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BAND

CHAPERONE

HANDBOOK

2008

WELCOME TO THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BAND PROGRAM!

You are now a member of one of the most outstanding programs at Douglas County High School.

WE BELIEVE:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's development emotionally and intellectually.
- Band develops self-discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- By achieving a high quality standard in Band, high quality standards will transfer into all other areas of the student's lives.
- Band offers creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Student's social skills, self-esteem, and positive attitude are developed through band.
- Band gives an emotional and expressive release during the day.
- Band teaches students to strive for excellence – a major goal of education.

Remember,
everything you do in the Band program is important,
which in turn makes you important.
Excellence is attained through this attitude and it is
this attitude that is the basis of our program.

Damonte Ranch High School Band

Steven Schifferdecker, Director

Dear Parents,

Welcome and thank you so much for volunteering your valuable time to help our band family. The Damonte Ranch High School Band would not be able to travel in the fashion that we do without your help. Never underestimate your importance!

I have assembled this brief handbook in an attempt to answer some of the questions you might have about traveling with us and to assist you on your way to a great experience with our young people.

Respectfully,

Steven Schifferdecker
Director of Bands

Here are but a few scenarios that may come up ~~

- ✓ If a student is rude or out of line with you, see me immediately and I will deal with the student(s). In my eyes, you are an extension of me. If a student gets mouthy with you, it is the same as if they were being that way to me, their teacher and Director.
- ✓ **Anything** that pertains to the competition should be channeled through me. Please, do not accept any forms, score sheets, tapes, etc. from any contest personnel. Direct them to me. This is simply to avoid any confusion between the contest coordinators and myself.
- ✓ Any scores, comments or feedback from the performance will be discussed in a group setting after we exit the contest venue. After our group discussion, please feel free to converse with the kids about their performance. I am not squelching spontaneous excitement or joy...let that good stuff out! Do not, however, discuss any scores with the students until we as a group have had the opportunity to reflect upon our situation at hand.
- ✓ Always – Always watch for student (or parent) behavior that you feel is unbecoming as a representative of DCHS and Castle Rock. I preach professionalism to our students. I expect them to behave in such a manner both on and off the competition field. There will be appropriate times when they can vent and unwind. But, when the situation dictates other wise, a simple *polite* reminder should do the trick.

- ✓ Tardy students will be assigned bus duty.
- ✓ Again, you are a necessary and vital extension of me. You are another set of my eyes and ears. DO NOT let students to treat you with the slightest hint of disrespect.
- ✓ On the other hand, I expect you as a parent to display the same level of respect to the students that you should demand from them. Stress levels may rise at times, but we must do everything within our power to not be “short” with the kids. We are ultimately here for them.
- ✓ If you see a student throwing food or playing with water, disregard the above statement – chew their butts out!
- ✓ Any students involved in PDA’s (public displays of affection) should be asked *politely* to cease and desist. If they do not change their mannerisms, send them to me.
- ✓ If you see a student’s valuables lying out in the open, advise the student to put the item in a safe place. **We are not responsible for lost or stolen items!**
- ✓ VERY IMPORTANT! Our time schedule is sometimes pinched. If you see kids dragging behind or if you know they are obviously going to be late, please push them along. Always remember – *early is on time and on time is late!*

THANK YOU
&
PLEASE...

Enjoy your time with our students.

THEY ARE GREAT KIDS!

*The following material
is excerpted from the 2008 DRHS Band Handbook*

GENERAL CONDUCT

All students are to abide by the guidelines as established in the Damonte Ranch School District Code of Conduct, the Damonte Ranch High School 2008-2009 *Student Handbook* and this Band Handbook. Failure to comply could result in a student being referred to the office, placed in alternate status, a failing grade in the course, or possible removal from the program.

STAFF AND CHAPERONE COURTESY

The Damonte Ranch Band staff is a direct extension of the Director. *Anyone asked to step in front of the Damonte Ranch High School Band is to be treated with the utmost courtesy and respect.*

Chaperones are also an extension of the Director. We could not travel without our dedicated chaperones. They work very hard to make your trips as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. The chaperone's only pay is when offered a polite "thank you."

If you find yourself in disagreement with a chaperone or staff member, please **do not argue**. You are to do as instructed and immediately inform the Director of ANY problem. If a staff member or chaperone finds it necessary to report a student to the Director with due cause, that particular student risks severe disciplinary action. If the staff member or chaperone is in error, the Director will handle the situation in an appropriate manner. This policy will be strictly enforced.

PERFORMANCE CONDUCT

- ❑ Band members are to be in the Band Room, dressed for the performance, and ready to play at the call time set by the Director. **Any member that has not pre-arranged a late arrival with the Director will not be allowed to perform, resulting in an un-approved absence for that performance.**
- ❑ **Non-Band members are not permitted to sit with the Band** (*excluding Booster parents*).
- ❑ Once the performance is complete, properly put away all equipment. If the equipment trailer is being used, all students should stay to help unload. **Attendance will be taken when all equipment is properly stored. Once attendance is complete, you may turn in your uniform.**

- ❑ **Non-Band members are asked to remain outside of the Band Room both before and after the performance.** Please remember that there are many of us. We need all the room we have.
- ❑ While in the performance venue, be considerate of other groups or ensembles that may be performing on the same program. Be attentive, considerate, and respectful. We expect them to do the same.
- ❑ Once you are seated you are to remain there. If you absolutely must use the restroom, **do not leave while a group is performing!**
- ❑ **NO CELL PHONES books or homework will be permitted once call time has arrived.**

MARCHING UNIFORM INFORMATION

- When you are in uniform, you are no longer an individual, but a representative of our Band, school, and community.
- No consumption of any food or drink while in uniform. Water is OK.
- Uniforms must be completely worn at all times. The marching uniform includes black shoes, black socks, black gloves, headgear with plume, pants, and jacket. Everyone is to wear the designated Band shirt under the uniform jacket.
- Students will check out their uniform prior to each performance. Each student will return their uniform after attendance has been taken. The uniform should be hung properly on its hanger ready to be inspected by the Uniform Moms. **Nothing but the uniform should be left in the uniform garment bag.**
- **Nail polish, jewelry, baseball caps, hats, etc. are not to be worn with the uniform.** Anyone drawing attention to themselves or distracting from the group (*excessive piercing, dyed hair, unruly facial hair, etc.*) will be asked to remove or alter such distractions.
- **When in uniform, a student's only option is to be at the designated performance site.**
- Every Band member is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of their own personal uniform parts (*socks, shoes, undershirts, etc.*).
- Anyone with hair longer than the back of the headgear is to have it put up in hairpins or a hair net. All Color Guard members will wear their hair in a fashion to be decided by the Director and staff for each particular performance.
- We are lucky to have dedicated parents who give long hours in the upkeep of our uniforms. Do everything you can to assist these parents in their work. Be cooperative. A simple "thank you" does wonders!

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

When we travel, you are an ambassador to Damonte Ranch High School and the city of Reno. Every decision you make will reflect Damonte Ranch High School, the Band, and your community. Be advised as to your higher responsibility when we travel.

All students are to abide by the travel guidelines as established in the Damonte Ranch School District Code of Conduct, the Damonte Ranch High School 2008-2009 *Student Handbook*, and this Band Handbook. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the student being reprimanded, sent home at the parent's expense, or in an extreme case, being handed over to local law enforcement authorities.

- ❑ Follow all rules placed before you by bus companies, hotels, airlines, or any place of business.
- ❑ Respect all facilities we use and visit.
- ❑ Respect all private property on buses, planes and in hotels.
- ❑ Remain in your assigned seat while the bus is moving and do not switch busses without permission.
- ❑ When attendance is being taken on your bus or plane, keep quiet to make the process as quick and accurate as possible.
- ❑ Absolutely no playing of instruments or beating of drumsticks/mallets while on the bus or plane.
- ❑ Musical devices with headphones are permitted.
- ❑ As a general rule, be considerate of those around you.



WHO STUDENTS SHOULD GO TO WITH QUESTIONS

DIRECTOR

STAFF

CHAPERONE

DRUM MAJOR

SECTION LEADER

(Start Here and Work Your Way Up)



ALL STUDENTS & PARENTS HAVE SIGNED THE FOLLOWING FORM

**Damonte Ranch High School Band
Student Code of Conduct**

I do hereby agree to the following:

- To respect the rights and safety of others.
- To be courteous and respectful to other students and to those responsible for our activity.
- The use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are expressly prohibited at any school function.
- To display the appropriate mode of behavior and attire which is representative of a member of the Damonte Ranch High School Band.
- No weapons, explosives, fireworks, etc. are allowed at any time, anywhere.
- To avoid using inappropriate language at any time.
- To remain on my assigned bus and in my assigned room. I will not change rooms or busses without permission from Mr. Schifferdecker.
- iPods and electronic devices are permissible on trips but I must have headphones. My right to listen to music will not interfere with other peoples' right to quiet.
- The Damonte Ranch *Student Handbook* with all of its policies and procedures is still the guiding handbook of conduct.
- To abide by all of the conditions and obligations stated in this Handbook.
- To maintain my uniform, instrument, and equipment and keep it in a clean, neat, and presentable fashion.
- The Damonte Ranch Band comes first and foremost. Individual honors are secondary.

I have read the above code of conduct and agree to abide by all the conditions as outlined.

Student Signature

Date

I have read the above code of conduct and understand that my son or daughter must abide by these rules.

Parent Signature

Date

A referral will be issued in the event that the above code is not followed.