

# Desert Vista High School

## *Thunder Band*

### **Marching Band**

### **Constitution**

2013-2014

Marching Band  
Athletic (Pep) Band  
Lockers and Instrument Checkout

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**“3 Rules”:**

- 1. RESPECT**
- 2. ATTENDANCE**
- 3. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

I have read all rules and regulations as laid out in the marching band, athletic (pep) band and locker/instrument checkout sections of the band constitution (found at [www.thunderband.org](http://www.thunderband.org)) and agree to them in their entirety. I agree to fulfill any and all student or parent/guardian obligations as described below. I understand that all rules and regulations as stated within will be enforced equitably and followed consistently by the band director, staff and student leaders of the Desert Vista Band in the administration of a safe and successful band program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

## -----Marching Band-----

### 1. Participation

- a. Membership is open to any student enrolled in a Desert Vista Band class (e.g. Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and/or a Percussion Class).
  - i. Percussionists involved in marching band must be enrolled in a percussion class.
- b. Membership fees will be assessed by the DVHS Band Boosters, Inc. in accordance with the costs of band camp, out-of-state trips, and operational costs.
- c. Instrumentation for the marching band includes: piccolo, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, Bb horn, baritone, tuba, snare drum, tenor drums, bass drum, and mallet/auxiliary percussion (the front ensemble).
- d. Members may choose instead to march as part of the Colorguard.
- e. Instruments, equipment and lockers are available for rental from the band (see Band Lockers and Instrument Checkout).
  - i. Battery, mellophone, baritone, piccolo, bari saxophone and tuba section members must check out school instruments.
    1. Limits on the usage of personal instruments may be placed at the discretion of the director.
  - ii. Members of other sections may check out a school instrument at need.
  - iii. Color guard members must check out equipment from the band, and may be asked to purchase their own rifle.

### 2. Rehearsals

- a. Rehearsal Times
  - i. Rehearsals for the marching season will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
    1. Monday rehearsals will be from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
    2. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday rehearsals will be from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.
  - ii. "New Members" will have an additional rehearsal every Tuesday morning from 7:00am to 8:00am
  - iii. Additional or lengthened rehearsals may be called in the evening or morning, if necessary, at the director's discretion.
- b. Sectionals
  - i. Sectionals will be held by section leaders and/or staff on a weekly basis.
    1. Winds: Wednesdays- 3:20-5pm\*
      - a. \* (2:20-4:30pm on Early Release days)
    2. Battery: Tuesdays- 5-7pm
    3. Front Ensemble: Tuesdays- 3:20-5pm
    4. Guard: Wednesdays- 6-8pm
  - ii. Attendance is expected.
    1. Exceptions must be approved by the director.
  - iii. Rehearsal expectations and rules apply.
- c. Attendance Policy

- i. Members must be present and on time to all rehearsals, sectionals, competitions, performances and other functions.
  - ii. Members having more than three total absences (including sectionals, competitions, performances, etc.) will result in a parent conference with the director and possible removal from the ensemble.
  - iii. Rehearsals begin at the time specified.
    1. Members are to be in the block or at the proper location specified by the staff or director at that time.
  - iv. Rehearsals end at the time specified.
    1. Members may not leave rehearsal until “dismissed” is called at that time.
  - v. Lateness will result in self-governed consequences (ie. push-ups, running a lap, etc.).
    1. Three tardy arrivals to rehearsal are counted as one absence.
- d. Rehearsal Etiquette
- i. Behavior
    1. Students must at all times demonstrate a **courteous, respectful attitude** towards staff members and each other.
    2. Students are expected to be attentive and follow all proper instructions by a staff or band council member.
  - ii. Silent Rehearsals
    1. Only staff and section leaders are permitted to talk on the field.
    2. No talking is permitted while in the block.
  - iii. Breaks
    1. Water breaks must be given every rehearsal but their length and timing will be at the discretion of the instructor. The type of activity and weather will be taken into consideration in determining whether a greater frequency is needed.
  - iv. Field
    1. The marching field is to be treated with respect at all times.
  - v. Equipment/Dress
    1. Members must be in the proper dress for all rehearsals.
      - a. This includes wearing a mostly-white shirt, athletic shorts and running/walking shoes. Hats and sunglasses are strongly recommended.
        - i. Allowances may be made in the rehearsal attire due to weather conditions, at the director’s discretion.
        - ii. Sandals and blue jeans are unacceptable.
      2. Members must have all proper equipment for every rehearsal.
        - a. This includes gloves, three-ring binder with drill charts and music, dot book, instrument towel, water bottle and/or any other equipment required by the staff or director.
        - b. Carriage of said equipment is the student’s responsibility.
          - i. The use of a backpack or other bag to carry all necessary items is strongly encouraged.

3. Failure to wear proper rehearsal attire and carry all necessary equipment will result in appropriate consequences.
- vi. Instruments
    1. “Right Hand Rule” - Instruments must be carried correctly at trail in the right hand at all times.
    2. Gloves must always be worn when handling instruments.
  - vii. Behavior
    1. Student Handbook
      - a. Members must behave in accordance with all rules and regulations laid out in the Desert Vista High School Student Handbook.
    2. Band Room Expectations
      - a. No food or drink is allowed.
        - i. Water is the only exception.
      - b. No running or horseplay is permitted.
      - c. No balls, Frisbees, etc. or any kind of athletic ball or flying object is permitted.
      - d. Percussionists in a percussion class, concert ensemble and/or marching band are the only band members permitted to play on percussion instruments.
      - e. **“It’s your band room, keep it nice.”**
  - viii. Consequences
    1. Penalties for rule infractions will be at the director’s discretion.
      - a. In-rehearsal infractions may result in “celebration” (push-ups).
- e. Memory Testing
    1. Sectional time will be used to memory test band members.
    2. Memory tests may be held over the show music, the banner and/or any other piece performed by the band or a section of the band.
      - a. No notice is required before holding a memory test.
    3. Members must pass each memory test prior to the next performance in order to be eligible to march.
    4. Section leaders and drum majors will be tested by the director.
    5. Students may make up a failed or missed memory test with their section leader(s). If an additional test is needed, the student will set up a time with the band director for a final decision.
    6. No member having failed or missed a memory test may participate in a performance.
      - a. Said members must still be present with the band wearing full uniform for the duration of the event.
    7. Memory tests will be based on the following criteria:
      - a. Movement (correct mark-times, halts, horn movements, guard work, etc.) – 10 test points
        - i. This will be the first of two criteria for color guard memory tests, in which case the criterion will be allotted 20 test points.

- b. Notes (correct pitches and rhythms) – 10 test points
      - c. Phrasing (correct articulations and dynamics) –10 test points
      - d. Technique (good quality of sound, proper technique, sticking, etc.) – 10 test points
        - i. This will be the second of two criteria for color guard memory tests, in which case the criterion will be allotted 20 test points.
    - 8. Members accruing at least 28 out of the possible 40 test points will pass the test.
    - 9. Members failing to accrue 28 out of the possible 40 test points will fail the test.
  - f. Summer Rehearsals
    - i. Individual section, line or full band rehearsals will be held over the summer.
      - 1. Attendance for any member is expected if not on vacation.
        - a. Exceptions must be approved by the marching band staff person in charge of the rehearsal.
  - g. Pre-Camp
    - 1. Pre-Camp is a series of morning/evening rehearsals held shortly before band camp.
    - 2. Attendance is mandatory for all members.
      - a. Exceptions must be approved by the director.
  - h. Band Camp
    - i. Band Camp is a weeklong retreat for band members to a camp in Northern Arizona.
    - ii. Attendance is mandatory for all members.
      - 1. Acceptance into a Div. 1 Drum Corps may result in an excusal. A parent and student conference with the director need be scheduled prior to the decision.
  - i. Post-Camp
    - 1. Post-Camp is a series of morning rehearsals held the week after camp. (only on years when Band Camp is not the week before school)
    - 2. Attendance is mandatory for all members.
  - j. Saturday “All-Days” (2)
    - i. The “All-Day” are rehearsals held on two different Saturdays during the fall.
    - ii. A break for meals will be given during the midday.
    - iii. Attendance is mandatory for all members.
  - k. Fall Break
    - i. Rehearsals and/or Performances may occur over fall break at the discretion of the director.
    - ii. Attendance is expected.
3. Performances
  - a. Attendance

- i. No member will be permitted to march at a given performance having missed two of the rehearsals during the prior week.
      - 1. Members may not be permitted to march at a given weekend performance having been tardy to three of the rehearsals during the prior week.
      - 2. Members may not be permitted to march at a given weekend performance having missed the Friday morning practice and run-through.
        - a. Said members must be present with the band wearing full uniform for the duration of the event.
    - ii. Attendance will be taken at the given arrival time set by the director.
      - 1. Members must be present by the arrival time.
        - a. Failing to arrive on time may result in the loss of ability to participate in the performance.
      - 2. Arrival times may vary based upon distance from the school to the performance site.
      - 3. At the arrival time, members should change into their uniform, set their instrument out to be loaded, and wait for further instructions.
    - iii. **No member may participate in a performance if he/she is failing a class.**
      - 1. Grade checks may be held per school policy.
      - 2. Proof of return to a passing grade (60%+) must be provided to the director before the member may participate in another a performance.
      - 3. Said members may retain full points for the performance by being present in the band wearing full uniform for the duration of the performance.
      - 4. No refund for payments will be made if the member has a grade below 60%.
  - b. Transportation
    - i. Members will be transported by district or chartered buses to and from all band performances.
    - ii. Sections will be assigned to specific buses.
    - iii. Attendance will be taken each time the band boards the buses.
    - iv. Members must have on file a notarized medical and travel form.
      - 1. Without said form, no student may travel on a bus for a school event.
      - 2. A Desert Vista administrator or official notary must notarize the form.
  - c. Marching Uniforms
    - i. Uniforms for instrumentalists include:
      - 1. Bibbers, jacket with collar liner, marching shoes with black socks, black performance gloves, shako and plume.
        - a. Members are responsible for providing their own black socks, marching shoes, black performance gloves,

lightweight shorts and the present year's band t-shirt to be worn with the uniform.

- i. Performance gloves and a band t-shirt are provided as part of the student's band fees.
    1. Marching shoes may be purchased at uniform fitting.
  - ii. Marching shoes must be clean and shined before every performance.
  - iii. Black socks, collar liners and performance gloves must be washed following every performance.
- b. Uniforms will be altered and assigned to individual members prior to the start of marching season.
  - c. Prior to every performance members must change into their full uniform.
    - i. The collar liner must be returned for every performance, and worn on the jacket at all times.
  - d. Jackets and bibbers are to remain zipped up and worn properly (with straps on) for the duration of the performance. At the discretion of the staff and director, jackets may be zipped down or removed.
  - e. Following every performance, uniforms must be put away neatly and correctly. Members will not be permitted to leave until a uniform assistant checks the uniform.
  - f. Shakos and plumes will be stored on the shako carts until the director instructs the band to remove them.
  - g. Uniform parts lost or damaged by a member will be subject to replacement fees.
2. Grooming
    - a. Gentlemen
      - i. Hair must be cut shorter than the chin line, and remain off the collar.
      - ii. For performances, gentlemen must be clean shaven (no sideburns below the ear).
      - iii. No jewelry or piercing may be visible with the uniform.
    - b. Ladies
      - i. Hair must be off the collar and tucked under the shako.
      - ii. Long hair (past the chin) must be done up neatly by French braiding.
    - c. No make-up or jewelry may be visible with the uniform.
  - ii. Uniforms for color guard members includes:
    1. Tailored uniforms created with the show design in mind.
      - a. Uniform specifics may vary from year to year.
    2. Color guard members may consult their instructors, section leaders and/or the director for specifics on what comprises their uniform.

3. Make-up usage is at the discretion of the color guard instructors and the director.
  4. No jewelry may be worn.
- iii. Uniform Check
1. To be done prior to all performances by the drum majors.
  2. Members will be allowed to procure replacements for forgotten or misplaced uniform parts until the warm-up arcs are set outside the band room.
    - a. Following the beginning of the warm-up arc, no member is permitted to be out of uniform.
    - b. No member will be permitted to march while out of uniform in any way.

d. Behavior

- i. Marching band members are expected to behave as **ambassadors** of Desert Vista High School and its band program. While in uniform:
  1. No running or horseplay in uniform is permitted.
    - a. No throwing or stealing of ice or water (such behavior could result in damage to another's eye).
    - b. Do not play with or steal another's property.
    - c. Do not goof off. We do not want to make a poor impression of our band or ourselves.
    - d. No practical jokes.
  2. No profanity is permitted.
  3. Courteous behavior towards all others is expected.
    - a. No obnoxious noises (this includes towards cheerleaders).
    - b. Members must be respectful of other bands. Professional courtesy is expected; they are your peers.
  4. Do not play your instrument unless the rest of the band is playing.
    - a. Do not play anyone else's instrument.
  5. Uniforms are to remain properly worn and zipped up (bibber straps on) unless instructed to do otherwise by the staff or director.
  6. Members must remain standing until the whole band has entered the stands.
    - a. This time is to be used to cover and dress your lines to the forward-most, left person in the stands.
  7. No eating or drinking is permitted, except food or drink provided by the band parents.
  8. Please avoid using the restroom while in uniform. (Use the bathroom before you change into your uniform).
  9. Members may not leave the band during a football game or performance without permission from the director.
    - a. Do not move out of your own sections.
    - b. Travel must be done in pairs.



10. Members are not to permit non-band members to enter the band area (“break ranks”) except with the permission of the director. This extends to traveling to and from areas in pairs, a block, etc. or sitting in the stands.
  - a. Anyone attempting to do so is to be brought to the attention of a band council and/or staff member.
11. Do not talk to non-band members.
  - a. The exception is the band parents because we must always say “thank you”.
12. Band council members may meet the band council of the other marching band only if they have had perfect attendance that week.
  - a. Not all qualified band council members may be able to meet with the other marching band.

**13. Be Flexible!**

e. Equipment

- i. Prior to every performance, the instruments must be polished, and any protective coverings removed.
- ii. Color guard members are to prepare flags and weapons for the performance.
- iii. Members are responsible for moving their instruments/equipment to the proper loading area.
- iv. Members are to provide a flip folder clearly marked with their name containing of all necessary stand tunes for football games.
  1. Flip folders will be kept by section leaders in the appropriate flip folder box and returned to the members when necessary.

f. Competitions

- i. Marching band will make a weekend trip out of state late in the marching season for a competition.
  1. No refund for payments will be made if the member has a grade below 60%.
- ii. Other competitions attended may include the Arizona Percussive Arts Society Festival, Arizona State University Band Day, University of Arizona Band Day, Northern Arizona University Band Day, Corona del Sol Marching Invitational, Gilbert Marching Invitational, Highland Marching Invitational, Marcos de Niza Marching Invitational, Bands of America Regional and State Marching Festival.

4. Attendance Policies

a. P.E. Waiver

- i. Members may earn the Physical Education waiver with satisfactory completion of three marching seasons.

b. Band Letter

- i. In order to letter in band, an instrumentalist in marching band must:
  1. Satisfactorily complete the marching season.
  2. Attend every performance.
  3. Attend the requisite number of athletic (pep) band games.

4. Comply with all letter requirements stated in the section for their concert ensemble except that students in marching band must:
    - a. Earn a 90% or better in their performing class for each of two semesters.
  5. Students in marching band may letter each year.
  - ii. In order to letter in band, a colorguard member must:
    1. Satisfactorily complete the marching season.
    2. Attend every performance.
    3. Students in colorguard may letter each year.
  - iii. In order to letter in band, a drumline member must:
    1. Satisfactorily complete the marching season.
    2. Attend every performance.
    3. Students in drumline may letter each year.
    4. Comply with all letter requirements stated in the section for their percussion class except that students in marching band must:
      - a. Earn a 90% or better in their percussion class for each of two semesters.
5. Financial Guidelines
- a. Individual Fundraising
    - i. Money earned by individual students through Band Booster sponsored fundraisers (i.e. Car washes, ushering, etc.) will remain in the student's account for the duration of the student's participation in band.
      1. Monies in the account will be carried forward from each year to the next.
      2. At the end of the student's last year in band, any remaining balance will be absorbed into the band general fund.
      3. If the student drops band, the monies will not be refunded.
      4. If the student is a senior, the remaining balance at graduation will be absorbed into the band general fund.
  - b. All-band Fundraising
    - i. Money earned by the band as a whole through Band Booster sponsored fundraisers (i.e. sponsorships, golf tournaments, etc.) will be absorbed into the band general fund.
  - c. Deposits/Payments
    - i. Once a student commits to marching band and takes part in band camp, there will be no refund.
    - ii. No student will be allowed on the bus to band camp without up-to-date payment of dues and completed paperwork.
      1. Exceptions must be approved by the director.
    - iii. As stated beforehand, no refund for payments will be made if the member has a grade below 60%.
6. Awards Banquet
- b. Students within the band department are welcome to attend the band banquet at the end of the school year.
    - i. Members completing a band activity will be given the appropriate letter jacket patch.

- ii. Band letters earned by students will be distributed.
  - 1. This includes the DV patch for those not lettering in academics and/or the treble clef pin for a band letter.
- iii. Directors' awards will be given to deserving students.

**-----Athletic (Pep) Band-----**

- 1. Blue and Gold Bands
  - a. Each student in the marching band is required to participate in athletic (pep) band performances at Varsity Men's and Women's Basketball home region games during the spring semester.
  - b. Students will be assigned to either the Blue or Gold Band for said performances.
    - i. Students unable to attend one of their assigned performances must find an alternate from the other band, and both students must report the change to the director.
- 2. Athletic Band Uniforms
  - a. Uniforms will consist of the current year's marching band t-shirt and blue jeans.
- 3. Behavior
  - a. Students must be present in the band section for the entirety of any games to which their pep band is assigned.
    - i. This includes any pre-game performance or warm up.
  - b. Marching band behavioral expectations apply.
  - c. Attendance at pep band performances is required for the band letter

**-----Lockers/Instrument Checkout-----**

- 1. Lockers
  - a. Lockers may be rented from the band program without charge during the summer or school year.
    - i. Materials left in the band area without being stored in a locker may be confiscated by the band director.
  - b. Each locker will be assigned an individual lock.
    - i. Students may not provide their own lock.
    - ii. Locks must be returned at the end of the school year attached to their correct combination.
      - 1. Failure to return a lock will result in the assessment of a 10-dollar replacement charge.
  - c. Lockers may be used only for the storage of music instruments, music, instrument accessories and other miscellaneous items necessary for rehearsal in a concert ensemble and/or marching band.
    - i. Items necessary for marching band should be stored together in a bag and not left loose.

- ii. Lockers may not be used to store books, classwork, loose clothing or food.
      - 1. Clothes from a marching rehearsal should be stored in a bag and kept either in a locker or in the practice room provided by the director.
    - iii. Any of the above-mentioned prohibited materials may be removed from the lockers without prior notice.
  - d. Lockers must be kept locked at all time.
    - i. Failure to lock a locker may result in the confiscation of items within the locker or the revocation of locker privileges.
  - e. Students are responsible for any and all property stored in their lockers.
    - i. Lockers may be searched without notice.
  - f. 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.
- 2. Instruments
  - a. Instruments for concert ensembles or marching band may be rented from the band.
    - i. Instruments may be rented by students involved in school ensembles only.
      - 1. Exceptions must be approved by the band director.
  - b. Rentals are subject to a fee determined by the band director based on the instrument rented and the number of rentals.
    - i. The rental fee for the school year is 55 dollars.
  - c. Rentals are subject to the completion of a rental contract requiring the signature of the student and a parent/guardian.
  - d. Instruments must be returned at the end of the school year.
    - i. Instruments returned in poor condition will be subject to repair or replacement fees as agreed upon in the rental contract.
    - ii. 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.
  - e. Instruments must be stored in the correct locker at all times while in the band room.
    - i. Instruments left out or stored in the incorrect locker will be subject to confiscation by the band director.
  - f. Rental contracts may be revoked at the discretion of the band director, based on treatment of the instrument, its case, and/or other band property.