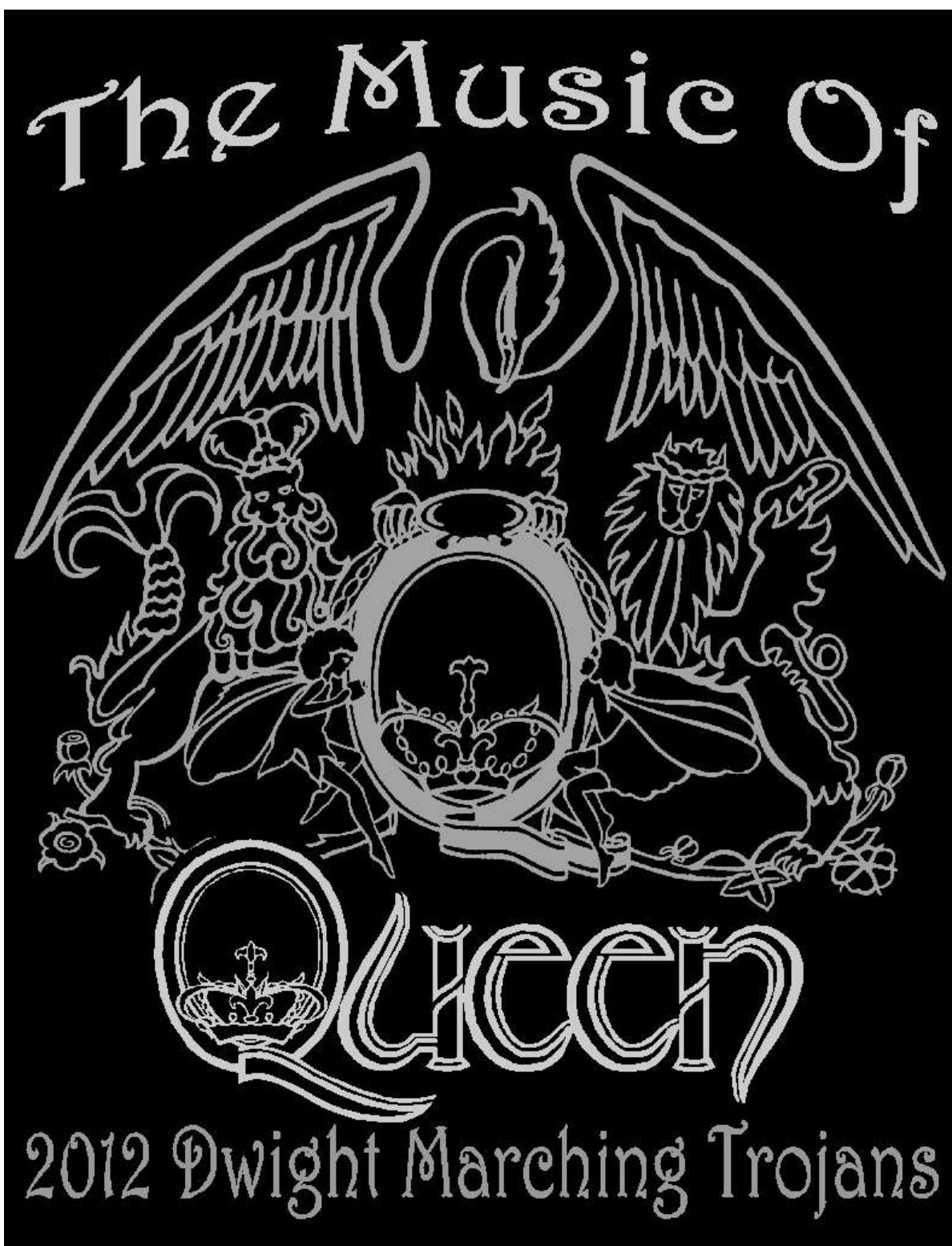


Dwight Township High School
Marching Trojans / Band
Handbook - 2012 - 2013



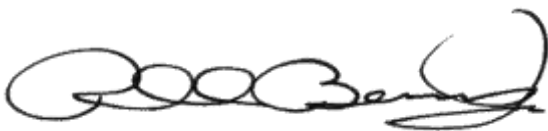
Dwight Township High School Band Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to try and answer all the questions that you, as a member of the Dwight Band Program may have. It would be impossible to cover all situations in this book, but I believe that this will be a big help in heading off any misunderstandings in the upcoming school year.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Dwight Township High School Band Department. You are about to become a member of one of the finest bands in the State of Illinois. Our name is known throughout the state for our excellence of performance and sportsmanship. It will be your responsibility as a member of this organization to uphold that standard. We here in the Dwight Township High School Band Department have a rich tradition in all our areas of performance; MARCHING TROJANS, PEP BAND, JAZZ BAND, CONCERT BAND and TROJAN GUARD. I am sure that you, as a member of this organization will make a very positive contribution during the upcoming year. Throughout the school year, you need only remember one quote, "ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST!" Together I know that we will have a very fulfilling and successful 2012 – 2013.

Musically Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Benzik, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Richard S. Benzik, Jr.

Director of Bands

Dwight Township High School

I. SECTIONS OF THE BAND YEAR

A) MARCHING BAND

- 1) Every school year begins with the formation of the DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING TROJANS. The MARCHING TROJANS consist of all the members of the band, extra players and the TROJAN GUARD.
- 2) Performances for the MARCHING TROJANS include 4 or 5 home Football Games, Homecoming Pep Rally, Homecoming Parade, Dwight Harvest Days Parade and Field Show Exhibition, 2 or 3 other competitions and the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- 3) In order to prepare for the competitive marching season, extra rehearsals are needed. These rehearsals include Summer Band Camp (a week of rehearsals before the beginning of school) and a daily morning rehearsal that begins at 7:00 a.m. These rehearsals are not optional. Attendance is required.

B) I.M.E.A. AUDITIONS AND DISTRICT FESTIVAL

- 1) Participation in the I.M.E.A. District Festival is gained through audition only. The audition date is always on Columbus Day (in October). Auditioning for the festival does not guarantee participation in the festival.
- 2) The audition consists of playing a prepared selection (chosen by the State), sight-reading and a scale sheet.
- 3) Anyone wishing to audition for the I.M.E.A. Festival must talk to Mr. Benzik as soon as possible.

C) PEP BAND

- 1) Pep Band begins at the conclusion of marching season. All members of the MARCHING TROJANS are able to play in the Pep Band.
- 2) The Pep Band has a play schedule of approximately 14 performances throughout the winter season at both Boys and Girls Basketball Game and Wrestling Senior Night.
- 3) Pep Band members will receive a play schedule for the entire Pep Band season in November and are expected to clear those dates at which the Band plays.
- 4) In alternating years, the Pep Band will prepare an audition tape to play at one of the I.H.S.A. State Tournaments.
- 5) There may be an opportunity to add additional events (Regional or Sectional Tournament, Special Performances, etc.) to the Pep Band Schedule. If this situation arises, ample warning will be given.

D) CONCERT BAND

- 1) The Concert Band also begins at the end of marching season. Only students enrolled in band class are eligible for Concert Band.
- 2) The Concert Band performs two concerts during the school year. (Holiday Concert in the middle of December and the Arts Concert in the beginning of May.)
- 3) Certain members of the Concert Band will be selected to perform at the Interstate Eight Concert Band Festival held on the third Monday in March. Selection to this Festival Band should be considered an Honor and should not be taken lightly. Each school is supposed to have at least 13 participants.

E) JAZZ BAND

- 1) The members of the Jazz Band are selected from the members of the Concert Band. A student must be enrolled in band class to be considered for Jazz Band. Standard Jazz Band instrumentation will be observed so auditions may be required.
- 2) Jazz Band members are required to attend extra rehearsals as needed to prepare for performances.

(Including the week before "JAZZ SHOW")

- 3) The Jazz Band will perform at the Interstate Eight Jazz Band Festival (third Wednesday in February) and at the annual "JAZZ SHOW". (Friday and Saturday before High School Graduation)
- 4) Extra Jazz Band performances maybe added if the situation arises.

F) SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

- 1) I.H.S.A. Solo and Ensemble Contest is held on the first Saturday in March. Participation in this contest is not required, but is strongly suggested.
- 2) In order to attend Solo and Ensemble Contest, you must be a member of a Dwight Township High School Performing Musical Organization.
- 3) Dwight Township High School will pay for all entry fees for this contest.

G) SMALL GROUP PERFORMANCES

- 1) Throughout the school year, many opportunities arise for performances by a small group. (Christmas Brass Choir, Woodwind Quartet, Jazz/Rock Combo, etc.)
- 2) Participation in these groups is by volunteer only, but occasionally, I will ask particular players to play in these special groups.

H) JAZZ SHOW

- 1) The JAZZ SHOW is the finale of the Band's school year. All members of the band, as well as members of the Trojan Guard, are encouraged to participate. You do not need to be a member of the Jazz Band to be in JAZZ SHOW.
- 2) There are many opportunities for you to participate as a performer (skits), sound tech, spotlight operator, stage lighting, curtain, stage hand or prop builder and painter.
- 3) Rehearsals for the JAZZ SHOW are the week before the Show. (two weeks before the High School Graduation)

I) HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

- 1) This is the final performance of the year for all band members.
- 2) We will play one concert band selection as a prelude to Graduation, the processional and recessional.

II. ATTENDANCE

A) REHEARSALS

- 1) Attendance to all rehearsals (including morning rehearsals) is expected.
- 2) Students are also expected to be on time for rehearsals.
- 3) Failure to attend rehearsals or constant tardiness will result in a loss of class participation points.

B) PERFORMANCES

- 1) Attendance at all scheduled performances is expected.
- 2) Failure to attend a scheduled performance will result in a loss of performance points.
- 3) Extra work, such as a four to five page typed report, will be required to take the place of missed performances.

C) ABSENCES

- 1) I realize that sometimes you may have to miss a rehearsal or a performance for some reason. That is why there are three types of absences: **Excused Absence**, **Family Absence** and **Unexcused Absence**.

2) **Excused** – Some examples of excused absences are sickness, a doctor’s appointment, field trip, death in the family, attending a funeral, etc. In these cases, a phone call to Mr. Benzik at home at (815-584-3023) or at school (815-584-6214) should be made as soon as possible. Upon returning to school, the student should bring a note from his/her parent or guardian to Mr. Benzik so he has something on file. Student is still required to do a make-up assignment

3) **Family** – Sometimes you just have to go somewhere with your family. Examples of Family Absence include family vacations, family gatherings. Graduations, weddings, etc. In these cases, advance notice is expected as soon as the conflict is discovered and crucial to the classification of the absence. A note explaining the absence is expected before the event and a parental phone call is a definite plus. Mr. Benzik’s phone is at home at (815-584-3023) or at school (815-941-6214). Make Up assignments will be given so the student will not loose points for missing the event.

4) **Unexcused** – Some examples of Unexcused Absences include oversleeping, work, shopping, not receiving a phone call or just not showing up. These absences result in loss of all points for that rehearsal or event. Rack up a few of these absences, and you grade will suffer rather quickly.

5) **Phone Calls** – In the case of all absences, call Mr. Benzik at home at (815-584-3023) or at school (815-584-6214).

III. UNIFORMS

A) UNIFORM PARTS

1) We will supply you with the majority of your marching uniform. Our marching uniform consists of a uniform jacket with decorative buttons, cape, uniform pants (bibbers) (skirt), uniform hat with box and plumb, white gloves, hanger and garment bag.

2) You will be responsible for the following uniform parts; **BLACK SOCKS** and a pair of **BLACK MARCHING SHOES**.

3) We all wear the same shoe, **Black Drill Master Low Cuts**. We do have some old pairs from past members lying around and if you can find the proper size, you are welcome to them. If you wish to order shoes, the cost is \$25.00. Orders will be taken during uniform checkout. This is a one-time purchase. The shoes will last you for all four years.

B) UNIFORM CHECKOUT

1) At Uniform Checkout, students need to bring \$10.00. This is a uniform cleaning fee, not a rental fee. We send the uniforms out to be cleaned each summer. This fee pays for the cleaning.

2) The uniforms are stored at the High School during the Marching Season. This assures that everyone’s uniform will be there when he or she needs it. At football games we change into our uniforms at the High School. Uniforms maybe taken home for alterations and/or special occasions. (Senior Pictures, before Harvest Days, etc.)

IV. SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

A) SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

1) The school will provide certain large and expensive instruments for its members to use. Examples of these are Tubas, Baritones, Tenor Saxes, Mallet Instruments, Drums, French Horns, Electric Bass, etc.

2) To checkout one of these school instruments, you need to contact Mr. Benzik as soon as possible. School instruments are checked-out on a first come, first served basis.

3) When you checkout a school instrument, you accept full responsibility for the condition of that instrument. Any damage beyond the wear and tear of normal use, will be assessed and your

responsibility to remit.

B) OTHER EQUIPMENT

- 1) The band department will also provide other equipment or props as needed for performances.
- 2) Any damage to this equipment should be reported to Mr. Benzik as soon as possible so that it might be repaired. Abuse of equipment will result in the user paying for its repair or replacement.

V. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

A) PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS

- 1) All personal instruments brought into the band room are covered by school insurance for damage that happens while in the building or at a school sponsored event.
- 2) Damage that is the result of abuse, misuse or neglect is not the responsibility of Dwight Township High School.

B) PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

- 1) All other personal property brought into the band room such as cassette tapes, CDs, amps, tape players, etc. are not the responsibility of Dwight Township High School.

VI. MUSIC

A) MUSIC AND FOLDERS

- 1) All music will be provided for you in a folder. You are responsible for that folder. Any lost or damaged music is your responsibility to replace.

B) MUSIC RETURN

- 1) It is expected that all music assigned to you will be returned at the completion of that season. If you wish to keep a copy of a particular song, you are responsible to make a copy. Copied music need not be returned.

VII. TRANSPORTATION

A) TO AND FROM EVENTS

- 1) Dwight Township High School will provide bus/van transportation to and from all events.
- 2) Transportation will leave and return to Dwight Township High School.
- 3) All members are expected to ride the bus/van to and from the events unless there are special circumstances that have been pre-approved by Mr. Benzik.

B) RIDING HOME WITH YOUR PARENTS

- 1) You may ride home from events with your parents. Before you leave, you must present a note or have your parents sign you out on a sign-out sheet.
- 2) You may ride home with someone else's parents, but in order for this to happen, you must present a note from your parents, in advance, giving you permission to do so. **THIS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED!**
- 3) Under no circumstances will you be allowed to ride home with someone other than a parent. This includes brothers, sister, boyfriend and girlfriends!

C) PARTICIPATION FEE

- 1) Members of the Dwight Township High School Band and Guard need to pay a \$25.00 participation fee at registration. This fee is for all who participate in athletics and other extra activities that require transportation.
- 2) No matter how many activities you are in (band, Football, volleyball, basketball, etc.), you need only to pay the participation fee once.

VIII. BAND CALENDARS

A) AUGUST, NOVEMBER & MARCH

- 1) Band Events Calendars are put out three times a year. First one during Marching Season, (August through October), Pep Band Season, (November through February), and End of the Year, (March through June).
- 2) Calendars have all scheduled events and times. If you do not see an Events Calendar. PLEASE, ASK FOR IT!

B) ADDITIONAL EVENTS

- 1) No matter how hard one tries to plan, events always seem to pop up at the last minute. If enough time is allowed to arrange everyone's schedule, all requested events will be accepted. Students will have an active roll before things are added to the calendar.

IX. ELIGIBILITY

A) THE POLICY

- 1) Dwight Township High School has adopted a "One and Done" Eligibility Policy which states that a student must be passing all his or her classes in order to compete. If a student is not passing all of his or her classes, he or she is ruled ineligible and not able to perform in the competition.
- 2) Eligibility is only in effect for competitions. (Marengo, Mahomet-Seymour and Sandwich). Since performances are extensions of class work, home performances and Harvest Days are not included.
- 3) If a student is ineligible for a performance, they are expected to attend the performance and assist as a non-performing member.
- 4) Students who are ineligible for a performance will make up the performance with a written assignment given by Mr. Benzik. This assignment may be a written biography on a composer or musical group or figure four to five pages in length.
- 5) Students who are ineligible for a performance are expected to attend all rehearsals leading up to the missed performance.

B) THE LIST

- 1) The eligibility list comes out on Monday morning. It is in effect for one full week. If a student raises his or her grade to an acceptable level during that week, he or she will be off the list on the following Monday morning.

X. SCHOOL RULES

A) CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1) Band students at Dwight Township High School are expected to be extraordinary. They must be dedicated in the classroom, hard working competitors, as well as provide leadership in both the

school and community. Hence the following Code of Conduct.

2) Every Band member will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is a credit to them, their parents, their school and their community.

B) AWAY FROM SCHOOL

1) While we are away from Dwight Township High School at a Band event, all Dwight Township High School rules are in effect. No matter if it is a Saturday or a Sunday, when you are with the band, you follow DTHS rules as stated in the DTHS Student Handbook. Violations will be punished to the full extent of DTHS Student Handbook Policy. Please make sure that you read the DTHS Student Handbook.

C) SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMANCES

1) You must be in school at least half of the school day in order to perform at events that evening. For example, you must be in school half a day on Friday in order to perform at the football game Friday night. But if you missed all of the day on Friday, (excused), you may still attend events scheduled for Saturday and Sunday that weekend.

D) DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY CODE

1) All members of the Dwight Township High School Band and Guard and their parents will be required to review and sign the Dwight Township High School Activity Code. This code covers all activities and athletics including all sports, cheerleading, band, guard, clubs, plays, etc.

2) This code allows Dwight Township High School the ability to treat all students equally.

3) A copy of this code will be available to you at registration or through Mr. Benzik.

XI. GRADING

A) POINTS

1) All rehearsals count toward class participation points. Missing rehearsals (including mornings and extra rehearsals), as well as tardiness will result in the loss of class participation points.

2) All performances in a grading period are of equal value. Take the total number of performances and divide that by the total performances attended. (Example: there are 5 performances in a grading period. You miss one without doing the assigned make up work. Your performance grade is now at 80% (C). Missing performances is the quickest way to fail band.

3) Playing tests and memory checks may also be added throughout the season.

B) GRADE

1) Average all the numbers together and that is your grade. (Attend rehearsals, play your part, be on time and attend all performances, you will receive an A.

Dwight Band Handbook Acknowledgement

I have read the Dwight Township High School Band Handbook and understand the information contained within. I also understand that this handbook does not contain all situations, but between this Handbook and the Dwight Township High School Activity Code, a clear outline of conduct has been established and will be followed throughout the school year.

Students Signature : _____

Parent or Guardians Signature: _____

Date: _____