

**Dunwoody High School**

**Band Parent Handbook**



**2011-2012 School Year**



**Dear Dunwoody Band Parents:**

Welcome to the award-winning Dunwoody High School Band! I'm Will Henderson and I am so very proud to be the Director of Bands at DHS. We strive for excellence every day at DHS. In order to make that possible, we need you. Many groups working in concert will help us achieve our goal of having the best and most respected band program in DeKalb County and the State of Georgia. Well-informed and active Band Parents are critical in every phase of our Band Program.

That's why this handbook was created.

We've included calendars to keep your schedule running smoothly; glossaries to define terms that may not be familiar to you; expectations for band students so you understand what our goals are; and opportunities for you to volunteer your time or expertise. It is designed to give you all of the information that your family will need to maximize your Dunwoody Band experience.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the DHS Band Booster Board members listed inside. You may also feel free to contact me at [mailto:William\\_w\\_henderson@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:William_w_henderson@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us), or at my office at 678-8748569.

I am very excited about the 2011-2012 school year. With all of us working together, it's going to be another great year for the Dunwoody High School Band!

Onward and upward!



Will Henderson  
Director of Bands  
Dunwoody High School



# DHS Band Parent Handbook

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# Band Boosters

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## What is a Band Booster?

If you have a child participating in:

- ❖ a band class
- ❖ the DHS Marching Band -including Color Guard
- ❖ Concert or Symphonic Band

you are a Band Booster. All parents of band students are automatically members of the Dunwoody High School (DHS) Band Boosters, and we anticipate you will want to be involved with the band program. We are all about support... support of our kids, the Band Director and the overall band program.

## What is the purpose of Band Boosters?

The main goal is to support and encourage our kids. We want the DHS Band Program to be the best it can be. We coordinate band activities and raise money for the program... and we all volunteer, volunteer, volunteer! The Band Boosters is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is led by a Board of Directors and band parents just like you.

## 2011-2012 DHS Band Boosters Board

Position	Name	Email
Co-President	Carole Last	<a href="mailto:carolelast@comcast.net">carolelast@comcast.net</a>
Co-President	Susan Levy	<a href="mailto:susan@levycodev.com">susan@levycodev.com</a>
Vice President	Ashley Gray	<a href="mailto:msashleygray@yahoo.com">msashleygray@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Joe Jackson	<a href="mailto:joe_jackson_sr@me.com">joe_jackson_sr@me.com</a>
Vice President	Lynn Vargas	<a href="mailto:tostygirl@yahoo.com">tostygirl@yahoo.com</a>
Co-Treasurer	John Kriek	<a href="mailto:jkriek@yahoo.com">jkriek@yahoo.com</a>
Co-Treasurer	Pam Shackelford	<a href="mailto:ladybookelf@yahoo.com">ladybookelf@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Karen Patterson	<a href="mailto:patterson_gnkt@bellsouth.net">patterson_gnkt@bellsouth.net</a>
Band Director	Will Henderson	<a href="mailto:william_w_henderson@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us">william_w_henderson@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us</a>

# How can I get involved?

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## **PARENTAL BAND “GROUPIES” WANTED! WHO DO I CONTACT?**

Our students can play their instruments, but parents are the “groupies, roadies and backup band,” helping behind the scenes to contribute to band success. All of us parents need to serve as volunteers --there are many, many ways to help out. Below we've listed a number of opportunities and who to contact to volunteer. Please help where you can . . . our kids' band program needs all of us to make it work!

### **Public Relations/Fund Raising - Susan Levy, Carole Last**

- ❖ Coordinate or assist in fund-raisers like:
  - Car Washes
  - Fruit Sale (Fall)
  - Flower Sale (Fall, Spring)
- ❖ Organize fund-raising events with local restaurants/businesses
- ❖ Secure corporate donations/sponsorships
- ❖ Work with the media to support and publicize the DHS Band (e.g., Dunwoody Crier, Dunwoody Reporter, N. DeKalb Neighbor, Dunwoody Blogs, television)
- ❖ Publicize and garner support for “Just \$50 from 1000” ([www.just50from1000.org](http://www.just50from1000.org))

### **Special Events -Ashley Gray**

- ❖ Coordinate, assist with, or serve as chaperone for:
  - Marching Band Camp (July)
  - “Light Up Dunwoody” Parade (November)
  - Dunwoody Music Festival (Fall)
  - Battle of the Bands (Winter)
  - UGA JanFest
  - Spring Trip
  - July 4th Parade
- ❖ Coordinate, serve food, or prepare decorations for:
  - Football night dinners (August – November)
  - Senior Dinner (October)
  - 8th Grade night (September)
  - Band banquet (May)
  - Band concerts
  - Symphonic band camp (February)

### **Operations -Joe Jackson, Lynn Vargas**

- ❖ This is an area where many of your special skills can be put to use:
  - Photograph or video the band students and performances
  - Chaperone on the buses at football games or concerts
  - Coordinate transportation (truck rental)

- Coordinate or serve as part of the property crew (loading/unloading band property/equipment for games and performances; maneuvering band equipment into position for the performance)
- Coordinate or serve as part of the construction crew (assist with any construction projects that arise, like building shelving or platforms)
- Announce the band at football games
- Serve as a liaison between the band, cheerleaders and football team
- Coordinate spirit wear purchases
- Coordinate or assist with uniforms and concert wear, including inventory
- Help distribute uniforms and hats on game days or before performances
- Coordinate or assist with instrument inventory

### **How will I know what is going on or when help is needed?**

There is a lot happening during the school year and as a first time band parent, it can be very overwhelming. Our job is to make sure you are informed and have a place to go with questions.

- ❖ Check the Band Website at <http://www.dunwoodybands.org>
- ❖ Review volunteer events in the [Charms Office](#) system
- ❖ Read the e-mails you receive related to the band program
- ❖ Attend Band Booster Meetings
- ❖ Read this Band Parent Handbook
- ❖ Read the Band Handbook

## Charms Office

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### **What is the Charms Office system?**

All record-keeping information related to your child is stored in our band web-based, data system, known as Charms Office. This web system is used to send out all band communications, to track your financials and to track your child's uniform and instrument records. You have the ability to change your contact information, sign up to volunteer, review your financial records, and access required forms, to name a few capabilities. To launch Charms Office, go to the band website at <http://www.dunwoodybands.org> and click "Charms Office Assistant". You will receive information about how to use Charms Office.

# DHS Band Organizations

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## What is this year's band schedule?

Please view the calendar on our website at <http://www.dunwoodybands.org> for the most up-to-date information. [Click here for the schedule as of July 17, 2011](#)

## 2011-2012 DHS Band Officers

Position	Name
Drum Major	Oliver Ni
Woodwind Captain	Natalie Beckenbaugh
Brass Captain	Aaron Klein
Flute Section Leader	Casey Moorhead
Assistant Flute Section Leader	Lynsey Turner
Clarinet Section Leaders	Rebekah Helfgot and Zachia Gray
Clarinet Assistant Section Leader	Ashley Webber
Saxophone Section Leader	Jerome Reedy
Trumpet Section Leader	John Michael Heidbreder
Trumpet Assistant Section Leader	Drew Bridges
Horn Section Leader	Conor Wheeler
Trombone Section Leader	Taylor Saye
Baritone Section Leader	Nate Galerstein
Tuba Section Leader	Josh Galerstein
Percussion Captain	Joseph Jackson
Percussion Assistant Captain	Jonathan Kriek
Pit Captain	Amy Patterson
Color Guard Captains	Beth Carroll and Pam Mosteller
Librarians	Alex Cameron and Natalie Beckenbaugh
Attendance Secretary	Devin Shackelford
Big Brother/Big Sister Program	Aaron Klein

## Marching Band

### 1. Who can participate in Marching Band?

Marching Band is an extracurricular volunteer musical ensemble at Dunwoody High School. It is open to all DHS students.

### 2. What are Marching Band members expected to do?

- ❖ Attend and perform in:
  - Band Camp and Pre-Band Camp
  - Rehearsals

- Varsity football game halftime and in-stand performances (entire season, including any play-offs and championships)
- Parades or Community Events (e.g., City of Dunwoody July 4th Parade, DHS Homecoming Parade, Light up Dunwoody Parade, Dunwoody Music Festival)
- Marching band competitions/contests

### **3. What is band camp and pre-band camp?**

Band camp is mandatory for all Marching Band students. This 6-day, overnight camp is held two weeks before school begins. Pre-band camp is held the week before band camp. There are full-day rehearsals for specific groups of students. There is also a kick-off meeting for all band parents that week.

### **4. Who should attend Rookie Camp?**

Marching Band Rookie camps are for Rising 9th graders, students who have never been in the DHS Marching Band, all percussionists, Section leaders, and Color Guard.

### **5. What is the band's practice schedule?**

Please see the band calendar on our website at <http://www.dunwoodybands.org> for the most up-to-date information. For a glance at the tentative schedule, see Attachment I of this handbook.

### **6. Does my student need anything special for practices?**

Students should bring a water bottle for practices. Water coolers are available on the field for refilling water bottles as needed.

### **7. What is our football schedule?**

The football schedule is posted on the DeKalb County School System website at the beginning of the school year: [www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/athletics/schedules.html](http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/athletics/schedules.html). You may also reference our band calendar at <http://www.dunwoodybands.org>.

### **8. Where is our stadium?**

Dunwoody High School does not have a football stadium on our campus. Our home games are played at North DeKalb Stadium, which is behind Chamblee High School on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road.

### **9. Does the band play at away games?**

Yes, the band plays in the stands and performs a halftime show at all games. The only exceptions to this are games such as Homecoming and Senior Night, which have special halftime activities. The band will play in the stands at these games, and will have a special role during halftime, but will not perform the halftime show. The DeKalb County stadiums are listed at [www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/athletics/index/stadiums](http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/athletics/index/stadiums).



## **10. How do band students get to the games?**

The band travels by school bus from DHS to all games, home and away. Students return by bus to Dunwoody, where they are picked up by their parents. Parents do not have to come to the band room, but can meet their children in front of the school by the gym entrance.

## **11. What is the band's schedule for game days?**

For Friday (or school day) games, band students report to the band room after school. Depending on the time of the game and how much travel time is required, the band may have a short run-through of the show. Students have dinner in the cafeteria and then change into their uniforms. When a game requires an early departure, box dinners are provided for the students to eat en route on the buses.

Sometimes varsity football games are played on Saturdays (or non-school days). For these games, the students meet at DHS, usually about 2 hours before game time. Meals are not typically provided for these games.

The Dunwoody band performs the National Anthem at the beginning of the game (during home games), plays in the stands throughout the first half, and performs their field show during halftime. Band members are given a short break during third quarter, after which they continue to play in the stands until the end of the game.

After the game, students return by bus to DHS (when they arrive at the school, it's recommended that the students call their parents for pick up). After arrival, students are required to help unload the equipment. Afterwards, the students go to the band room, change out of their uniforms, retrieve their belongings, and are dismissed as a group. Students then return to the parking lot in front of the gym entrance to await parent pick up, generally around 11:00 p.m. (although the time varies).

Detailed itineraries will be sent to you each week, including game time, stadium location and any special instructions.

## **12. What do the students wear for games?**

For the first few football games, students will wear their band t-shirts, khaki shorts, and tennis shoes with white socks or black marching shoes with black socks. Shorts should fit the school dress code guidelines. Specific instructions will be provided to students/parents the week of the football game.

Students will then be in their full band uniforms for the remaining football games. Uniforms consist of the following pieces: bibbers (pants), jacket, marching hat, black calf-length or higher socks, black marching shoes, and gloves. The bibbers, jackets, and hats are kept in the band room and do not go home with the students. Each student is assigned a specific uniform and hat, and is given one pair of gloves. Students should store their gloves in their hat boxes between games. Replacement gloves are \$5 per pair.

Students should bring black socks and their marching shoes to school on game days, and wear lightweight gym shorts and their band t-shirt, which are worn under the uniform. When the weather gets colder, long sleeve t-shirts and long underwear or

leggings can be added for warmth. Lightweight sweatshirts can be worn if they fit comfortably under the uniform jacket, but NO hoodies or turtlenecks may be worn. Hats or caps can be worn for warmth in the stands, but not on the field.

Girls' hair needs to be tucked inside the marching hats. Most girls with long hair find it easiest to start with a ponytail.

### **13. What should my student bring to games?**

There is a small pocket on the inside of the bibbers if students want to bring a cell phone and a small amount of cash to use at the concession stand during their break. Backpacks and purses are left locked in the band room, as there is not room for them on the buses. Once at the stadium, students will leave their hat boxes and instrument cases on the bus. Please do not allow your student to bring valuables or large amounts of cash on game days, even if they plan to leave them in a backpack or purse. Even though the band room is locked, items have disappeared in the past. Leaving items on the bus is not a good alternative, because the buses are not always secured while at the stadium.

### **14. How do I get tickets to go to the football games?**

Tickets for regular season games are available at the stadium. Playoff tickets often require an advance purchase by sending money in to school with your student the week of the game. Admission price last year at DeKalb County stadiums was \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$5 for seniors. Prices may be different at other stadiums. Parents who volunteer as chaperones ride the buses with the students and are admitted free to the games.

Note: Family is encouraged to attend football games and support the band! If you will be at the game, please let the Property Crew Coordinator know if you can help move equipment to the field during the 2nd quarter for the halftime show.

### **15. Where can I find directions to the stadiums?**

Directions to all of the DeKalb County School System stadiums can be found on the DCSS website, at the following url: <http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/athletics/stadiums.html>

### **16. What happens if it rains?**

Football games are played in the rain, so usually the band plays as well.

## **Concert/Symphonic Band**

The goal in 2011 is to have two performing concert bands based on the results of an audition. The more advanced group will be called Symphonic Band, and the intermediate group will be called Concert Band. They perform at several concerts throughout the school year and at DHS Graduation; they also perform with other District schools for a panel of judges during "Festival" in March. Students in band class are required to participate in Concert/Symphonic Band. Students not in band class, but who wish to participate, should see Mr. Henderson.

## **When do the Concert and Symphonic Bands perform?**

Watch the band website at <http://www.dunwoodybands.org> for performance schedules

## **What should my student wear to a performance?**

During some performances, your student will wear a black outfit: males in black slacks and black shirt, and females in black skirt or dressy slacks and black top. For more formal performances, your student will wear concert attire: males in tuxedo jackets and slacks, and females in long black dresses. Specific instructions will be provided to students/parents before each concert.

## **Jazz Band**

The Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble chosen by audition each Fall. The group practices in the mornings one day a week beginning in early October. They play at the annual concert in December and for other school and community events throughout the year.

## **GMEA Band Organizations**

The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) organizes and carries out the All-State performance program in order to allow the selected students an opportunity to work with other students of equal caliber under the direction of highly qualified conductors. Each student auditions on a statewide basis and is selected on merit when judged by professionals against all other applicants across the state. Selection to All-State is recognition of excellence in musical knowledge, technique, and interpretation. See <http://www.gmea.org/Divisions/Band/Band.htm> and <http://www.gmea.org/Information/Handbook/Handbookpage.htm>.

## **All-State Jazz Ensemble**

The GMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble is chosen by competitive audition in September and October and performs at the annual GMEA Convention held each January.

## **All-State Band**

The GMEA All-State Band is comprised of the finest musicians in the State of Georgia. There is one All-State Band for grades 9 and 10, two All-State Bands for grades 10 and 11 and a small number of wind and percussion players will be selected for the respective grade level All-State Orchestras.

The application deadline is in September. Membership is chosen as follows: (1) Students audition at the District level in December; (2) the students who passed the District audition attend the State level audition in January in Middle Georgia. Selected students will be notified of acceptance through their Director and will participate in the All-State Band and Orchestra the first weekend in March.

## **Honor Band**

The GMEA District IV Honor Band is held in February each year and usually covers all day Friday and Saturday, culminating in a concert late Saturday afternoon. Members are selected from the students who pass the district level All-State audition. The application deadline is in September.

## **GMEA Solo and Ensemble**

Solo and Ensemble Festival is an event held each Spring in which students participate in a variety of ensembles and solo performances for a judge. Applications and fees are due in February.

## **UGA JanFest**

The University of Georgia Honor Band Festival is an event held annually each January in Athens, GA. Participants are first nominated by the Director and then accepted by the UGA School of Music. Dunwoody has historically sent between 10 and 15 participants each year. Applications are accepted in late October/early November for this event and participants are selected by UGA in December.

See <http://bands.music.uga.edu/festivalcamps/janfest/>

# **OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST**

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## **Spring Trip**

The band takes a trip each year during Spring Semester. Details about a possible trip will be distributed to the band in September. Any member of the Marching Band is eligible to participate in this trip. In addition, any student who participates in Band class for at least one semester may also participate.

## **What awards and recognition are available to my child?**

- ❖ Your child will receive a Band Letter his/her first year, followed by a chevron for each subsequent year
- ❖ At the end of each year, the Director gives out special awards to outstanding students

## **See the Band Handbook for information about:**

- ❖ DHS Band Instructors
- ❖ Instruments
- ❖ Marching Band uniforms and Concert attire
- ❖ Expectations regarding private lessons and school-provided lessons

# Glossary of Terms

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**UGA JanFest** - The University of Georgia Honor Band Festival is an event held annually each January in Athens, GA. Participants are first nominated by the director and then accepted by the UGA School of Music. The first two nominees are automatically accepted. For this reason Mr. Henderson always nominates Seniors first, as this is their last opportunity to participate in this event. Dunwoody has historically sent between 10 and 15 participants each year. Applications are accepted in November for this event and participants are selected by UGA in December.

**GMEA Solo and Ensemble** - Solo and Ensemble Festival is an event held each spring in which students participate in a variety of ensembles and solo performances for a judge. The pieces are selected by the students. Applications and fees are due in February.

**Jazz Band** - The Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble chosen by audition each Fall. The group practices in the mornings one day a week beginning in early October.

**All-State Band** - The GMEA All-State Band is comprised of the finest musicians in the State of Georgia. Membership is chosen as follows:

- ❖ Students audition at the District level in December. There is a minimum passing score that each student on each instrument must exceed to pass to the state level audition. The District audition consists of prescribed scales determined by grade (downloadable at <http://www.gmea.org/Divisions/Band/All%20State%20Band/AllStateBand.htm>), a lyrical etude downloadable at the same site, the chromatic scale, and sight-reading.
- ❖ The students who passed the District audition attend the State level audition in January in Middle Georgia. The final audition consists of a lyrical etude, a technical etude and sight-reading.

Again, all audition materials are downloadable from the site listed above. There is one All-State Band for grades 9 and 10, two All-State Bands for grades 10 and 11 and a small number of wind and percussion players will be selected for the respective grade level All-State Orchestras.

Selected students will be notified of acceptance through their Director and will participate in the All-State Band and Orchestra the first weekend in March.

**Honor Band** - The GMEA District IV Honor Band I held in February each year and usually covers all day Friday and Saturday, culminating in a concert late Saturday afternoon. Members are selected from the students who pass the district level All-State audition.

## Glossary of Terms Continued

**Concert/Symphonic Band** - The goal in 2011 is to have to performing concert bands based on the results of an audition. The more advanced group will be called Symphonic Band, and the intermediate group will be called Concert Band. We are well aware of the scheduling difficulties at have historically been very flexible with allowing students who want to perform but have class conflicts to participate when possible. Daily music instruction always results in better performance, so students should make every effort to participate in class. Incidents of students who can't register for Band will be dealt with on a case by case basis.