

DEER LAKES HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND
HANDBOOK



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Deer Lakes High School Marching Band is to promote the skills and techniques necessary for advancement in the art of music and visual performance. In addition, student-performers will be taught valuable lessons in teamwork, leadership and responsibility through individual and ensemble practices and performances. It is our goal to develop both physical skills as well as character building traits to promote well-rounded student-performers.

Students will achieve success through hard work and dedication and will develop individual accountability from their responsibilities as a team member.

The Deer Lakes High School Marching Band Handbook

I. **Participation Requirements**

- a. Any student in grades 9-12 is eligible to participate in the Deer Lakes High School Marching Band.
- b. Students in 8th grade may be eligible to participate at the discretion of the Director.
- c. Students must meet district policy requirements to participate in extracurricular activities.
- d. Students must meet all practice and performance requirements to maintain their eligibility.
- e. Students must meet all financial requirements to maintain their eligibility.

II. **Schedule**

- a. Schedules will be released prior to the beginning of the season and will include all practices and performances.
- b. The schedule will be available for all students and parents online at www.deerlakesbands.org/calendar

III. **Practices**

- a. Practices will be held at the High School Campus on the following days and times:
 - i. Mondays 3-6pm (winds and percussion only)
 - ii. Tuesdays 3-6pm (colorguard only)
 - iii. Wednesdays 3-6pm (full ensemble)
- b. Saturday practices will be held on days of competitions.
 - i. Please see the calendar for official dates and times as they may vary.
- c. ALL practices are **MANDATORY** for ALL participants.

IV. **Performances**

- a. Performances include several varying types and styles including:
 - i. Football Games
 - ii. **PIMBA** Competitions
 - iii. **BOA** Regional Championships / **US Bands** National Championships
 - iv. **AKV** Marching Band Festival
 - v. Parades and Community Events
- b. Please see the calendar for official dates, times and locations of the performances.
- c. Performances are **MANDATORY** for all participants

- i. Failure to attend a performance due to an **unexcused** absence will result in suspension from the next scheduled performance.*

V. Attendance

- a. Attendance is **MANDATORY** at all practices and performances.*
- b. Absences are categorized as either **Excused** or **Unexcused** and are categorized at the discretion of the director.*
 - i. **Excused Absences***
 - 1. An event in which the student/family has no control over and cannot be rescheduled. (Extreme Illness, death in the family, religious events, etc.)*
 - For absences to be considered excused, a written excuse from a parent must be submitted **two weeks** prior to the absence, unless in the case of an **EMERGENCY** in which a doctor's note will be accepted following the emergency.*
 - 2. **School-Affiliated Activities***
 - any activity that is sponsored by the school district (i.e. sports, National Honor Society, Best Buddies, Drama, etc.)*
 - ii. **Unexcused Absences***
 - 1. An event the student/family can control and can be rescheduled. (Employment, "routine" doctor's appointments, birthday parties, etc.)*
 - In accordance with PA School Code, to be excused for "personal reasons" is an unexcused absence.*
 - 2. **Non School-Affiliated Activities***
 - activities that are independent of the school district (i.e., club sports, dance classes, employment, etc.)*
 - iii. **No-Call, No-Show***
 - 1. Failure to notify the Director of a rehearsal absence, regardless of its excusal status, will be assessed an unexcused absence.*
 - 2. Failure to notify the director of a performance absence will be suspended for the next scheduled performance, and may jeopardize their participation in the ensemble.*
- c. Students that accumulate **3 unexcused absences** will be **suspended** for the next performance date following their 3rd absence. Each additional unexcused absence thereafter will result in suspension.*
- d. No student may have two **consecutive** unexcused absences.*
 - i. Failure to attend consecutive rehearsals will result in suspension from the next scheduled performance.*
- e. **Student-Athletes** are a vital part of the public school system, and no one encourages participation in athletics more than the Deer Lakes Marching Band staff. Athletes and musicians share a common trait in that they practice very hard to become successful at what they do. We understand that juggling two schedules can prove to be difficult. Follow this hierarchy to help maximize your growth and participation in multiple activities:*

BOA Regionals, US Bands National Championships and PIMBA Championships
WPIAL **Section** Games
PIMBA Competitions and Festival Performances (AKV and Football Games)
WPIAL **Non-Section** Games
Rehearsal / Practice (*should be divided equally*)

- f. Students with jobs should be sure to keep their band schedule in mind when making their work schedule. Employers will cooperate when scheduling around school activities if given proper notice. Remember, your marching band schedule will come out approximately two months in advance.*
- g. It is required, in accordance with the Deer Lakes Student Handbook, that students attend school the day of an activity. Please read and understand the Attendance Policies in the Deer Lakes School District Student Handbook in regards to extra-curricular participation. Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared **IN ADVANCE** with the principal and the director.*

VI. Uniforms

- a. Uniforms will be provided by the Deer Lakes School District and will be distributed before the start of the performance season.*
- b. Uniforms are cared for and maintained by both the Deer Lakes School District and the Deer Lakes Band Boosters and will be returned at the end of the performance season.*
- c. Students will be responsible for the replacement or repair of any piece of the uniform if the damages are due to **neglect or mistreatment**.*
 - i. **Neglect or Mistreatment***
 - 1. Lost or stolen*
 - 2. Use other than how intended.*
 - ii. Determining neglect or mistreatment is at the discretion of the Director. All other “wear and tear” of uniforms will be handled by the Deer Lakes School District or Deer Lakes Band Boosters.*
- d. Uniforms will be required (unless otherwise directed) for ALL performances. Failure to have ALL parts to the uniform will result in suspension from performance. Students are expected to be responsible for the uniform that is issued to them.*

VII. Instruments / Equipment

- a. The Deer Lakes School District, as well as the Deer Lakes Band Boosters, have provided you with high quality instruments and equipment (i.e., instruments, electronics, carts, etc.).*
- b. Equipment is cared for and maintained by both the Deer Lakes School District and the Deer Lakes Band Boosters.*
- c. Students will be responsible for the replacement or repair of any piece of equipment if the damages are due to neglect or mistreatment (see above).*

d. Student Usage - Issuance

- i. Students in need of equipment will be provided with the necessary instrument or equipment.*
- ii. Instruments must be signed out and will then become the responsibility of the student to whom it was issued to. Responsibilities include the care and maintenance of that specific instrument.*
 - 1. Instruments will be issued in proper working condition.*
 - 2. Instruments must be returned in proper working condition.*

VIII. Discipline

- a. All rules contained in the Deer Lakes High School Handbook must be observed at all times. The DLHS Student Handbook takes precedent over and rule contained in this handbook. Students involved in a school-related activity, whether during or after school hours at a performance, practice or trip is subject to all rules of both handbooks.*
 - i. Any behavior in violation of these rules will be handled under the guidelines established by the Deer Lakes Board of Education in the DLHS Student Handbook. Failure to observe these rules can also result in suspension or expulsion from the Ensemble should the situation warrant such an extreme consequence.*
- b. Members of the Deer Lakes Marching Band represent the Deer Lakes School District at the Local, Regional and National level. These members understand that they will be held to a higher standard in order to give everyone the best impression of our program and our district.*

IX. Financial Obligations

- a. Financial Obligations are a vital part to the success of the program. These obligations help cover above and beyond what the district is able to provide. The financial obligation is broken down as follows:*
 - i. Instructor Fees*
 - ii. Props / Materials*
 - iii. Camp (T-shirts and Meals)*
 - iv. Bands of America or US Bands*
 - v. Volunteer Fee*
- b. Families **MUST** meet their financial obligations in order for the students to be guaranteed participation. Failure to meet your obligation will result in suspension from the activity.*
 - i. Please speak directly with the Band Booster Treasurer to discuss payment options.*
- c. The deadline for payment is the **Summer Meeting**.*
- d. Checks should be made payable to "Deer Lakes Band Boosters."*

On behalf of the Deer Lakes High School Marching Band and the entire Deer Lakes Band Programs, I would like to wish luck to all participants in this upcoming competitive marching band season! I am excited to see so many kids interested in the Deer Lakes Band Programs and wish all of the students the most success!

- Mr. Snyder