

DeKalb High School

Music Department

501 W. Dresser Rd.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Dear Band Parents/ Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you well. You are receiving this letter because your child has requested enrollment in the DHS Band for the 2023-2024 school year. We had an incredibly successful 2022 season and are hoping to build on it in 2023. There are some new things happening, so please read this entire letter.

We will be holding our mandatory Band Camp at DeKalb High School July 31- August 4, from 7:30am-5:30pm. We will also be running our mini-camp on August 7, 9 and 11 (these will be half day sessions with times still TBA). Those who are enrolled but do not attend Band Camp will be dropped from all band classes. Band Camp is an incredible learning and bonding experience for the students that simply cannot be missed. For new families, we’d like you to think of the season as beginning with Band Camp and ending with our final outdoor performance on October 29. Our competition season (mid-September and October) is when we need all students ready to perform at our weekend events. After that time, our events largely move indoors and our schedule is much lighter. Please do everything you can to support us and have the students available during these months.

Many costs for Band Camp are included in course registration fees. The course fee covers daily lunches and snacks during camp, uniform cleaning, one band T-shirt, transportation to events and a wide array of activities that we plan for the students throughout the season. Other personal items required for band should be purchased through DHS via the forms attached to this letter.

**FEE POLICY:** The DHS Band uses a professional drill writer and our membership count needs to be accurate for the drill to be ready for camp. Students who do not attend cost the band money to have the drill re-written. In order to manage this financially, we cannot refund any supply purchase fees for students who do not attend camp. We also need all forms returned by May 1, 2023. ANYONE who does not returns forms by May 1, risks being asked to share their spot in the band.

Please read through the attached documents carefully and, for ALL families, please make your best effort to attend our “2023 Travel/ Welcome to the Band” meeting at DHS on March 16. We’ll host the new families from 6:30-7:00 and then discuss overnight travel plans for all members beginning at 7:00 pm. For new families, we will discuss all needed supplies, Band Camp, the band’s schedule and what to expect from band events. We will also answer any questions you might have. This is of course open to all band families- even our veteran families who just want to stop in and hear updates about our plans for 2023. Please also look through the DHS Band Handbook. The handbook is now available under the parent resources tab at [www.dhsband.org](http://www.dhsband.org). All students are expected to adhere to said policies.

In addition to Band Camp, the Band offers optional, but highly encouraged sectionals for all band members throughout the summer. We will send more information about our summer schedule in May. Please do everything you can to make sure students are attending. A tentative schedule of our Fall season performances is attached to this letter. More information and a continuously updated schedule can be found at [www.dhsband.org](http://www.dhsband.org). The attached schedule is likely to change between now and the Fall and our website is always the best source of scheduling information.

This mailing has four required forms for band participation. This includes our equipment order form, which comes in three versions- one for wind players, one for percussionists and one for Colorguard members. Please make sure you fill out only the correct form for your student. Please return these forms to Mr. Lundin or your middle school director **BY MAY 1, 2023**. Students can expect to receive a packet with more information and hard copies of the music in May. We will also be asking for parent volunteers throughout Band Camp and the marching season. The work can be very rewarding, so please consider donating some time to support our students.

The Band staff has been working hard to plan a very exciting season for the students next year. We encourage you to plan carefully for the entire season now so that your child can truly enjoy all that being in the marching band has to offer. It’s an incredible experience and we’re happy to welcome all of our new members to the DHS Marching Barb family.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Steven Lundin, Director of Bands

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