

Deer Lakes Middle School
Winterguard
Handbook

2016

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Deer Lakes Middle School Winterguard Ensemble is to promote the skills and techniques necessary for advancement in the art of 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.

I. Participation Requirements

- a. *Any student in grades 6-8 is eligible to participate in the Deer Lakes Middle School Winterguard Ensemble.*
- b. *Students must meet district policy requirements to participate in extra-curricular activities.*
- c. *Students must meet all practice and performance 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 after school in the High School Cafeteria on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3pm-5:30pm.*
- b. *Saturday practices will occur before competitions.*
 - i. *Please see the calendar for official dates and times as they may vary.*
- c. *ALL practices are mandatory for all participants.*
- d. *Students are expected to come to practices fully prepared to rehearse.*
- e. *If a student is absent or sits out of excessive portions of practice prior to a performance, the student's participation in the performance is at the discretion of the instructors.*

IV. Performances

- a. *Performances are on Saturdays beginning in January and continuing through March.*
- 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.*
- d. *Students will be required to wear jeans and Deer Lakes apparel after their performance at each competition.*

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.)*
 - ii. **Unexcused Absences**
 - 1. *An event the student/family can control and can be rescheduled. (Employment, "routine" doctor's appointments, birthday parties, etc.)*
- c. *In accordance with PA School Code, to be excused for "personal reasons" is an unexcused absence.*
- d. *Students that accumulate 3 unexcused absences will be suspended for the next performance date. Each additional unexcused absence will result in suspension as well.*
- e. *No student may miss two consecutive rehearsals. Failure to attend consecutive rehearsal will result in suspension from the next scheduled performance.*
- f. *It is required in the DLMS Student Handbook that students attend school the day of an activity. Students must be in school for at least half of the school day. Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared IN ADVANCE with the principal and the instructor.*
- g. *It is the responsibility of the student to learn all work or drill that was taught while absent or sitting out of practice prior to the next practice or performance.*

VI. Equipment / Uniforms

- a. *Equipment and Uniforms will be provided by the Deer Lakes Band Programs and will be distributed before the start of the performance season.*
- b. *Equipment and Uniforms are cared for and maintained by the Deer Lakes Band Programs 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 equipment or uniform if the damages are due to neglect or mistreatment.*
 - i. **Neglect of Mistreatment**
 - 1. *Lost or stolen*
 - 2. *Use other than how intended.*
- d. *All other wear and tear of equipment and/or uniforms will be handled by the Deer Lakes Band Programs.*

VII. Discipline

- a. *All rules contained in the Deer Lakes Middle School Handbook must be observed at all times. The DLMS 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.*
- b. *Any behavior in violation of these rules will be handled under the guidelines established by the Deer Lakes Board of Education in the DLMS 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.*

VIII. Financial Obligations

- a. *The financial obligation for the 2016 season is **\$125** / student and is broken down as follows:*
 - i. *Uniform- \$10*
 - ii. *Equipment- \$20*
 - iii. *Instructor Fees- \$45*
 - iv. *T-Shirt- \$15*
 - v. *Props / Materials- \$35*
- 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.*
- c. *Payments will be broken down into two (2) installments. The first non-refundable installment of **\$75** will be due on or before **December 15th**.*
- d. *The deadline for the final payment of **\$50** is **January 15th**.*
- e. *Checks should be made payable to "Deer Lakes Band Boosters."*
- f. *You may make your payment of \$125 in full at any time before December 15th.*

On behalf of the Middle School Winterguard Ensemble and the entire Deer Lakes Band Programs, I would like to wish luck to all participants in this upcoming TRWEA Indoor Season! I am excited to see so many girls interested in the Winterguard and Colorguard Programs and wish all of the girls the most success!

- Mr. Snyder

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I have read, understood and will adhere to the rules, regulations and consequences listed and stated in the Deer Lakes Middle School Winterguard Ensemble Handbook. I have also discussed and read over with my parents / guardians and they too understood and will abide by the given rules and consequences.

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Must be returned by Monday, November 16th
(failure to submit will result in suspension from practice)