



**DEWITT HIGH SCHOOL**

**MIGHTY DRAGON BAND STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

**2017**

A collaboration by Eric and Julie Rutherford, Dana Kemp, Cadence Rutherford, Brooklyn Rutherford, Camden Westfall, Molly Anderson, Lauren Kemp, Lauren Vansandt, McKensy Cummings, Noah Ward, Allie Roush, Jordan Davis, and Zontray Kendall.

\*\*\* The Band Handbook is on-line. Please read and review BEFORE signing and returning the DeWitt High School Permission and Emergency Release form found at the end of this handbook. We must have a Permission & Emergency Release form on file for every student.

DeWitt High School Band  
1614 S Grandview Dr.  
DeWitt, AR 72042

## **FORWARD**

**CONGRATULATIONS** on your decision to be part of the fine tradition of the **MIGHTY DRAGON BAND!** This booklet is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the band program. For any further information, please feel free to call the high school at 870-946-4661. Please check the band facebook for updates throughout the year at **Facebook/DeWitt High School Mighty Dragon Band.**

### **BAND FACULTY**

High School phone #870-946-4661  
Middle School phone #870-946-3708

Eric Rutherford, Director of Bands

Julie Rutherford, Junior High Band

### **REMIND TEXT SYSTEM**

**High School:** Text the number **81010** and the message **@dd547**  
**7-8th grade Junior Band:** Text the number **81010** and the message **@dd643**  
**Beginning Band:** Text the number **81010** and the message **@e2fc9**

You can receive messages from **us** AND send messages **to us** through this system.  
This is not a group chat.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The DeWitt Band Program has as its purpose to be a positive representation of our school and our community. In all that we do, we attempt to show what is best about DeWitt Schools and Arkansas County. This purpose is fulfilled not only by outstanding performance but also by behavior on a daily basis that reflects self-discipline and personal and group pride.

## **BAND ORGANIZATIONS**

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons”. The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the DeWitt High School band program:

### **MARCHING BAND**

The Mighty Dragon Marching Band is made up of all band students grades 9-12. The high school marching band performs at all DHS pep rallies, all DHS football games, and at marching assessment, marching contests and exhibitions.

**The High School Marching Band** rehearses 1st period daily at the DHS practice field and at 6:00pm - 8:00pm on Monday evenings.

The Mighty Dragon **Junior High Band** is made up of all band students grades 7-8. The junior high marching band performs at all DJH pep rallies, home DJH football games, and may have one away game. Other events may be scheduled as needed.

### **CONCERT BAND**

The DeWitt School concert bands are made up of all band students. The high school concert band meets 1<sup>st</sup> period. All members of the concert bands are expected to attend sectional rehearsals as needed. All 7-12 students are required to try-out for All-Region Band and 6-12 band members are required to be involved Region Solo & Ensemble Festival. All 6-12 students are required to perform at the Winter Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May.

## **PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

A yearly band calendar is enclosed for your use in planning your family schedule for school year. **Each** band student is important to the success of our many activities. We **must** be able to count on 100% attendance at these rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, PARENTS, please email a director at [erutherford@dewittdragons.net](mailto:erutherford@dewittdragons.net) or [jrutherford@dewittdragons.net](mailto:jrutherford@dewittdragons.net). Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will **try** to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance. Student job commitments and “select sports” are **NOT** reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! (Select sports are sports not associated with the school district.) Many band students work and participate in “select sports” and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the “Yearly Band Calendar” to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Ninety-nine percent of employers are very understanding and are flexible **if** they know of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a **required** and vital part of the course work. HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS: Work with employers to clear the Monday night rehearsals from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitment.) ***If a band student has multiple unexcused absences from performances/rehearsals, they are subject to possible removal from the band program.***

## REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a great deal more students at one time than do other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be **organized** and **prepared** for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his musical instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual. It is important that the student's musical instrument is in good working condition, that (s)he has a pencil to mark his music, and that (s)he has important accessories such as drill sheets, mutes, reeds, and valve oil for **EVERY** rehearsal. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the DeWitt High School Band will be counseled, and, if necessary, removed from band.

## GRADING

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm which is understandable, since we have the "cream-of-the-crop" of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they "want to," not because they "have to!" Band students receive a grade for each performance attended.... i.e., football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

Grading will be assessed the following ways:

Required after school practices: 50 Points

Pep Rally: 50 Points

Playing Tests: 20-100 Points

Performances: 100 Points

Excused absences can be made up with the band director's discretion

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by AAA and ASBOA. To be eligible at the high school level at the beginning of the school year, students must have earned at least a 2.0 GPA for the previous semester.

Any student who records a GPA of less than a 2.0 for a semester will be removed from band for the next semester Unless the student is enrolled into an SIP program as per AAA guidelines.

The band directors will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a curricular performance would be a spring concert and an extracurricular performance would be a football halftime or any type of contest. For this reason, an ineligible student cannot earn a grade for band. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The band staff and DeWitt High School staff work hard to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in **ALL** classes. Since both Marching Band and Concert Band are group activities, each individual band student plays an important part in the success of the group. The band staff consults both with teachers and students for strategies for improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a band unless our students are successfully passing **ALL** classes.

A student who is removed from band due to academic eligibility may join band again after have recording a 2.0 or higher GPA for a semester.

## **USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES**

Students are **welcome** to use the band hall and practice rooms for practice either before or after school. Due to the many **thousands** of dollars worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we do ask that **ONLY** band students come into the band hall during the school day **and** before or after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them outside. The Band Room is a “safe haven.” We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment in their cubbies at all times. If instruments are left out of their cubby or not in the case, they may be confiscated. Many times “clean-up” duty is assigned to those “untidy” housekeepers to help develop orderly skills.

## **SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS**

DeWitt School District provides a few school musical instruments. These instruments are quite costly (example: concert Tuba - \$6,000) and are not normally owned by individuals. All of these instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned as needed. **Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student’s expense. If the instrument is stolen while checked out to a student, it is the **student’s responsibility** to replace the instrument. Many parents carry an insurance rider to cover a checked-out school musical instrument.

## HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

The marching band uniform is provided to students. The uniforms are professionally cleaned at the end of marching season so each student starts the year with a fresh, clean uniform. It is a **privilege** to wear the DeWitt High School Band uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at each performance. If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the Mighty Dragon Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. You must wear your band t-shirt under the marching uniform. Black band shoes are required to be purchased by each band student. If a band member is seen wearing the uniform incorrectly **at any time**, the student may lose credit for that performance. Band uniforms are not to be worn at eating establishments, after games or performances, or to social functions. Eating and drinking soft drinks should be done before you put on or after you remove your uniform. Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

**DO:** remember your band t-shirt, black socks, and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform.

**DO NOT:** remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.

**DO:** transport your uniform in a garment bag and your hat in the hat box. Every time!

**DO:** take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.

**DO:** Always store your hat in its hat box.

**DO NOT:** attempt to wash and/or dry your uniform at home.

**DO:** remember to bring your instrument in spite of your excitement over your uniform!

## BAND SHIRT

All band students are required to purchase a DeWitt Dragon Band t-shirt at the beginning of each school year. These shirts are worn with blue jeans at pep rallies, parades, trip activities, and at other performances where less formal attire is appropriate. The cost of the shirt will be no more than \$25 unless the students vote to purchase a higher quality shirt.

The 7-8 grade marching band uniform is the Junior Band Shirt, jeans (no holes), and sneakers.

## HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT UNIFORMS

All HIGH SCHOOL band students are required to purchase a concert uniform. You may get this from anywhere you wish. Each student will wear black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants (or skirt), a white tuxedo shirt with the dress pleats, a black bowtie and cummerbund. This will be the dress for all concerts including the December concert, Concert Assessment, Spring concert, Graduation, and any other time the concert band plays.

The BEGINNING and JUNIOR BAND members are asked to wear appropriate dress clothes to our concerts.

## **FOOTBALL GAME POLICY**

School policy dictates that band student's ride to all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. Parents may check-out their child after a ball game, **after all equipment is loaded.**

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain a class act at all times. Band members can stand up and YELL and SCREAM in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot." It is important to remain alert concerning all of the expensive equipment around you as well as the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. **Only band students are allowed in the band section.**

Students are not allowed to have food or drinks in the bleachers **EXCEPT** for water.

Cell phones are to be used **ONLY** during director approved free time or before / after games.

## **PEP RALLIES**

Band students are expected to perform with the band during all pep rallies. If a band student is also part of the sports team being celebrated at the pep rally, they may be excused from performing. If a student is a cheerleader, they are excused from performing with the band. Each pep rally is counted as a grade.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The DeWitt band program will do one fundraiser each school year. This is to assist students with attending band camp. All students are expected to participate in the fundraiser regardless of plans to attend camp. If a student does not use their money for camp, it may go to someone else for camp.

Students are expected to pay for their own reeds, flip folders, accessories, band shoes, concert uniform, food on trips, etc.

## **HIGH SCHOOL BAND COLORGUARD**

Auditions for colorguard will be in the spring of each school year. Any student who is currently in band (8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade) may audition for colorguard. There will be a number of after-school practices scheduled before the day of auditions. Attendance at all practices are required to be considered for colorguard. Being a member of the colorguard is an extension of being in band, not a replacement. To be in colorguard means additional practices outside of band rehearsals to work on the routine. All colorguard members are required to have their instruments to play in the stands at football games and pep-rallies. Colorguard members will attend Frontlines camp to supplement their training.

The colorguard uniforms are owned by the school and will be checked-in after each performance for cleaning.

## **DRUM MAJOR**

The drum major is a vital component of the Mighty Dragon Band. The drum major conducts the band during halftime as well as stand tunes. Other duties of the drum major are to provide copies of music or drill charts to students and help move equipment to and from all practices and performances as well as any other duties the band directors need. The drum major is the “face” of the Mighty Dragon Band and is expected to be the hardest working member of the group.

## **DEWITT BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

All parents are encouraged to participate in the DeWitt Band Parents Association. This is a very active supportive parent organization. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at DeWitt could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the BPA are held once per month. Check the facebook page or watch for Remind messages for dates and times of these meetings.

## COMMUNICATION

We hand out a calendar for the school year in August. Some of the events are not scheduled until later so we rely on communication with parents via the Remind app. You don't have to download the app to receive communications; you simply have to be able to receive text messages.

**High School:** Text the number **81010** and the message **@dd547**  
**7-8th grade Junior Band:** Text the number **81010** and the message **@dd643**  
**Beginning Band:** Text the number **81010** and the message **@e2fc9**

The band directors may also be contacted anytime by email.

Eric Rutherford – [erutherford@dewittdragons.net](mailto:erutherford@dewittdragons.net)

Julie Rutherford – [jrutherford@dewittdragons.net](mailto:jrutherford@dewittdragons.net)

The phone number for DeWitt High School: 870-946-4661

**STUDENT/PARENT AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE**  
**FOR OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

The DeWitt School District offers a variety of learning activities at designated off-campus locations in which students will have an opportunity to participate. I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the various off-campus activities associated with the DeWitt Band program. Students are expected to use school transportation to ALL activities, if provided. In the event that the school does not provide such transportation, I further understand that I must provide transportation for my son/daughter as a condition of his/her participation in that activity.

In consideration for allowing my son/daughter to participate in off-campus activities, I knowingly and voluntarily agree to assume full responsibility and assume all risk for any accident, loss, damage, and injuries he or she may sustain as a result of or arising out of any aspect of the activity. Furthermore, I, on behalf of myself, my son/daughter named below hereby agree to release, acquit, discharge, and hold harmless DeWitt School District from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, actions or causes of action, of whatever kind or character, whether known or unknown, whether arising out of federal, state, or local statute or common law, including claims resulting from negligence, that I or my son/daughter may sustain arising out of any aspect of the off-campus activity, including, but not limited to, driving or riding to or from the off-campus activity.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN – STUDENT RELEASE & AGREEMENT**

I HAVE **DISCUSSED** AND **REVIEWED** ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK WITH MY SON/DAUGHTER, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS TO THESE POLICIES AND CONDITIONS. MY SON/DAUGHTER HAS MY PERMISSION TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRIPS AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES AND MEDICAL COST FOR STUDENTS. MY SIGNATURE ALSO SERVES AS PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT ON A SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIP.

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Student Name (PRINT)

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Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT)

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Student SIGNATURE

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Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE

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Date

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Date