Festival.
 - (3) Wind Ensemble members may choose to audition for Solo & Ensemble Festival.
 - (4) Advanced Percussion members are **required** to audition for Solo & Ensemble Festival.
 - (5) Intermediate Percussion members are **required** to audition for Solo & Ensemble Festival.
- ii) A fee is charged by ABODA for participation.
 - (1) Solo fee.
 - (2) Ensemble fee is per member.

i) Testing

- i) There will be periodic playing checks and tests throughout the year.
- ii) Playing tests will comprise a portion of the student's grade.
- iii) Testing will be used to determine chair placement within the ensemble.
 - (1) Seating will be adjusted accordingly following every test.
- iv) Criteria will be established prior to test day.
- v) Make-ups and re-tests may be permitted depending on the situation, with the director's approval.
- vi) Challenges
 - (1) If unsatisfied with chair placement, a student may challenge the person directly above them in chair order.
 - (2) Both students must agree to the date and time at which the director is available to judge the challenge.
 - (3) The director will select the material for the challenge from class materials.
 - (4) Chair seating will be adjusted to reflect the results of the challenge.

j) Honors Music Exploration and Performance or "Honors" track

- i) Honors students and non-Honors students will be co-enrolled in the same class period.

- (1) The "Honors" distinction does not factor in to chair placements, or solo selections. It is merely for the attainment of school rank points.
- ii) A student that enrolls in the "Honors" option must complete the Honors Checklist for their section, Winds or Percussion.
- iii) Wind (Brass & WW) Honors Checklist includes all of the following:
 - (1) All 12 major scales, performed in one sitting
 - (a) Unlimited retries allowed
 - (2) Individual Performance of Regional Etudes 1-3, prepared and performed for the director and/or the North Central Regional Honor Band Audition.
 - (3) Two outside performances
 - (a) Participate in two performing ensembles* in addition to (and outside of) daily music class and band/percussion concerts.
(*Note: Marching Band, Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band, Steel Drum Band, Honor Band, Winter Guard, Guitar, Choir, Regionals, local ensembles, private lessons, etc. may each count as one.)
- iv) Percussion Honors Checklist includes:
 - (1) Individual Performance of Competency exercises, prepared and performed for the director.
- v) The Honors Checklist must be signed off as items are completed by Mr. Thye for Winds or Mr. Lopez for Percussion.
 - (1) The Honors Checklists can be downloaded from the Performing Ensembles tab on the bad website at thunderband.org/performing-ensembles/
- vi) Students who wish to be placed into Advanced Percussion must complete an additional Checklist by the 3rd week of January.

3) Grading

a) **Weighting**

Student grades will be comprised of the following weighted categories:

- i) Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble
 - (1) Test/Quiz (Theory & Rhythm quizzes) = 50 points each = 10% of grade
 - (2) Performance Tests (Music checks) = 100 points each = 20% of grade
 - (3) Attendance/Participation = 425 points total = 70% of grade
 - (a) Daily Rehearsals per month = 100 points each
 - (b) Morning Rehearsals = 50 points each

(c) Sectionals = 25 points each

(d) Concerts = 250 points each

(4) Participation in the Regional / Solo & Ensemble Festival

ii) Advanced Percussion

(1) Quarter Grades = 80% of the semester grade

(2) Final Exam = 20% of the semester grade

(3) Participation = 500 points per semester

(4) Concerts = 0-900 points per semester, depending on participation in Performing Ensembles

(a) There are up to 3 concerts in each semester.

(b) Each concert = 300 points

(5) Festivals = 0-600 points per semester, depending on participation in Marching Band

(a) There is 1 festival in the fall (marching) and 2 in the spring (everyone).

iii) Intermediate Percussion

(1) Quarter Grades = 80% of the semester grade

(2) Final Exam = 20% of the semester grade

(3) Participation = 500 points per semester

(4) Concerts = 0-900 points per semester, depending on participation in Performing Ensembles

(a) There are up to 3 concerts in each semester

(b) Each concert = 300 points

iv) Beginning Percussion

(1) Quarter Grades = 80% of the semester grade

(2) Final Exam = 20% of the semester grade

(3) Participation = 500 points per semester

(4) Concerts = 0-900 points per semester, depending on participation in Performing Ensembles

b) Deductions

Deductions in grades will be made for the following reasons:

i) Tardy = -5 points

ii) Unexcused Absence (Daily Rehearsals) = -10 points

- iii) Unexcused Absence (Morning Rehearsal, Sectionals, Concerts) = - All points
- iv) Inappropriate rehearsal behavior = -5 points
- v) Inappropriate treatment of instruments = -5 points

c) Extra Credit

Extra credit will be given for the following reasons:

- i) Attendance of a band or “classical” concert (including any DV choir or orchestra concert) = +10 points
- ii) Write a 350 word essay on the history of your instrument (maximum of 1 per semester) = +25 points
- iii) Prepare an intermediate to advanced level solo (points awarded based on performance) = +75 points

4) Uniforms

a) Concert Band proper concert attire for all concerts and festivals.

i) Concert attire for gentlemen:

(1) Gentlemen must provide their own personal:

- (a) Long sleeve all black dress shirt
- (b) All black neck tie
- (c) All black dress pants
- (d) All black socks
- (e) All black dress shoes (marching shoes are acceptable)

ii) Concert attire for ladies:

(1) Ladies must provide their own personal:

- (a) All black blouse (full or 3/4 sleeve)
- (b) Floor-length black skirt or black dress pants
- (c) All black dress shoes (flip-flops are not permitted).

b) Symphonic Band proper concert attire for all concerts and festivals.

i) Concert attire for gentlemen:

(1) Band Program will provide:

- (a) Black tuxedo jacket
- (b) Black tuxedo pants

(2) Gentlemen must provide their own personal:

- (a) Long sleeve all black dress shirt

- (b) All black neck tie
 - (c) All black socks
 - (d) All black dress shoes (marching shoes are acceptable)
 - ii) Concert attire for ladies:
 - (1) Band Program will provide:
 - (a) Black concert dress
 - (2) Ladies must provide their own personal:
 - (a) All black dress shoes (flip-flops are not permitted).
- c) Wind Ensemble proper concert attire for all concerts and festivals.**
- i) Concert attire for gentlemen:
 - (1) Band Program will provide:
 - (a) Black tuxedo jacket
 - (b) Black tuxedo pants
 - (2) Gentlemen must provide their own personal:
 - (a) Long sleeve all black dress shirt
 - (b) All black neck tie
 - (c) All black socks
 - (d) All black dress shoes (marching shoes are acceptable)
 - ii) Concert attire for ladies:
 - (1) Band Program will provide:
 - (a) Black concert dress
 - (2) Ladies must provide their own personal:
 - (a) All black dress shoes (flip-flops are not permitted).
- d) Percussion Ensemble proper concert attire for all concerts and festivals.**
- i) Concert attire for Percussionists participating in a Performing Ensemble is the same as the Performing Ensemble attire.
 - ii) Concert attire for gentlemen not participating in a Performing Ensemble:
 - (1) Gentlemen must provide their own personal:
 - (a) Long sleeve all black dress shirt
 - (b) All black dress pants
 - (c) All black socks
 - (d) All black dress shoes (marching shoes are acceptable)

iii) Concert attire for ladies not participating in a Performing Ensemble:

(1) Ladies must provide their own personal:

(a) All black blouse (full or 3/4 sleeve)

(b) Floor-length black skirt or black dress pants

(c) All black dress shoes (flip-flops are not permitted).

e) Return Date

i) Uniforms must be returned at the end of the school year.

(1) Uniforms not returned, or returned in poor condition, will be subject to repair or replacement fees as agreed upon in the rental contract.

5) Competitions & Festivals

a) Area and State Concert Festivals

i) Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble will participate in the Area Concert Festival in the spring.

ii) Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will participate in the State Concert Festival in the spring.

b) Arizona Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society (AZPAS) Festival

i) Marching Percussion Ensemble and Intermediate Percussion members might participate in the AZPAS Festival in the fall. Percussion Director will decide this, and advanced notice will be given.

ii) Advanced Percussion will participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival in the winter and the AZPAS Concert Festival in the spring.

c) Additional Public Performances:

i) Other performances can be called during the year. Advanced notice will be given.

ii) Wind Ensemble may be scheduled for additional public performances, and attendance will be expected.

d) Wind Ensemble and Advanced Percussion Out of State Trip

i) Wind Ensemble and Advanced Percussion will take an out of state trip during the spring semester once every two years.

(1) Details and financial obligations for this trip will be made available at the earliest opportunity.

(2) If a member has a grade below 60%, he/she may not attend the trip. The member is not eligible for a refund of any payments made for the trip.

e) Medical Release Requirement

i) Students must have on file a notarized *Consent for Emergency Care* form.

- ii) Without said form, no student may travel on a bus for a school event.
- iii) Form must be notarized, or signed by a Desert Vista administrator.
- iv) Form can be found at thunderband.org/performing-ensembles.

f) Consequences of Failing a Class

- i) No member may participate in a performance if he/she is failing a class.
- ii) Grade checks may be held per school policy.
- iii) Proof of return to a passing grade (60%+) must be provided to the director before the member may participate in another performance.
- iv) Said members may retain full points for the performance by being present in the band and wearing full uniform for the duration of the performance.

6) Financial Guidelines

a) Fees

- i) Both a course fee and an activity fee are assessed by the school district for participation in the class.
 - (1) Payments are made in the school bookstore.
 - (a) Checks are made payable to "DVHS".
- ii) Instruments are available for rental from the band (see the Instrument Checkout section).
 - (1) Payments are made through the Band Boosters.
 - (a) Checks are made payable to "DVBB" (Desert Vista Band Boosters).

b) Individual Fundraising

- i) Money earned by the individual student through Band Booster Club sponsored individual fundraisers will remain in the student's account, carried forward from each year to next, for the duration of the student's participation in band.
- ii) At the end of the student's last year in band, any remaining balance will be absorbed into the band general fund.
 - (1) If the student is a senior, the remaining balance at graduation will be absorbed into the band general fund.
- iii) If the student drops band the money will not be refunded.

c) All-Band Fundraising

- i) Money earned by the band as a whole through Band Booster Club sponsored group fundraisers will be absorbed into the band general fund.

7) Band Letters

a) Requirements

- i) To letter in band, a student not also involved in marching band must:
 - (1) Earn a 90% or better in their performing class for each of six semesters.
 - (2) Attend every performance and concert band festival.
 - (3) Consistently and timely attend each band function.

8) Awards Banquet

a) Attendees

- i) All students within the band program are welcome to attend the band banquet at the end of the school year.

b) Band Patch

- i) Members completing a band activity will be given the appropriate letter jacket patch.

c) Awards Distributed

- i) The following earned awards will be distributed:
 - (1) Band letters earned by students.
 - (a) This includes the DV patch for those not lettering in academics and/or the treble clef pin for a band letter.
 - (2) Solo and Ensemble medals.
 - (3) Directors' awards.

9) Lockers

a) Availability

- i) Lockers will be provided by the band program without charge during the summer or school year.
- ii) Materials left in the band area without being stored in a locker may be confiscated by the band director.

b) Responsibility

- i) Students are responsible for any and all property stored in their lockers.
- ii) Lockers may be searched without notice.

c) Usage

- i) Lockers may be used only for the storage of music instruments, music, instrument accessories, and other miscellaneous items necessary for rehearsal in a performing ensemble and/or marching band.
- ii) Lockers may not be used to store books, class work, loose clothing, or food.

(1) Any of the above-mentioned prohibited materials may be removed from the lockers without prior notice.

iii) Clothing or items necessary for marching band should be stored together in a bag and kept in either a locker or in the practice room provided by the director.

d) Locks

i) Each locker will be assigned an individual lock.

ii) Students may not provide their own lock.

iii) Locks must be returned at the end of the school year with their correct combination attached.

(1) Failure to return a lock will result in the assessment of a \$10 replacement charge.

iv) Lockers must be kept locked at all times.

(1) Failure to lock a locker may result in the confiscation of items in the locker and/or revocation of locker privileges.

e) Abandoned Material

i) Materials or instruments left in a locker or the band area following the end of the school year will become the property of the Desert Vista Band.

10) Instrument Checkout

a) Availability

i) Instruments for performing ensembles or marching band may be rented from the band.

ii) Instruments may be rented by students involved in Desert Vista ensembles only.

(1) Exceptions must be approved by the director.

b) Fees

i) Rentals are subject to a fee determined by the band director, based on the instrument rented and the number of rentals.

(1) Currently the rental fee for all instruments for the school year is \$55.

(2) Payments are made through the Band Boosters.

(a) Checks are made payable to "DVBB".

c) Rental Check Out Form

i) Rentals are subject to the completion of an online Rental Check Out form requiring the signature of the student.

(1) Instrument rentals may be revoked at the discretion of the band director, based on treatment of the instrument, its case, and/or other band property.

d) Storage

i) Instruments must be stored in the correct locker at all times while in the band room.

(1) Instruments left out or stored in the incorrect locker will be subject to confiscation by the band director.

e) Return Date

i) Instruments must be returned at the end of the school year.

(1) Instruments returned in poor condition will be subject to repair or replacement fees as agreed upon in the rental contract.

(2) Failure to return an instrument will result in the assessment of a replacement charge and may result in an incomplete grade in the student's performing ensemble class.

