

**Daniel Hand High School**  
**Tiger Bands**  
**286 Green Hill Road**  
**Madison, CT 06443**

September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! This packet contains information that will be crucial to a successful year for your son or daughter in band. Included is a calendar of performances, class expectations, and much more. I have also included a list of required equipment that each student must own in order to fully participate in the band program. If there are any issues getting these items or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me and I will be glad to help you. As I mention on that page, Madison Music Center is the most affordable and efficient place to buy these items, but there are certainly more options that you may choose to use and I've included some of those as well.

The most up-to-date source for DHHS band information, besides my emails to you, will be the [DHHS Music Page](#) on the Hand website (go to [www.danielhand.org](http://www.danielhand.org) and click on the RELATED ARTS tab on the left hand side of the page, then MUSIC—this will direct you to “Staff” and just click on my name). This packet and other information throughout the year will be available here.

As much as possible, I strive for paperless communication. In fact, I hope this packet is the most paper you'll receive from me all year! **Please fill out and return the attached contract to me no later than Friday, September 23rd.** At this point, if you have not been receiving emails from me about the band program, please include your current email address on the contract and I will make sure to get you on the list. Between email and the Music Dept. webpage, you should be kept in the loop regarding all things Tiger Bands.

If you ever need to reach me, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Email is the quickest and easiest way to reach me: [gagej@madison.k12.ct.us](mailto:gagej@madison.k12.ct.us). I am looking forward to another great year of music making, and I hope you are as well! See you at the Surf Club on September 30th.

Sincerely,

John Gage, Director of Bands

## Uniforms/Concert Attire

**MARCHING BAND:** All students have been issued a marching band uniform for football games and a black Tiger Band polo for pep rallies, parades, etc. Students are responsible for all parts of their uniform for the entire marching season (polo the whole year) and are expected to keep their uniform in good condition as we use them for all performances at football games. A dry cleaning fee of approximately \$15 will be required when students turn in their uniforms at the end of the marching season. Black socks and ALL black shoes are to be worn with the uniform at all performances.

### **CONCERT BAND:**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Band:**

**Boys:** Black dress pants; white, long sleeved button down shirt with a dark, solid colored tie; black dress shoes and black socks.

**Girls:** Black dress pants or **knee-length skirt;** white long or short sleeved blouse or shirt; black shoes and black socks.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Band:**

**Boys:** Black dress pants; black long sleeve button-down collared shirt; black shoes and black socks.

**Girls:** All black top/bottom. Black long or short sleeved blouse or shirt; **knee-length dress or skirt;** black dress pants are fine; black shoes and black socks.

**\*\*Drillmaster marching shoes are acceptable for all concerts\*\***

## **DHHS Bands Performance Attendance Policy (football games)**

**Students are required to attend all home football games and the away football game.**

Students are also expected to remain at games until the end, as we play often during the second half. If there is a conflict with a home DHHS athletic event, students are expected to make every effort to be at the Surf Club no later than 7:30 in order to participate in the halftime show. If a student has an away DHHS athletic event that precludes him/her from getting back to Madison in time, the student is expected to provide written notification from a parent **in advance.** The following reasons for missing a football game performance will not be accepted: work, failure to find a ride, sports practice. Failure to abide by this attendance policy will result in a lowered grade. **\*\*Playoff games:** If the football team makes the playoffs, the band will perform at the first quarterfinal playoff game (first week of December).

## **DHHS Bands Performance Attendance Policy (concert season)**

**Students are required to attend all concert band performances.** Students are also expected to remain at a concert if other performing groups are playing on the same concert. The following reasons for missing a performance will not be accepted: work, failure to find a ride, sports practice. In the event that a student has a conflict with a school athletic event, both the coach and Mr. Gage should be notified as soon as possible so that a solution can be worked out. Students missing a performance will be required to complete an alternate assignment. Failure to abide by this attendance policy will result in a lowered grade.

### **Grading**

*Grades in the DHHS Bands for 1<sup>ST</sup> TRIMESTER will be calculated based on the following:*

**50% Class Work:** Students will receive a class participation grade based on their overall work in class (preparedness for class, active and positive participation, effort, etc.). Written homework in band is rare, but can include written reactions to performances, turning in important forms, etc. Students participating in cheerleading and varsity football, and therefore not in marching band, will receive credit for playing their instruments in class and helping out with moving equipment when the class rehearses outside.

**50% Performances:** Students will be given a grade for each performance at the football games. Full credit will be given to students who arrive on time for performances, are prepared with appropriate equipment/uniform, and participate fully. Students who are not excused from a football game will lose credit for a missed performance.

*Grades for 2<sup>ND</sup> and 3<sup>RD</sup> TRIMESTERS will be calculated based on the following:*

**30% Class Work**

**45% Performances**

**25% Playing Assessments:** students will perform one playing exam per trimester, either recorded at home or at school, or arranged to play for Mr. Gage. These exams will consist of excerpts from our concert music, announced ahead of time. More specific details about these assignments will be provided during second trimester.

## Resources for Repairs, Equipment, etc.

### Music stores:

- Music and Arts Centers: 860-568-0692 (a rep from this store will pick up repairs and bring them back the following week if given advanced notice—highly recommended repair work) [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com). If I am notified of a repair need, I will arrange for the instrument to be picked up at school and brought back.
- Madison Music Center: 1 Orchard Park Rd. (318-5007)—SUPERB PRICES

**Brass Repair:** Backyard Brass, New Haven 203-865-4463: excellent repair, reasonable prices

**Sheet Music:** Foundry Music, New Haven, 203-776-3650

JW Pepper: online sheet music resource: [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com)

\*\*Madison Music is also able to get sheet music—quickly and inexpensively!

## Required Equipment/Accessories

On the next page is a list of required equipment for students participating in the DHHS Bands. These items are absolutely essential to successful participation in the program. If an item is listed as required, it is something that the students will be using daily, or almost every day in class. If an item is listed as recommended, it is either something that will help protect an instrument from damage, or something (such as a new mouthpiece) that will upgrade the performance of an instrument to a suitable level for high school. Students should have all the necessary equipment as soon as possible, but items needed specifically for concert band (mutes, folders, etc.) can wait until early November.

## Books/Folders

**Marching Season:** all members of the Tiger Band must have a flip folder and appropriate lyre for marching band. The flip folders must contain enough windows to hold all of our music for marching season (typically 15 windows are sufficient). Students must have their flip folders at all rehearsals and games. It is required that students label their flip folders with their name.

### Concert Season:

1. all students must have a black DHHS music folder at every rehearsal. These may be purchased from Mr. Gage at school.
2. We will be using a new warm up method book this year in concert band, still to be determined. These books will be used on a daily basis during concert season for warm ups and technical practice. ALL WIND AND BRASS students must own a copy. Make sure that you purchase the book specific to your instrument. Students may purchase these at Madison Music or online. I will have more specific info about the book as concert season approaches.

## **Flute**

**Required:** Cleaning/tuning rod and cloth for swabbing

## **Clarinet, Bass Clarinet**

**Required:**

- 1 box of 10 reeds; Vandoren, strength 3
- Cork grease
- Clarinet swab

**Highly recommended:**

Good quality mouthpiece and ligature. (Most mouthpieces and ligatures that come with student clarinets are of very poor quality). A high quality mouthpiece and ligature can make a student instrument sound like a newer, more professional model. If the student is playing on the same mouthpiece they had when they first bought the instrument, it is time for an upgrade. Recommended brands:

David Hite, Premier clarinet mouthpiece: excellent quality and value

VanDoren B45 Bb clarinet mouthpiece: top quality

Rovner Dark Ligature

## **Saxophones**

**Required:**

- 1 box of 10 reeds; Vandoren, strength 3
- Neck strap: Neotech is recommended
- Cleaning swab

**Highly Recommended:**

- Good quality mouthpiece and ligature. (Most mouthpieces and ligatures that come with student saxophones are of very poor quality). A high quality mouthpiece and ligature can make a student instrument sound like a newer, more professional model. If the student is playing on the same mouthpiece they had when they first bought the instrument, it is time for an upgrade. Recommended brands:

David Hite Premier (excellent quality and value)

Selmer C-star (top quality)

Rovner Dark Ligature

**Double Reeds: consult your private teacher**

## French Horn

### Required:

- Rotor oil and slide grease

### Highly recommended:

- Schilke #29 mouthpiece or Holton/Farkas MDC 29 mouthpiece
- Mouthpiece brush

## Trumpet

### Required:

- Straight mute. Recommended brands:
  - Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)
  - Humes and Berg stone lined mute
- Valve Oil. Recommended: Al Cass
- Tuning slide grease

### Highly Recommended:

- Bach 3C mouthpiece
- Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake

## Trombone

### Required:

- Yamaha Slide cream and spray water bottle OR Slide-o-Mix Trombone Lubricant
- Straight mute. Recommended brands:
  - Jo-Ral metal straight mute (top quality)
  - Humes and Berg stone lined mute

### Highly Recommended:

- Bach 6 ½ mouthpiece
- Tuning slide grease
- Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake

## Euphonium/Tuba

### Required:

- Valve Oil: recommended: Al Cass

### Highly Recommended:

- Bach 6 ½ mouthpiece for euphonium—see Mr. Gage for tuba recommendations
- slide grease                      Mouthpiece brush

## Percussionists

- 1 pair of general concert snare drum sticks. Recommended: Vic Firth SD1 General.

# DHHS Bands Contract

**Due: Friday, September 23rd**

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

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply, sign below, and return to Mr. Gage by Friday, September 23rd.**

\_\_\_\_\_ We have read and understand the policy regarding attendance at concert band and marching band performances.

\_\_\_\_\_ We have read and understand the list of equipment required for participation in band.

\_\_\_\_\_ We have received the calendar of performances for the 2016-17 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ We are aware that any updates to the schedule will be posted on the DHHS Tiger Bands webpage and emailed to us.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(if you're not already receiving my emails or you need to change your address):

**Parent Email 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Email 2** \_\_\_\_\_