



Thunder Marching Band

Desert Vista High School Thunder Band

Marching Band Handbook

“3 Rules”:

1. RESPECT

2. ATTENDANCE

3. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- ♪ Read this ***Marching Band Handbook***.
- ♪ Complete the ***Marching Band Handbook & Policies Acknowledgement*** online form.
- ♪ **Handbook** and **Acknowledgement form** are on the [Marching Band Registration](http://thunderband.org/marching-band/registration) web page at thunderband.org/marching-band/registration.
- ♪ Submit online by April 30th.

- ✓ I have read all rules and regulations as laid out in the Marching Band Handbook and agree to them in their entirety.
- ✓ I agree to fulfill any and all student or parent/guardian obligations as described in this Handbook.
- ✓ 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.

Marching Band Handbook Contents

- 1) Admission
 - a) Membership
 - b) Instruments
 - c) Equipment
- 2) Expectations of Members
 - a) Attendance Policy
 - b) Band Room
 - c) Rehearsal Conduct
 - d) Consequences
 - e) Summer Rehearsal Schedule
 - f) Fall Rehearsal Schedule
 - g) Memory Testing
- 3) Uniforms
 - a) Marching Uniforms
 - b) Color Guard Uniforms
 - c) Grooming
 - d) Uniform Check
- 4) Performances
 - a) Attendance
 - b) Transportation
 - c) Behavior
 - d) Equipment
- 5) Competitions
 - a) Out of State Trip
 - b) AZPAS Festival
 - c) Additional Performances
 - d) Medical Release Requirement
 - e) Consequences of Failing a Class
- 6) Financial Guidelines
 - a) Fees
 - b) AZ Tax Credit
 - c) Individual Fundraising
 - d) All band Fundraising
- 7) Band Letters
 - a) Requirements
- 8) Awards Banquet
 - a) Attendees
 - b) Band Patch
 - c) Awards Distributed
- 9) Lockers
 - a) Availability
 - b) Responsibility
 - c) Usage
 - d) Lock
 - e) Abandoned Material
- 10) Instrument Checkout
 - a) Availability
 - b) Fees
 - c) Rental Contract
 - d) Storage
 - e) Return Date

1) Admission

a) Membership

- i) Membership for instrumentalists is open to any student enrolled in a Desert Vista Band class (i.e. Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and/or a Percussion Class).

(1) Members may choose instead to march as part of the Color Guard.

- ii) Membership for Color Guard is open to any student, but members are encouraged to enroll in a dance class at Desert Vista.

b) Instruments

- i) Instrumentation for the marching band includes: piccolo, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, mellophone, baritone, sousaphone, snare drum, tenor drums, bass drums, and mallet/auxiliary percussion (the front ensemble).

- ii) Battery, mellophone, baritone, piccolo, bari saxophone and sousaphone section members must check out school instruments. (See Instrument Checkout section.)

(1) Limits on the usage of personal instruments may be placed at the discretion of the director.

- iii) Members of other sections may check out a school instrument at need.

c) Equipment

- i) Color Guard members must check out equipment from the band, and may be asked to purchase their own rifle.

2) Expectations of Members

a) 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 leader's direction, with the goal of ending at the time specified.

(1) Members may not leave rehearsal until "dismissed" is called.

- v) Lateness will result in self-governed consequences (e.g. push-ups, running a lap, etc.).
 - (1) Three tardy arrivals to rehearsal are counted as one absence.
- vi) No member may participate in a performance or trip if he/she is failing a class (grade below 60%).
 - (1) No member failing a class will be excused from any school hours.
 - (2) No refund will be issued if a member cannot participate in a performance or trip due to failing a class.
- vii) P.E. Waiver: Members may earn the Physical Education waiver with satisfactory completion of three marching seasons.

b) Band Room

- i) No food or drink (except water) is permitted.
- ii) No running, rowdiness or horseplay is permitted.
- iii) No balls, Frisbees, 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 White Board unless given permission.
- viii) It's your band room, keep it nice.

c) Rehearsal Conduct

- 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.
 - (3) Members must behave in accordance with all rules and regulations laid out in the Desert Vista High School Student Handbook.
 - (4) No food or drink (except water) is permitted.
 - (5) No running, rowdiness or horseplay is permitted.
 - (6) No balls, Frisbees, or any kind of athletic ball or flying projectile is permitted.

- (7) No cell phone use is permitted.
 - (8) No MP3 player use permitted, unless pre-approved by the director.
 - (9) Percussionists in a percussion class, performing ensemble, and/or marching band are the only band members permitted to play on percussion instruments.
- 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) Field
- (1) The marching field is to be treated with respect at all times.
- iv) Water Breaks
- (1) Water breaks must be given at 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.
- v) Dress & Equipment
- (1) Members must be in the proper dress for all rehearsals.
 - (a) This includes wearing a mostly-white shirt, athletic shorts, socks 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) On cooler mornings, a black, dark blue or grey sweatshirt may be worn, at the director's discretion.
 - (iii) Sandals and blue jeans are unacceptable.
 - (iv) Color Guard should wear black for evening rehearsals.
 - (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/jug 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) Instrument Handling

(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 wind instruments.

d) Consequences

i) Penalties for rule infractions will be at the director's discretion.

(1) In-rehearsal, infractions may result in "celebration" (push-ups).

e) Summer Rehearsal Schedule

i) Summer Sectionals & Rehearsals

(1) Individual section, line or full band rehearsals will be held over the summer.

(2) 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.

ii) 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.

iii) Band Camp

(1) Band Camp is a week long retreat for band members to a camp in Northern Arizona.

(2) Attendance is mandatory for all members.

(a) Acceptance into a Div. 1 Drum Corps may result in an excusal. A parent and student conference with the director needs to be scheduled prior to the decision.

iv) 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.

- v) Check the band website calendar at <http://thunderband.org/calendar/> for accurate days and times.

f) Fall Rehearsal Schedule

i) Full Band

- (1) Full Band rehearsals will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during the marching season.
 - (a) Monday rehearsals will be from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
 - (b) Wednesday, Thursday and Friday rehearsals will be from 6:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.
- (2) “New Members” will have an additional rehearsal every Tuesday morning from 7:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.
- (3) Additional or lengthened rehearsals may be called in the evening or morning, if necessary, at the director’s discretion.

ii) Sectionals

- (1) Band sections are Winds, Percussion and Guard.
- (2) Sectionals will be held by section leaders and/or staff on a weekly basis. Check the band website calendar at <http://thunderband.org/calendar/> for accurate days and times.
- (3) Attendance is expected.
 - (a) Exceptions must be approved by the director.
- (4) Rehearsal expectations and rules apply.

iii) Saturday “All-Days”

- (1) The “All-Day” rehearsals are held on designated Saturdays during the fall.
- (2) A break for meals will be given during the midday.
- (3) Attendance is mandatory for all members.

iv) Fall Break

- (1) Rehearsals and/or Performances may occur over fall break at the discretion of the director.
- (2) Attendance is expected.

g) Memory Testing

- i) Sectional time will be used to memory test band members.
- ii) Memory tests may be held over the show music, choreography, and/or any other piece performed by the band or a section of the band.

- iii) No notice is required before holding a memory test.
- iv) Members must pass each memory test prior to the next performance in order to be eligible to march.
- v) Section leaders and drum majors will be tested by the director.
- vi) 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.
- vii) No member having failed or missed a memory test may participate in a performance.
 - (1) Said members must still be present with the band, wearing full uniform, for the duration of the event.
- viii) Memory tests will be based on the following criteria:
 - (1) Movement (correct mark-times, halts, horn movements, guard work, etc.) = 10 test points
 - (a) This will be the first of two criteria for Color Guard memory tests, in which case the criterion will be allotted 20 test points.
 - (2) Notes (correct pitches and rhythms) = 10 test points
 - (3) Phrasing (correct articulations and dynamics) = 10 test points
 - (4) Technique (good quality of sound, proper technique, sticking, etc.) = 10 test points
 - (a) This will be the second of two criteria for Color Guard memory tests, in which case the criterion will be allotted 20 test points.
- ix) Members accruing at least 28 out of the possible 40 test points will pass the test.
- x) Members failing to accrue 28 out of the possible 40 test points will fail the test.

3) Uniforms

a) **Marching Uniforms**

- i) Uniforms for instrumentalists include:
 - (1) Bibber, jacket with collar liner, show t-shirt, lightweight shorts, marching shoes, long black socks, black performance gloves, shako and plume.
 - (a) Members are responsible for providing their own present year's show t-shirt, lightweight shorts, marching shoes, black socks and black performance gloves to be worn with the uniform.

- (i) Performance gloves and a show t-shirt are provided as part of the student's band fees.
 - (ii) Marching shoes may be purchased at uniform fitting.
- (2) Uniforms will be assigned to individual members and altered prior to the start of marching season.
- (3) Marching shoes must be clean and shined before every performance.
- (4) Black socks, collar liners and performance gloves must be washed following every performance.
- (5) The collar liner must be returned for every performance, and worn on the jacket at all times.
- (6) Prior to every performance members must change into their full uniform.
 - (a) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) Shakos and plumes will be stored on the shako carts until the director instructs the band to remove them.
- (9) Uniform parts lost or damaged by a member will be subject to replacement fees.

b) Color Guard Uniforms:

- i) Uniforms for Color Guard include:
 - (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.

c) Grooming

- i) Band
 - (1) Hair must be off the collar.
 - (a) Hair may be cut shorter than the chin line, and remain off the collar.

(b) Long hair (past the chin) must be done up neatly by French braiding and tucked under the shako..

(2) No make-up, jewelry or piercing may be visible with the uniform.

(3) For performances, gentlemen must be clean shaven (no sideburns below the ear).

ii) Guard

(1) Hair will be styled per Caption Head's instruction.

(a) Usually this will mean in a bun.

(2) Make-up will be used per Caption Head's instruction to enhance costume.

(3) No jewelry or piercing may be visible with the uniform.

(4) For performances, gentlemen must be clean shaven (no sideburns below the ear).

d) Uniform Check

i) To be done prior to all performances by the drum majors.

ii) Members will be allowed to procure replacements for forgotten or misplaced uniform parts until the warm-up arcs are set outside the band room.

(1) Following the beginning of the warm-up arc, no member is permitted to be out of uniform.

iii) No member will be permitted to march while out of uniform in any way.

4) 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.

(3) 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 or trip if he/she is failing a class (grade below 60%).

(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 a performance or trip.

(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.

(a) No member failing a class will be excused from any school hours.

(4) No refund will be issued if a member cannot participate in a performance or trip due to failing a class.

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 with the director a Consent for Emergency Care form.

(1) This form should be submitted through [RegisterMyAthlete.com](https://www.registermyathlete.com)

(2) Without said form, no student may travel on a bus for a school event.

c) Behavior

i) Marching band members are expected to behave as **ambassadors** of Desert Vista High School and its band program.

ii) While in uniform:

(1) No running, rowdiness or horseplay in uniform is permitted.

(a) No throwing or stealing of ice, water or water bottles.

(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 (bibber straps on) and zipped up, unless instructed to do otherwise by the staff or director.
- (6) No eating or drinking is permitted, except food or drink provided by the designated Band Booster parents.
- (7) Please avoid using the restroom while in uniform. (Use the bathroom before you change into your uniform).
- iii) Members must remain standing until the whole band has entered the stands.
 - (1) This time is to be used to cover and dress your lines to the forward-most, left person in the stands.
- iv) Members may not leave the band during a football game or performance without permission from the director.
 - (1) Do not move out of your own section.
 - (2) Travel must be done in pairs.
- v) 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.
 - (1) Anyone attempting to do so is to be brought to the attention of a band council and/or staff member.
- vi) Do not talk to non-band members.
 - (1) The exception is the designated Band Booster parents because we must always say "thank you".
- vii) Band council members may meet the band council of the other marching band only if they have had perfect attendance that week.
 - (1) Not all qualified band council members may be able to meet with the other marching band.
- viii) Be Flexible!**

d) 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 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.

5) Competitions & Festivals

a) Out of State Trip

- i) Marching Band will make a weekend trip out of state late in the marching season for a competition.
- ii) No member may participate in a performance or trip if he/she is failing a class (grade below 60%).

(1) No member failing a class will be excused from any school hours.

(2) No refund will be issued if a member cannot participate in a performance or trip due to failing a class.

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

- i) Marching Percussion Ensemble members may participate in the AZPAS Festival in the fall, at the Percussion Director's discretion.

c) Additional Performances:

- i) Other competitions attended may include, but is not limited to, Arizona State University Band Day, University of Arizona Band Day, Northern Arizona University Band Day, high school marching invitationals, Bands of America Regional and State Marching Festivals.

d) Medical Release Requirement

- i) Members must have on file with the director a Consent for Emergency Care form.

(1) This form should be submitted through [RegisterMyAthlete.com](https://www.registermyathlete.com)

(2) Without said form, no student may travel on a bus for a school event.

e) Consequences of Failing a Class

- i) No member may participate in a performance or trip if he/she is failing a class (grade below 60%).

- (1) Said members may retain full points for the performance by being present in the band wearing full uniform for the duration of the performance.
- (2) No member failing a class will be excused from any school hours.
- (3) No refund will be issued if a member cannot participate in a performance or trip due to failing a class.
 - (a) This includes no refunds for the Out of State Competition or other trips.
- 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 a performance.

6) Financial Guidelines

a) Fees

- i) 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.
- ii) No student will be allowed on the bus to Band Camp without up-to-date payment of dues and completed paperwork/online forms.
 - (1) Exceptions must be approved by the director.
- iii) Once a student commits to marching band and takes part in Band Camp, there will be no refund issued.
- iv) No refund will be issued if a member cannot participate in a performance or trip due to failing a class (grade below 60%).
- v) Payments are made to the Desert Vista Band Boosters, Inc.
 - (1) Checks are made payable to "DVBB".
- vi) Instruments are available for rental from the band (see the Instrument Checkout section).
 - (1) Payments are made directly to the Desert Vista Band Boosters, Inc.
 - (a) Checks are made payable to "DVBB".

b) AZ Tax Credit

- i) Arizona Tax Credit payments are made directly to the DV Bookstore.
 - (1) Checks are made payable to "DVHS".
 - (a) Request Tax Credit be applied to "101 Band".
 - (2) Send a copy of your receipt to the Desert Vista Band Booster Treasurer

- (a) Include information where tax credit should be applied: list student name and id number, or band general fund if not for a specific student..

c) Individual Fundraising

- ii) Money earned by the individual student through Band Booster Club sponsored individual fundraisers will remain in the student's account for the duration of the student's participation in band.
- iii) Money in the student's account will be carried forward, from each year to the next.
- iv) 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.
- v) If the student drops band, the money will not be refunded.

d) 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) In order to letter in band, a wind member in marching band must:
 - (1) Satisfactorily complete the marching season.
 - (2) Attend every performance.
 - (3) 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.
 - (4) Students in marching band may letter each year.
- ii) In order to letter in band, a percussion member must:
 - (1) Satisfactorily complete the marching season.
 - (2) Attend every performance.
 - (3) 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.
 - (4) Students in marching band may letter each year.

iii) In order to letter in band, a Color Guard member must:

- (1) Satisfactorily complete the marching season.
- (2) Attend every performance.
- (3) Students in Color Guard may letter each year.

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) Director's awards will be given to select students.

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 performance 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 directly to the Desert Vista Band Boosters, Inc.

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

c) Rental Contract

i) Rentals are subject to the completion of a rental contract requiring the signature of the student and a parent/guardian.

(1) 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.

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.

