Attendance Policies and Materials for Band

In any high school band, success is based not solely upon a student's individual skills, but also on the entire group's collective ability to work together as a band. This is one of the most important reasons that high school bands exist, to let students of all ability levels reach extremely high levels of accomplishment while working together as a unit. When even one member of the unit is missing, for even a moment, while a legitimate excuse or not, the total group fails to be its very best.

We realize unavoidable absences happen. Parents and students wishing to see the Dowling Catholic Band reach its highest possible goals and make the band experience positive should continue to strive to eliminate all absences. Please check our band calendar at www.dchsband.org.

Performances

As band is an academic course – and a performing arts class – performances are considered examinations for the course. Attendance is therefore required at all performances.

Excused/Unexcused absences

Excused absences from a performance are possible. Some examples might be a student's illness preventing them from performing, a death in the family, a family member's wedding, a family emergency, or another Dowling Catholic activity that is approved by the Band Directors at least 3 days in advance.

Some examples of unexcused absences for performances are: family outings/vacation trips, jobs, no transportation, babysitting siblings, another school's dance, or any non-Dowling activities. Any student who receives an unexcused absence from a performance will receive a "0" for that particular performance.

With respect to retreats – conflicts can be avoided!! Retreats can be planned far in advance and between required band performances easily. This is also the case with ACT, SAT exam dates. Please refer to the band calendar as retreat and test dates are being included. It is expected that students will do their very best to schedule retreats, test dates, college visits, etc. on days and times that do not conflict with band performances. If you find that a conflict is unavoidable – please discuss possible alternatives with your band teacher.

An "excused absence request" form AND the approval from a director is required for an absence to be marked "Excused." If a request is not received within 3 days after the absence, the student will be marked "Unexcused." In most circumstances a request should precede a student's absence.

The Vanguard rehearsal schedule – a general outlook

Pre-season Rehearsals, DCV Camp, August Rehearsals, School Rehearsals

The Dowling Catholic Band realizes the importance of family vacation time that typically runs through the summer. The Dowling Catholic Band will make every effort possible to have summer rehearsals in the most convenient times for everyone as much as possible. Typically we will have rehearsals in June (pre-season) and "DCV Camp" and "Rehearsals" in August.

Because our Vanguard strives to become its very best, and because the band activity depends on the group's "collective ability," it is vital that everyone is in attendance as much as possible. We feel it is necessary to publish the rehearsal schedule months in advance, so students and parents can make every effort to avoid potential conflicts. Students with part time jobs are expected to work around the band schedule. Students with conflicts are expected to do everything they can to ensure they are at pre-season rehearsals, DCV Camp, and our regular season rehearsals during the scheduled times. Again, when even one student is missing for any reason – the Vanguard fails to be the very best it can be.

Pre-Season (June/July)

The Vanguard will have pre-season rehearsals on Monday evenings in June dedicated to building playing and marching fundamentals. We will also have a special "mini-camp" on a Saturday in June to learn our show music. Guard members in addition may have some scheduled rehearsals in July.

These rehearsals are NOT mandatory as we expect families would be on vacations in June/July. However, when students are in town during June and July it is asked that they be in attendance for their respective summer rehearsals.

DCV Camp

DCV Camp begins in early August, typically runs 2 weeks, and is mandatory for all Vanguard members (Drumline, Hornline, Guard). Generally the schedule is 8am-4pm the first week with a long lunch break around noon, and shorter rehearsals late the second week. Typically we'll be learning drill in the mornings and working music and choreography in the afternoons. Learning drill takes a while (50-60 forms and movements), and we have very little time to get as much of it done as possible before school begins.

Drumline members (All percussion members) have their own camp before everyone meets together. Drumline camp runs just prior to DCV camp and is mandatory for drumline members.

School Rehearsals

Band is an academic course that receives a grade. As such DCV rehearses during "zero hour" and through first period on A, B, and D days with all school attendance policies in effect. The schedule is typically Mondays 7-8:45am, Tuesdays 7-10am, and Thursdays 7:30-10am. Drumline and Guard members will also continue their rehearsals on Monday evenings until mid-October.

We realize there are a LOT of times/dates, etc. and it's impossible to remember everything! Please check the band calendar at www.dchsband.org. All rehearsal days/times and performance dates are posted.

Materials and attendance per class

Vanguard

Required Materials

- Working instrument (with all its parts)
- "Lowes" bag containing the following items:
 - Flip folder with all reference music contained
 - o Drillbooks
 - Drill markers (chips)
 - o Pencil
- Comfortable clothing (tennis shoes, dress depending on weather). Students have the opportunity to change into uniform at the end of class.

Attendance

- The normal marching band class schedule for school times are as follows:
 - o A 7-8:45am
 - o B 7-10am
 - o D − 7:30-10am
 - C and E possible sectionals or small group rehearsals (not official class time), no full rehearsal
- All regular attendance policies will apply to Vanguard even at 7:00am "zero hour". For DCV, students must be in their defined positions by 7:00am (Thursdays 7:30am). Failure to be at class on time will result in a morning tardy. Students who fail to show up for a morning class will be counted absent.
- Students involved in other "in-school" clubs and activities in the morning are expected to
 discuss their conflicts with their respective coaches and teacher moderators. Your first
 priority is to be in class. Remember that Wednesday and Friday mornings our class does
 not meet.
- Students who are in need of extra help with another teacher before school should ask the
 band directors for permission to leave/be late to class to ensure they will not be counted
 absent or tardy. Students should do this only after they have exhausted all their other
 options for when to meet with a teacher. It is suggested that students seek teacher help on
 Wednesday or Friday mornings, after school, or during seminar.
 - NOTE: If a student is involved in another zero hour class on Wednesday/Friday mornings AND involved in an after school activity, they should still seek help after school. Remember, band is an academic course – so this must take priority over activities.

Jazz Ensemble and Jazz II

Required Materials

- Working instrument (with all its parts)
- Music
- Pencil
- Fingering Chart
- Tuner (*Students may have a smartphone only in the case that a tuner app is installed, running, and on their stand)

Attendance

- The Jazz Ensemble and Jazz II rehearsal schedule is as follows:
 - o Marching Band season Tuesday evenings 5-6pm (Jazz II) and 6-7:30pm (Ens.)
 - Concert Band season A day 7-7:50am (Jazz Ens. Only), B day 7-8:20am (both), and C day 7-7:50am (both)
 - Thursday (D-day) seminar (All year)
- In both Jazz bands, students must be in their seats will all of their materials at 7:00am.
 Failure to be at rehearsal on time will result in a tardy. Students who fail to show up for a morning rehearsal will be counted absent.
- Students involved in other "in-school" activities in the morning are to discuss their conflicts
 with the directors/teachers of both activities to arrange suitable times of arrival to band
 rehearsal. Your first priority is to be in class. Students who are in need of extra help with
 another teacher before school must communicate with the band directors to ensure they
 will not be counted absent or tardy from a zero hour class.

Concert Band and Symphony Band

Required Materials

- Working instrument (with all its parts)
- Music
- Music stand
- Pencil
- Fingering chart
- Tuner (*Students may have a smartphone only in the case that a tuner app is installed, running, and on their stand)

Attendance

- Concert band and Symphony Band rehearse at the normal 1st period class time beginning in mid-October (following marching band season) through the end of 1st semester.
 Beginning 2nd semester Symphony Band moves to 6th period.
- Concert Band will begin during 1st period promptly when the bell rings with prayer, pledge, and ensemble tuning. It is expected that students are in their seats at least 5 minutes prior to the bell for individual tuning, warm-up (lip slurs, long tones, etc.), and practice of concert music.
- Symphony Band rehearses during 6th period 2nd semester. Lunch is also served during 6th period, and the lunch shift for Symphony Band members is typically 1st shift (go to lunch right away). Members of the Symphony Band are to warm-up and tune at the beginning of class, and be ready with all materials by the designated time.

Rain Policy for Vanguard activities

The safety and education of our students is of the utmost priority. In the event of inclement weather, we have taken steps to ensure the safety of the students and the most efficient use of rehearsal time. The following rain policy is to help define when students will be rehearsing indoors during the marching band season and what to expect if rain threatens a performance.

- 1.) During periods of mist or sprinkles, we will be outside for full marching band rehearsal while monitoring the prevailing weather conditions in case of rain or more severe conditions. If the conditions worsen (rain or other severe weather) we will move inside for music rehearsal.
- 2.) During a continuous rain, we will be inside for music rehearsal. If the rain stops or turns into a mist, we will move outside for rehearsal, while monitoring the conditions.
- 3.) If lightning is detected, students will be moved inside immediately.
- 4.) Students should be prepared for the elements!! All band students should be aware of the conditions and be prepared to rehearse in the event of rain.
- 5.) In the event of rain before a football game performance students should always assume they will be performing. Mr. Hoover or Mr. Holland will let students know if the performance is delayed or cancelled due to rain. Typically we will communicate via email to parents, twitter, facebook, and through texting through leadership.

Dowling Catholic High School Instrumental Music

Grading Policy Fall 2017, Spring 2018

50% Performance (exams)

Students will receive points for each of the required Dowling Catholic Instrumental Music performances. As a performing art, performances are considered "exams" for the course. Since performances typically cannot be made up, performances will be considered mandatory. Excused absences are possible and will usually be excused in extreme circumstances. Please see the Attendance Policy for further information on absences.

It is also possible that performance points may be deducted from a performance – as described in the Discipline Management Plan for reasons of misconduct during a performance.

An "excused" absence from a performance will not impact a student's grade – usually receiving an "X" for exempt for that exam. An "unexcused" absence will result in a "0" for that exam.

5% Rehearsal Grade (Participation)

10 points are awarded daily for participation in each rehearsal. In the gradebook these points will usually be grouped in 2-3 week assignments (i.e. rehearsal week 1-3 = 90 points). Points may be deducted – as described in the Discipline Management Plan – for misconduct during class participation.

10% Individual work (Homework)

Points will be possible for completing a series of assignments during each semester:

- Vanguard smartmusic assignments
- Practice minutes per 6-week period (will now be treated as an assignment instead of a category)
- Chair placement auditions
- Concert/Symphony Band Smartmusic assignments
- Percussion Rudiment/Scale checkoffs
- Any written work or projects assigned

10% Lessons (Coursework) – new this year

Please see the section on "Pull Out" Lessons for specific information about how lessons work!

Students must attend their scheduled pull-out lesson with Mr. Hoover or Mr. Holland, unless they are studying privately (on their band instrument) outside of school, or taking "instrumental methods". Students studying privately outside of school must provide proof at the beginning of every 6-week period, or they will be required to sign up for pull-out lessons.

Each lesson will be given a point value and awarded points based on attendance at the lesson and effort. Students who miss their lesson must sign up for a lesson during the "make-up" lesson week.

Students who miss their lesson and fail to make it up during the 6-week period will lose their points.

5% Enrichment

You can receive points towards enrichment for being involved in the following:

- Colorguard
- Drumline
- All-state auditions
- Chamber groups (see chamber program info)
- State Solo/Ensemble
- Perry Band Olympics
- SCIBA Honor Band Auditions
- ISU, Drake, or Simpson Honor bands
- Pep Assembly Pep band
- Sectionals (Director signature required)
- Extra services approved by the directors

20% Final Exam

Exam will be assigned at the end of each semester.

Semester Breakdown

Semester 1 - Vanguard and Concert/Symphony Band

50% (Exam)

- Vanguard competitions (100 points each)
- Home football games (50 points each)
- Concert Band concerts (100 points each)
- Pep Band (football/basketball) (25 points each)

5% (Participation) (approx. 600 points total)

10% (Homework)

- Vanguard smartmusic assignments
- Smartmusic practice minutes (as an assignment)
- Chair placement auditions
- Concert/Symphony Band Smartmusic assignments
- Other assigned work

10% (Coursework)

- Lessons either pull out or private
- 2 pull out lessons per 6-week period, or actively studying privately for that 6 weeks.

5% (Enrichment) (200 points possible)

- Colorguard = 200
- Drumline = 200
- Chamber ensembles = 200
- All-State Auditions = 200
- Drake Honor Band = 200 points
- Sectional = 1 pt. per minute (must be logged by a director)
- Assembly pep band = 25 points each
- X points for extra services approved by the directors

Semester 2 – 9-10 Concert Band (Mr. Hoover)

50% (Performance)

- Concert Band concerts (100 points each)
- Concert Band Clinic Night (50 points)
- Pep Band (basketball) (25 points each)

5% (Participation) (approx. 600 points total)

10% (Homework)

- Chair Placement Auditions
- Clinic Reflection assignment
- Smartmusic assignments
- Smartmusic practice minutes (as an assignment)
- Other assigned work

10% (Coursework)

- Lessons either pull out or private
- 2 pull out lessons per 6-week period, or actively studying privately for that 6 weeks.

5% (Enrichment) (200 possible)

- 200 points State Solo/Ensemble
- 200 points Perry Band Olympics
- 200 points Orchestra Pit spring musical
- 200 points Chamber ensembles (usually performs at Perry or State)
- 200 points ISU or SCIBA Honor band
- Sectionals = points per minute
- Assembly pep band = 25 points each
- X points for extra services approved by the directors

20% Final Exam

Semester 2 – 11-12 Symphony Band (Mr. Holland)

50% (Perform)

- Symphony Band concerts (100 points each)
- UNI Concert Band Clinic (TBA) (100 points)
- Pep Band (basketball) (25 points each)

5% (Participation) (approx. 600 points total)

10% (Homework)

- Chair Placement Auditions
- Clinic Reflection assignment
- Smartmusic assignments
- Smartmusic practice minutes (as an assignment)
- Other assigned work

10% (Coursework)

- Lessons either pull out or private
- 2 pull out lessons per 6-week period, or actively studying privately for that 6 weeks.

5% (Enrichment) (200 possible)

- 200 points State Solo/Ensemble
- 200 points Perry Band Olympics
- 200 points Orchestra Pit spring musical
- 200 points Chamber ensembles (usually performs at Perry or State)
- 200 points ISU or SCIBA Honor band
- Sectionals = points per minute
- Assembly pep band = 25 points each
- X points for extra services approved by the directors

20% Final Exam

Dowling Catholic Vanguard

Colorguard Grading Policy 2017

This policy applies to those only enrolled in colorguard who DO NOT play an instrument. Those who participate in colorguard and play an instrument in concert/symphony band should refer to the band grading policy.

50% Performance (Exams)

Students will receive points for each of the required Dowling Catholic Instrumental Music performances. As a performing art, performances are considered "exams" for the course. Since performances typically cannot be made up, performances will be considered mandatory. Excused absences are possible and will usually be excused in extreme circumstances. Please see the Attendance Policy for further information on absences.

It is also possible that performance points may be deducted from a performance – as described in the Discipline Management Plan for reasons of misconduct during a performance.

An "excused" absence from a performance will not impact a student's grade – usually receiving an "X" for exempt for that exam. An "unexcused" absence will result in a "0" for that performance.

20% Rehearsal Grade (Participation)

10 points are awarded daily for participation in each rehearsal. Points can be taken away – as described in the Discipline Management Plan for misconduct during class participation.

10% Guardwork (Homework)

Points will be possible for assigned/completed work for guard coaches.

20% Final Exam

Exam will be final performance at the Waukee Invitational.

Band "pull out" Lessons

All students of the band program will be required to have lessons. If you do not have a private teacher outside of school, you will sign up for "pull out" lessons, meaning you're pulled out of certain periods during the day.

<u>For those studying lessons privately – outside of school:</u>

- You won't need to sign up for "pull out" lessons.
- You WILL need to have your teacher email us, asap, that they're teaching you privately.
- Please write down the name of your teacher on the list by your name.
- NOTE: Private lessons will only count if it's on an instrument that you actively play in a band ensemble.
- Those taking "Instrumental Methods" class won't need to sign up for "pull out" lessons.

Mr. Hoover will teach:

- All 9-10 grade woodwinds (Hoover Studio A)
- All percussion (Hoover Studio B)

Mr. Holland will teach:

- All 11-12 grade woodwinds + all baritones (Holland Studio A)
- All trumpet, horn (mellies), trombone, Tuba (contra) (Holland Studio B)

What are "Studios"?

• We need to simply divide the students by week – about half will be on one week, the other half on the next. This way we get to see everyone once before we start a second round of lessons. You will stay in your assigned "studio" for the year.

How often are lessons?

- You will have two lessons every 5-6 weeks. Each lesson is 20 minutes.
- Weeks generally will go A, B, A, B, then a week of make-up lessons by appointment, and then there will be a week of no lessons (usually a short week – i.e. conferences, Thanksgiving, finals, etc.).
- The 5-6 week structure will line up with our 6-week academic periods. So, you will have 6 lessons per semester (two per 6-weeks).

I take didgeridoo lessons privately. Does that count?

• Private lessons outside of school only count if it's on an instrument that you actively play in a band ensemble. I.E. – Piano counts if you play it in a Jazz band.

How are lessons scheduled?

- We pick what studio/teacher you're with. See above.
- YOU schedule the lessons! The links are located on Mr. Hoover's band class page (on campus site). You'll sign up through signupgenius.
- You will sign up just prior to the start of every 6 week period...for that period so, 2 lessons. Make sure you don't sign up for the same period for both, we want to avoid you missing class from the same teacher. Also, look at your calendars! Don't sign up for a lesson during a test, or a field trip, lab, etc.

Grading?

• Yes. Lessons are 10% of your grade. Miss a lesson, and that's a hit of 1.6%. Ouch.

How do I get out of class?

- Before school, on the morning of your scheduled lesson you will come see your studio teacher and get a YELLOW CARD. This is your "pull out" lesson hall pass. Please be nice and warn your teacher for that class that you have a lesson.
- At your scheduled time show your teacher your card...and get down to your lesson.
- At the end of your lesson, LEAVE the yellow card with us, and we'll sign your planner for a hall pass back to class.

What if a test was scheduled the time of my lesson?

 If you have a test or a lab – you should stay in your class, and schedule a "make up" lesson during our "make up" week.

What if I decide to get a private lesson teacher?

- Communicate! If you add a teacher, and we're in the middle of a 6-week period, let us know so we can figure out what to do.
- Every 6 weeks we will have students with private teachers email us, or bring us a form to be signed stating that you're taking lessons with them.
- If you DROP your private teacher in the middle of a term, you need to let us know so we can get you scheduled into "pull out" lessons, unless you're getting a new private teacher.

Discipline Management Plan for the Dowling Catholic Bands

Goals and Expectations – a team effort

The Dowling Catholic Band Program will be a complete success if the members are working toward that goal at all times. Pride, self-discipline, teamwork, and respect are at the root of any great organization. When even one student, for one moment, for any reason fails to demonstrate these critical skills, the entire group falls short of being the best it can be.

Students must exemplify the desire to work as a team and at times sacrifice the needs of the individual for the success of the group. In a typical classroom, a student's main objective is to learn as much as possible, and to earn a high grade doing so. This is a also the case in band, but in addition the student has a crucial role to play in the success of others. Band students are constantly judged as a group, a team, a band – rarely as individuals. To realize that everyone else in the band is counting on you to do your job perfectly is an awesome responsibility. A sincere commitment to excellence is a most important first step on the road to success and handling this task.

Students must show pride and respect for themselves, their fellow students, their band, their school, and for all equipment and facilities of the Dowling Catholic Bands. Students must show disciplined habits during rehearsal, at all performances and activities, on all trips, at any time during the school day, and at any time while representing the Dowling Catholic Band. Our philosophy is that the more you put into the activity, the more you'll get out of it (more deposit, more return).

When all of these ideals are met, the Dowling Catholic Band will be everything that it can possibly be.

Rewards

Students who meet the goals and ideals can expect to get verbal and written praise from directors and instructors. Students can expect to be a part of a successful, respected band program. Students will be assisted in developing a positive self-image and will be proud of the disciplined, hard work required to meet the goals. Students can expect to be treated fairly, courteously and with respect at all times.

General Rules of Conduct

The following list is intended to give a general outline of expectations for student conduct. Parents should also be aware of these expectations and help their children follow them as a part of the Dowling Catholic Band Program.

It is a belief of the Band Directors of Dowling Catholic High School that students choose how they act. If a student chooses to act inappropriately, they are choosing the consequences of that action. Students should also be aware that their actions reflect – for better or worse – on themselves, the Dowling Catholic Band, and Dowling Catholic High School. It is expected that students of the band program will act appropriately with class, professionalism, dignity, and humility at all functions.

- 1.) Students will be on time (early) for all rehearsals, performances, and activities. When students are asked to report at a certain time, it is expected that they will arrive before that designated time.
- 2.) Students will have all appropriate equipment and a great attitude at all times. This means a student's working instrument, music, and all materials required for the respective class.
- 3.) Students will not verbally or non-verbally disrupt instruction at any time.
- 4.) Students will follow instructions from directors, instructors, chaperones, and student leaders.
- 5.) Students will use appropriate language at all times.
- 6.) Students will show respect for all fellow students, staff members, and directors at all times. This transcends school and includes social media.
- 7.) Students will treat carefully all equipment and facilities of the Dowling Catholic Band. Students will play only on their own instrument or an instrument checked out to them.
- 8.) No gum will be allowed in the bandroom area or in any rehearsal. Food and drinks might be allowed on occasion. Students will be asked to not eat food in uniform, and no candy of any sort will be allowed at performances.
- 9.) Cell phones/devices will be allowed only in specific instances defined in rehearsals and performance.
- 10.) Students will follow all rules set forth by the Dowling Catholic Administration.
- 11.) Students will follow all rules set forth by the Dowling Catholic Band Discipline Management Plan.

Consequences

Students who fall short of these expectations can expect any one or more of the following:

- 1.) A warning
- 2.) Duties to be assigned to them examples may be cleaning up the band practice field re-painting lines for the field, helping with clean-up in the bandroom, all things that can benefit the band program.
- 3.) In some circumstances, a JUG (Justice Under God) might be more appropriate for the certain infraction of the rules of conduct.
- 4.) A lowering of a student's grade for the day.
- 5.) Dismissal from the class to the dean's office.

Severe Clause

Students who demonstrate repeated and/or severe violations of the rules and regulations of the Dowling Catholic Band and/or of Dowling Catholic High School will be subject to stronger consequences as assigned by the administration of Dowling Catholic High School. This may include removal from the band program.

Dowling Catholic Bands

Chamber Program

As all students participate in Marching Band and Concert Band, there are many other opportunities for performances. Listed below are the ensembles which the Dowling Catholic Bands provide for further achievement in the Performing Arts. Although performing in our outstanding chamber program is not required, it is strongly recommended to join an ensemble, perform as a soloist, or both. In addition, performing in any of the following will satisfy all "Enrichment" requirements for your band grade.

Ensembles:

Brass Choir

Directed by Mr. Holland, the Brass Choir rehearses weekly and performs at the Christmas Concert, Perry Band Olympics, State Contest, and for other parish and community events. This group meets as scheduled by Mr. Holland.

Brass Quintet

Directed by Mr. Holland, the Brass Quintet performs the same as the Brass Choir, and as a separate and smaller ensemble. This group meets as scheduled by Mr. Holland.

Flute Choir

Directed by Mr. Holland, this ensemble performs at various events – both Dowling and community events throughout the year. This ensemble begins meeting in October/November.

Clarinet Choir

This ensemble performs at various events – both Dowling and community events throughout the year. Clarinet Choir begins meeting in October/November.

Sax Choir

This ensemble performs at the Perry Band Olympics and for State Solo/Ensemble Contest. Sax Choir begins meeting in late fall/early winter.

Pit Orchestra

Directed by Mr. Hoover, this group begins rehearsals in February/March for the Musical performance in the spring. Repertoire is professional level, yet parts are typically reworked for ease. Students of all levels and any instrument are encouraged to participate, yet there is a waiting list to sign up.

Events for individuals

- All-State Honor Band (Audition in October)
- SCIBA Honor Band (Audition in December))
- Drake Honor Band (Application Performance is in December)
- Simpson Honor Band Orpheus (Application Performance is in January)
- Cyclone Honor Band (Application Performance is in February)
- Perry Band Olympics February
- State Solo/Ensemble Festival April
- Instrumental Chamber Recital May

Events for Ensembles

- Perry Band Olympics February
- State Solo/Ensemble Contest April
- Band Concerts December, February, May
- Iowa Day of Percussion March-April
- Dowling Christmas Luncheon November
- Sacred Heart 50+ dinner February
- Instrumental Chamber Recital May
- Pit Orchestra (Spring Musical) April