



DSMA

# BAND HANDBOOK

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear, Parents, Students and Members of the D.S.M.A.:

I would like to welcome all of you to another school year filled with music from all of our performing groups.

This Handbook was designed to help answer some of the questions you may have regarding your students participation in the program.

This handbook **DOES NOT REPLACE** any of the rules established by the Music Department or the official High School Handbook.

The DSMA is a non-profit parent support group that raises the needed funds to support all phases of the Dartmouth School Music Program from the elementary level up to the high school...

I hope you enjoy watching and participating in all the activities that the Dartmouth Schools Music Department and the D.S.M.A. have to offer. I encourage you to get involved. I am sure that you will make new friendships and enjoy taking part in your child's music education. The organization strives to make your child's experience in the music program a positive and fulfilling one; while ensuring that our phenomenal music program continues to thrive.

As the saying goes "It takes a village to raise a child", at D.S.M.A., we say... "It takes volunteers to keep the pride of Dartmouth ON TOP. We have many committees that require varying degrees of participation. I hope that you will become a part of one or more of these.

As with years past we will be met with many budgetary challenges. Now, more than ever, the D.S.M.A. will be called upon to fund these shortfalls. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

I look forward to working with many of you this upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



President, D.S.M.A.

To stay informed, you can log onto our Face Book Page or visit the D.S.M.A.'s web site for information regarding competitions and other events of the music program.

([www.DSMAHOME.org](http://www.DSMAHOME.org))



## UNIFORMS

You will be given a detailed sheet outlining the do's and don't for the handling and care of any garment issued to your child.

- The Color guard uniform(s) vary from year to year
- The Band uniform consists of green/white jacket, green pants,, white bib pants, shako (hat) and foul weather gear.
- Drum majors are issued uniforms that are white, trimmed in green.

ORDER FORMS FOR SHOES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION DURING BAND CAMP. If you should have any questions, please see the Uniform Committee for information. They are in charge of the uniforms.

There are only two (2) major rules regarding the uniforms:

1. **DO NOT CUT ANY PART OF THE UNIFORM FOR ANY REASON!!!**  
You can hem the uniform to lengthen or shorten the jacket sleeves (band only) and pant legs (Band and Color guard) to fit your child.
2. **UNIFORMS MUST BE KEPT CLEAN.**

The Band uniform is machine washable using the manufacturer's instructions. The white pants on the band uniform must be machine washed in warm water, no chlorine bleach. As always spray-n-wash can be used for tough stains on white pants.

**GARMENT BAGS:** Garment bags will be offered to the band students at a cost of **\$15/bag**. NO markup has been added, This is the cost to the DSMA. This is a **required** part of the Marching band uniform and is non-negotiable. It is important for the bags to be identical to compliment the new z-racs that have been purchased for the band truck. This new system should expedite the "load-on & load-off" process that occurs for every show/game etc...

## **HELPFUL HINTS FOR COLOR GUARD PARENTS:**

Extra items that are useful should be kept in your child's garment bag such as:

- An extra pair of gloves (see instructor for type)
- An extra pair of tights that match the uniform
- Baby wipes to remove make-up that is worn for shows
- Plastic bags (Shaw's or Stop & Shop)
- Cosmetic bag or case
- Safety pins
- Bobby pins

All parts of the uniform need to be kept together before competitions. Uniforms should be in a travel-type garment bag that is clearly labeled with your child's name. Most competitions will require that your child bring a lunch/supper. A small cooler clearly marked with your child's name on it, is a great idea. Make sure your child has enough snacks and drinks to last the day and/or evening.

## **HELPFUL HINTS FOR BAND PARENTS:**

The inside collar of the band jacket is snapped on and can be removed and washed in hot water with chlorine bleach to remove the neck grime that accumulates. This is the only part of the uniform that can use chlorine bleach.

All uniform parts issued have a number on them. You may want to jot these numbers down somewhere for future reference as the cleaners may accidentally give you someone else's uniform or your child might pick up the wrong uniform part.

Uniforms are to be hung in garment bags. Name tags must also be on the garment bag for easy identification. If your child takes the time to hang up his/her uniform correctly, it should remain wrinkle-free. Foul weather gear should also be kept in the garment bag to have if needed.

Generally, green pants are worn for football games and white pants for field show performances.

When wearing white pants, please be aware of the following:

- White shorts underwear or white thermals/white "under armor" (hot/cold gear) must be worn underneath.

If any uniform (both Band and/or Color guard) should get wet, hang it up to dry completely before bringing it to the dry cleaners. It doesn't take long for mold to grow and ruin the uniform.

Over the years, veteran band parents have found that "extra" items should be kept in the garment bags. We suggest:



- An extra pair of shoe laces
- An extra pair of performance gloves (which can be purchased from the Band Director for approx \$3.00)
- Thermal underwear
- A plastic bag for shoes that get muddy (the two [2] gallon Ziploc bag is a good choice)
- Safety pins
- A small brush (in case polish gets on the uniform)
- Hand warmers

Please polish shoes at home BEFORE competitions. Shoes must be clean and polished white before every performance.

When students travel to field show-competitions, information sheets regarding rehearsal time, departure and arrival time are located just outside the band room at the "information center". Most competitions will require your child to bring a lunch or supper (sometimes both). Be sure you label your child's cooler for easy identification. What you provide your child for these meals is up to you, but you may want to pack something extra (there's that word again) in case the band is delayed for some reason.

## COMPETITIONS

All directions to the competitions are available on Thursday nights during and after practice. These are located in the Information Center just outside the Music Department Office. If not, please call Ms. Rhonda Clement, Secretary at the Music Office for directions (508) 961-2750.

At all competitions, there is an entrance fee for family and friends, anywhere from \$5.00 to \$8.00. Ticket sales for finals range from \$12.00 to \$20.00 (may be subject to change).

You may bring food and non-alcoholic drinks with you to the competitions or purchase food and drink at the host school's concession stands, which are usually present at all competitions.

Many competitions also have tables selling Band and Color guard merchandise such as T-shirts, pins, program books, etc. At finals, you can order video tapes of the competition or you can take the order form home and mail it out. Tapes range from \$25.00 to \$30.00. Personal video taping of final competitions is prohibited!

## **SCHOOL CONCERTS**

All concerts held at the High School generally have a ticket price of \$3.00 (students and senior citizens) and \$5.00 (adults) [cost is subject to change which can be purchased at the door prior to the performance.

Our Pops Concert ticket prices are also \$3.00 and \$5.00 (subject to change). These also can be purchased at the door. The Pops Concert is held in the High School gym and is sponsored by the Scholarship Committee to help raise funds for scholarships.

## **MEDICAL FORMS**

Medical forms will be sent home with your child. Please fill them out and send them back as soon as possible so that they can be referred to for medical problems during football games, concerts, trips, competitions and practices.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to watch the Band and/or Color guard drill practices held in the evenings.