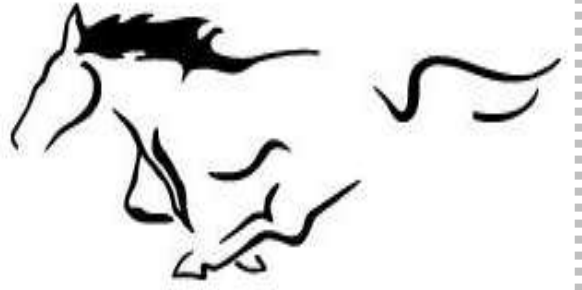


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BAND _____

_____ HANDBOOK

2011

WELCOME TO THE DAMONTE RANCH BAND PROGRAM!

You are now a member of one of the most outstanding programs at Damonte Ranch High School.

WE BELIEVE:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's development emotionally & 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 & aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Student's social skills, self-esteem and positive attitude are developed through band.
- Band gives an emotional & 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.**

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| General Information | 1-6 |
| Attendance..... | 1 |
| General Conduct..... | 1 |
| Rehearsal Conduct..... | 1 |
| Performance Conduct | 1-2 |
| Instruments..... | 2 |
| Music | 3 |
| Preparation of Music | 3 |
| Uniforms (<i>Marching & Concert</i>)..... | 3-4 |
| Staff & Chaperone Courtesy | 4 |
| Travel Guidelines..... | 4-5 |
| Alternates..... | 5 |
| Individual Student Accounts | 5 |
| Remittance of Money | 5 |
| “Fair Share” | 6 |
| Fundraising..... | 6 |
| | |
| Course Offerings | 7 |
| Symphonic Band..... | 7 |
| Jazz Band..... | 7 |
| Color Guard Techniques | 7 |
| Percussion Techniques..... | 7 |
| | |
| Scheduling | 8 |
| You Can Take Band and Still Graduate! | 8 |
| | |
| Grading Policies | 9-10 |
| Policy | 9-10 |
| Extra Credit..... | 10 |
| | |
| Awards | 11-12 |
| Awards..... | 11 |
| Letter Requirements | 12 |

**The forms contained at the back of the Handbook
need to be filled out completely
and turned in by
July 14, 2011.**

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Student Leadership | 13 |
| Drum Majors | 13 |
| Section Leaders | 13 |
| Band Council | 13 |
| President | |
| Vice-President | |
| Librarian | |
| Equipment Crew Manager | |
| Staff | 14 |
| For Parents | 14-15 |
| Band Boosters | 14 |
| Communication | 15 |
| Band Office phone number | |
| Band Website | |
| Calling Tree | |
| Facebook | |
| Your questions are answered | 16-18 |
| Forms | |
| Band Handbook | F1 |
| Code of Conduct | F2 |
| Parental Consent to Travel | F3 |
| Authorization to Treat a Minor | F3 |
| Student Information | F4 |
| Parent Volunteer Information | F5 |
| Absence Request | F6 |

Important contact information is located on the inside back cover of this handbook.



Membership in the Damonte Ranch High School Band carries with it the responsibility of attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances.

If you know your child is to be absent, fill out the Excused Absence Form found at the back of this Handbook by the appropriate date. Additional forms may be printed off of the bands website, www.drhsband.org, as needed. A large portion of the student's grade in Band is earned through positive progress at rehearsals and participation at all performances, thus the requirement for attendance. Poor attendance or excessive tardiness will result in a student being placed in alternate status (*see page 5*), a failing grade in the course, or possible referral to the Damonte Ranch High School Administration.

GENERAL CONDUCT

All students are to abide by the guidelines as established in the Washoe County School District Code of Conduct, the Damonte Ranch High School 2011-2012 *Student Agenda* and this 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.

REHEARSAL CONDUCT

- ❑ Be on time (*early*). All members are to be seated with their instrument, music, and prepared to play when the Director, Staff, Drum Major, or designated leader of the group steps on the podium. All members should be on the practice field at the time designated.
- ❑ **Talking will be kept to a minimum.** Failure to comply with this rule will result in deduction of attendance credit and in extreme circumstances, possible dismissal from the rehearsal (*see Grading Policy, page 9-10*). This rule cannot be compromised. *We must rehearse in the same manner as we perform.*
- ❑ **No gum, candy, food, or beverages are allowed in the Band Room or on the practice field at any time!** The second offense will result in after-school detention to be served in the Band Room with the Director. Water is acceptable.
- ❑ **No playing out of turn.** Extraneous sounds added when the conductor stops are not acceptable. Not playing or not being ready to play when the Director indicates is not acceptable.
- ❑ **For field rehearsals, you must be in low-top tennis shoes,** for the marching style we use requires the foot and ankle to move freely. You will be asked to change into proper footwear before you are allowed to rehearse.
- ❑ **All members are required to have a three ring binder with 50 clear 8 1/2 x 11" sheets to insert drill pages into. The student's dot book must always be in their possession during marching rehearsals.** If you do not know what a dot book is, you will be instructed of its purpose as soon as it is deemed necessary.

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. **The Director has the right to hold any player that has not pre-arranged a late arrival from the performance, resulting in an unapproved absence for that performance.** (*see "Grading Policy", pages 9-10*)
- ❑ **Non-Band members are not permitted to sit with the Band** (*excluding Booster parents*).

PERFORMANCE CONDUCT (continued)

-2-

- ❑ 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 a lot of us. We need all the room we can get.
- ❑ 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.**

INSTRUMENTS

We are not in a situation where we can tolerate the mishandling or abuse of equipment. **Anyone** found to have mistreated, damaged, or destroyed facilities, instruments or equipment will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. The Damonte Ranch High School Administration will handle any case of destruction of Band equipment by students.

- **Do not handle another Band member's instrument or equipment.** A general rule is "you break it, you buy it." If it is not yours, do not touch it!
- Many everyday supplies, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc., need to be purchased through local music merchants. Some items, such as mallets, drum sticks, or items similar in nature will be purchased through the director.
- After a \$40 wind and \$60 percussion fee, District owned instruments become the responsibility of the students to whom they are issued. Privately owned instruments are the responsibility of their owners. **Damonte Ranch High School and the Washoe County School District is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**
- All students are expected to have their instruments and equipment at all rehearsals unless instructed otherwise by the Director.



During Mini Camp in June, the Section Leaders will check music out to you. This is your music for the stands and the marching show. You will have a printed list of all the music you are responsible for. If you are missing any of the music on the list, fill out a "Music Request" form and hand it to your Section Leader. ***Please have all music at every rehearsal, even when it is memorized.***



PREPARATION OF MUSIC

The most important thing to realize is **if you have a piece of music in your folder, you are responsible for being able to perform it** in rehearsal in a manner that is not detrimental to the progress of the entire ensemble. Practice. The Director of Bands and the Band Staff do not have the time or the resources to give every student a private lesson or individual "pointers" when we are meeting as a group. This wastes time. Do your Band homework...practice.

The assignment of all wind parts will be completed through a brief audition process prior to Band Camp. You will be asked to play a few scales and a chromatic scale for the range of your instrument. Additionally, you will be asked to play a section of the music issued. Percussion parts will be assigned either during the Mini-Camp, Percussion Camp, or the main Band Camp by the percussion instructor and/or the Director.

You will be required to memorize the music that is performed on the field for marching band. Your assigned staff member or section leader will test you on your knowledge and performance quality during rehearsals. They will test you on a pass/no-pass system.

CONCERT UNIFORM INFORMATION

Every wind and percussion member should arrive in the Band Room fully dressed for concert performances. This would entail solid black: dress pants (*no jeans*), button up shirt, shoes (*no tennis shoes*) and socks. **Appropriate attire must be worn or the student will not be allowed to perform.**

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 white shoes, white socks, white gloves for wind players, headgear with plume, pants, jacket and *completely* white undergarments. Everyone is to wear the designated Band shirt under the uniform jacket.

MARCHING UNIFORM INFORMATION (continued)

-4-

- 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!

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, you, or your section 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 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.



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 Washoe County School District Code of Conduct, the Damonte Ranch High School 2011-2012 *Student Handbook*, and this 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.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES (continued)

-5-

- ❑ 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.

ALTERNATES

Students who display habitual tardiness or poor attendance at rehearsals, do not show improvement through a sincere effort of practice and effort, or do not attempt to achieve the highest performance level possible will be put into alternate status. Attendance policies are still in effect for alternates. However, alternates lose any individual responsibility in future performances until they can demonstrate a true desire to be a contributing member of the Damonte Ranch High School Band.

Those students who work hard to better themselves will be rewarded by being a part of the activities that make the program a rewarding experience. Students who do not work to better themselves and those around them will not be rewarded for lack of effort or poor attitude! If everyone strives to exceed the highest expectations of themselves, we will not have to worry about this policy.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACCOUNTS

More commonly referred to as an ISA, students in the Band have an account to keep track of their personal fundraising efforts and financial activity within the Band Program. Records are kept in the same fashion as a bank statement with debits and credits to each account. Students may receive money into their account either by direct deposit (*personal check*) or by participating in various fundraisers. **Any funds placed into an ISA through Band fundraising activities or sales are not refundable.**

ISA accounts are used to track the various out of pocket expenses that students incur while in the band and for services that are provided by the school and the Band Boosters. These services include meals on trips, transportation, instrument needs (*such as reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.*), or other miscellaneous expenses such as the Band Banquet or Band apparel.



REMITTANCE OF MONEY

NO CASH. NO CASH. NO CASH. Any fee payments or money earned through Band fundraising projects should be turned into the Damonte Ranch High School Bookkeeper, Mr. S or the DRHS Band Parent Treasurer.

The Director and the Band Boosters cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen money.

FAIR SHARE

-6-

All band students will pay a **\$360** fee to participate in band. The fee includes payment for transportation, equipment, music, drill, choreography, contest entry fees, folders, additional staffing. **Payments may be made in four equally installments of \$90 due on June 17, July 15, August 12 and September 10.** If anyone is going to have issues with meeting these payment dates, they should speak to Mr. Schifferdecker either in person or in writing so alternative plans might be arranged

It is important that every student purchase the following items at the beginning of his/her first year of marching band. EVERY STUDENT IN MARCHING BAND IS EXPECTED TO HAVE THESE ITEMS IN HIS/HER POSSESSION AT EVERY MARCHING BAND FUNCTION. If a student is missing pieces that student must purchase the missing items again.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| MARCHING BAND SHOES | \$36 |
| BAND SHOW SHIRT | <i>Included in fees</i> |
| BAND HAT | <i>Included in fees</i> |
| WHITE BAND GLOVES | <i>Included in fees</i> |

Miscellaneous Expenses

- ~ Guard equipment expenses (*costuming and possibly a rifle and/or saber*)
- ~ Winter Guard and Winter Percussion expenses (*for participants only*)
- ~ Apparel costs (*band jackets, shirts, travel bags, etc.*)
- ~ Instrument usage fees (*if applicable*)



FUND RAISING

Every student and parent is expected to make an effort to contribute to the success of fundraisers that are undertaken by the program.

In some instances, requirements will be set on the quantity of items sold or time spent working towards the successful completion of a fund raising project.

In almost all cases, a percentage of funds raised may be deducted from the student's ISA balance due.

COURSE OFFERINGS

-7-

The DRHS Band program is comprised of the following large ensembles. All courses may be repeated for credit. **Students may pre-register for these courses, but before being enrolled they must audition and be approved by the Band Director. Fees are required and vary from year to year.**

SYMPHONIC BAND

A yearlong music course designed for group instruction for students who have successfully completed a prior course in an instrumental music program. This course will provide instruction, theory and practice in wind and percussion instruments. Except for extenuating circumstances, **Symphonic Band members are a part of the Marching Band for the first nine to 10 weeks of the school year.** The primary focus is on concert literature. All students are required to participate during scheduled rehearsals and performances beyond the normal school day.

JAZZ BAND

A yearlong music course designed for group instruction of Band students who have successfully completed a prior course in an instrumental music program. This course will provide advanced and intermediate instruction, theory, and practice in the various jazz genres. Except for extenuating circumstances, members must be enrolled in Symphonic Band. Students enrolled in this course are required to participate in all performances and rehearsals which often occur outside the normal school day.

COLOR GUARD TECHNIQUES

This first semester course is designed to introduce and develop a student's knowledge and skill in fundamental and advanced dance and auxiliary equipment techniques and performance. During the first nine weeks students will participate in shows, contests and football games with the Damonte Ranch Marching Band. All Guard members are required to participate during scheduled rehearsals and performances beyond the normal school day, as well as those that occur during the summer, some weeknights, and occasional weekends. Students will also be required to attend camps at the school prior to the beginning of the school year.

PERCUSSION TECHNIQUES

A yearlong music course designed for students who wish to develop individual and group skills in the performance and study of percussion instruments. The instructor(s) will teach techniques in percussion performance and marching through individual, small and large group instruction. Students will be expected to participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the normal school day. Both marching and concert percussion idioms will be addressed. In addition, students may be involved as participants with the Band as assigned at the Director's discretion. Except for extenuating circumstances, members are a part of the Marching Band for the first nine to 10 weeks of the school year.

All class members will be required to submit a \$60 equipment usage fee in addition to any band fees described on page 6 of this Handbook.



YOU CAN TAKE BAND AND STILL GRADUATE!

-8-

PRIORITIZE: First and foremost, to take music throughout your high school years, prioritize it and make up your mind that you *will* find a way to take it. Hold yourself to that priority when planning and you will discover that you can be in a music class every semester. If you place music on your schedule first each year and leave it there, you will most likely find that the other blanks will be more than sufficient to meet your needs. You must determine if music is important in your life and work other classes around it.



ELECTIVE SYNDROME: *"I want to take this and this and that and this and this and that and that and this."* After studying the requirements to graduate and talking with many juniors and seniors, it has come to our attention that the "Elective Syndrome" can affect decisions as a freshman. It is more than possible to take band every year and still include all of the other electives that you wish to take. Membership in even more than one Band is possible! The cure to this "syndrome" is to plan for the long-term rather than the short-term. Talk to senior band members about scheduling. Ask for help with your four-year plan.



OTHER ACTIVITIES: No one should be excluded from music courses, especially on the basis that students are involved with other activities (*sports in particular*). To make this happen, the Director will be in constant contact with all coaches and club leaders. It is merely an issue of planning and commitment. The myth that students involved with sports cannot be in the Band Program is just that, a myth. If there any questions concerning conflicts, see Mr. Schifferdecker immediately. Every concern or conflict will be handled on a person-by-person basis.



PLAN! Plans can change, but changing and adapting your plans is better than aimless wandering. Take charge of your future by plotting out your four-year course of study. Each year, re-examine your plan and see if it is doing what you want it to do. Once your plan is in place, feel free to change it intelligently. Do not make snap decisions about classes. Look at all sides of every issue pertaining to classes in which you are planning to enroll and be flexible with your decision processes.

GRADING POLICY

-9-

Attendance, attitude and performance quality will be the main factors in determining grades. The expectations are very simple; be on time (*early*) to all scheduled events, have perfect attendance, maintain a positive and healthy attitude, and play (*and march*) with high quality at all times.

Tardiness: “Early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable.” BE EARLY! General rule: 5 minutes prior to start time, you are at the correct location completely warmed and ready to perform. For rehearsals, the first three unexcused tardys result in the lowering of the overall grade one grade level (e.g. A becomes A-). After the first three, the next two result in loss of one additional grade level. Beyond that every single tardy results in the lowering of the overall grade one grade level. For performances, every tardy will lower the overall grade one grade level.

Absences: For rehearsals, every unapproved absence results in the lowering of the overall grade one full letter grade (e.g. A becomes B). **For performances, one unapproved absence is grounds for failure in the course.**

Excused: There *is* such a thing as an excused absence or tardy. If an individual has a legitimate reason for being absent or tardy, that member can obtain permission to be excused through prior approval by the Director only. This request must be made to Mr. Schifferdecker in writing or in person significantly in advance of the date of the requested tardy. Please allow at least two days for the director to consider your request. An excused absence may be obtained by completing the form at the back of this handbook in the time frame listed. Generally, serious personal illness, medical emergencies, family emergencies and religious events are excused. All performances and rehearsals will be on the calendar months in advance.

Attitude: This is often difficult to quantify, but in general terms, an uncooperative attitude will result in a lowering of the grade and/or dismissal from the group.

Mr. Schifferdecker has made every effort to do away with the vast majority of subjective grading that occurs in many Band programs. Students are given objective percentage grades in the majority of their academic areas. Band grades are often guilty of being vastly subjective (*based on opinion*). For example, a student plays their instrument, participates well, and attends after school events, yet receives a “B.” What does this “B” grade represent? To avoid such issues, Mr. Schifferdecker has come up with a merit system that builds points towards the nine-week and semester participation grade and results in an exacting percentage point for each student. On the following page, the merit points are defined. Note however, the possibility of deductions for inappropriate behavior.

Playing tests and competencies will also be assigned a letter grade based on percentage points. These evaluations will occur regularly and often throughout the year.

Rehearsal and performance participation will constitute 55% of the student's grade, playing tests and competencies 35%, and daily class attendance will make up 10% of the nine week grade. Points may be deducted, if necessary, from the student's five daily attendance points for inappropriate behavior or a poor attitude in the classroom.

Points are **earned** by participating in the following:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All-State Band | 250 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concert or contest | 200 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football game <i>(Pep Band AND half time performance)</i> | 170 points/game |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Honor Band selection | 150 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solo & ensemble contest | 150 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Band | 100 points/game |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance at night rehearsal | 90 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audition for Honor Band | 80 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sectional | 50 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pep Band <i>(school assembly)</i> | 40 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom daily attendance | 10 points <i>(every class)</i> |

Points will be **deducted** for the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No instrument - class or rehearsal | Loss of attendance points <i>(same as an absence)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gum, food or drink in rehearsal | 5 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate uniform wear or care | Director's discretion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improper care of equipment | Director's discretion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate attitude or conduct | Director's discretion |

EXTRA CREDIT

To reacquire merits that were lost a result of an **excused** absence, students can do any of the following for a one time addition to their merit total.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private lessons <i>(must get approval from director)</i> | 50 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a concert outside of school. <i>(complete cultural event form)</i> | 20 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typed two page report/critique of a solo or band recording | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typed four page biographical report on a composer | 10 points |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doing odd jobs for the betterment of the program <i>(e.g. filing music, cleaning in the Band Room)</i> | TBD |

AWARDS

-11-

Our program recognizes the outstanding achievements of some of its members each season as the band staff and students select people for the following awards. Names of the recipients are displayed on plaques in the Band Room. The awards are presented in May of each year at the annual Band Banquet.

Participation Certificates will be awarded to all members of the Symphonic Band, Color Guard, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band and all small ensembles.

In addition, individual awards are given to members who display excellent musicianship, character, leadership, dedication, and attitude throughout the year. Some of these include, but are not limited to:

- John Philip Sousa Band Award
- The Director's Award
- Louis Armstrong Jazz Award
- Outstanding Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, and Color Guard
- Most Improved Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, and Color Guard
- Outstanding Class Members
- Outstanding Marcher
- Outstanding Soloist
- Section Awards
- Best Attitude
- Most Inspirational
- Most Enthusiastic
- Outstanding Student Aide
- Student Leadership Award(s)
- Drum Major Award(s)
- Honor Band Awards



Students at Damonte Ranch High School can earn a school letter award through their participation in Band. Earning a letter is not easy and signifies achievement that is above and beyond the standards of excellence that are established in the Band program. Students earn points toward their letter for successful participation in a variety of activities. Points accumulate from year to year and are awarded based on the following criteria:

| Damonte Ranch High School Bands | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Name _____ | | | | | | |
| Year _____ | | | Class _____ | | | |
| | Activity | Points | 9 th | 10 th | 11 th | 12 th |
| 1 | Band Class (<i>per class, per semester</i>) | 2 | | | | |
| 2 | Marching Band | 5 | | | | |
| 3 | Student Leadership | 4 | | | | |
| 4 | Private lessons (per quarter) | 3 | | | | |
| 5 | Music Camp (per camp) | 2 | | | | |
| 6 | Audition for All-State/Honor Bands | 2 | | | | |
| 7 | Perform in a All-State/Honor Bands | 5 | | | | |
| 8 | Solo & Ensemble Contest | 3 | | | | |
| 9 | Winter Drumline/Winterguard | 3 | | | | |
| 10 | Pit orchestra for musical | 3 | | | | |
| 11 | Basketball Band | up to 5 | | | | |
| 12 | Other (assigned by Director) | up to 5 | | | | |
| 13 | Concert attendance (fill out cultural event form) | up to 3 | | | | |
| 45 points = Letter 90 points = 1 st pin 135 points = 2 nd pin 180 points = 3 rd pin | | TOTALS | | | | |

Students earn a Letter Award for accumulating 45 points. After each additional 45 points students are awarded decorative pins to signify receiving a Letter Award multiple times. In the instance that a senior in the Band Program has received a Letter Award and three subsequent pins, a unique and distinguished Senior Band Letter will be awarded upon the successful completion of their fourth full year in the Band Program at the Spring Band Banquet. Students can be awarded points toward their letter for other extracurricular musical activities at the discretion and with the approval of the Band Director. The Band Director also reserves the right to deduct letter points for inappropriate behavior, missing performances, excessive absenteeism, or other conduct inconsistent with the ideals of the Band program.

DRUM MAJOR

Each spring auditions for the following season's Drum Major(s) will be held. The selected students will begin their duties as soon as the results are announced. The Drum Major position is responsible for taking attendance during rehearsals, assisting the Director and Staff during rehearsals and correcting individual errors during marching fundamentals. Drum Majors may be asked to attend some Staff and Booster meetings on an as needed basis. Special workshops will be conducted each spring to provide training for those who wish to prepare for the Drum Major audition. Attendance of a summer Drum Major Camp is a possibility.

SECTION LEADER

The Section Leader is quite simply a student instructor for their respective wind, percussion or color guard sections. They will be asked to often lead sectionals. They are chosen at the end of the current school year and announced at the Band Banquet for the following year. The selections will be based upon performance and teaching abilities. Each Section Leader is responsible for reporting absentees to the Drum Major(s) at the start of every rehearsal and performance.

BAND COUNCIL

The Band Council consists of approximately six to eight veteran wind, percussion and color guard members who show outstanding loyalty and imagination. This Council will meet twice a month from August to November and once a month thereafter. In the fall, they discuss band issues such as the group's progress, morale, gripes, and other miscellaneous issues and report directly to the Director. Applications for the Band Council are submitted in the spring with the final selection to be announced at the Band Banquet.

BAND COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Members of the Band Council elect the Band Council President. He or she supervises meetings and leads discussions. The Band Council President reports the results of these meetings to the other band members. The President will greet incoming guests to our school and concerts, organize and take part any assembled committees, organize concert workers, and attend all concerts where the Damonte Ranch High School Band Program is represented. The Band Council President also will attend all Band Booster general meetings.

BAND COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT

Members of the Band Council elect the Band Council Vice-President. He or she helps to supervise meetings and assist the President as needed. This person's main duty is the complete supervision and organization of the Band Room. The Vice-President will be responsible for assembling a team to assist in the Room maintenance. Additionally, this responsibility entails maintenance of all chairs and stands. The Vice-President is also the editor of the student section of the *Band Notes* newsletter and is responsible for assembling a staff of qualified "reporters."

BAND COUNCIL LIBRARIAN

This person is in charge of all music for the Band Program. The amount of time needed to complete this position successfully will differ from person to person. The music for each Band member must be passed out, collected after it is performed, sorted, and filed away. There will be times when a great deal of work is required and those where there may be nothing to do whatsoever. Multiple librarians are a possibility.

BAND COUNCIL EQUIPMENT CREW MANAGER

This person is in charge of organizing the loading crew and making sure that all necessary equipment is at every performance. Furthermore, he or she will be in charge of assembling a dedicated team to oversee the practice field equipment, on an as needed basis. The Equipment Crew Manager does not have to be a Band member and is eligible to receive a Band letter.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

-14-

The Director's position is one that often seemingly requires him to be in more than one place simultaneously. Since this is an impossibility, we are fortunate to be able to bring in some very talented individuals, many experts in their fields, to work with our Band.

VISUAL & WIND INSTRUCTORS

Zeb Bellon Angela Dory
Josh Dunlap

GUARD INSTRUCTORS

Leslie Kanowitz Jamie Sutton

PERCUSSION INSTRUCTORS

Brian Boydstun Jeff Depaoli
Kevin Wilfon

VISUAL DESIGN COORDINATOR

Steve Schifferdecker

WIND COMPOSER

Mike Pote

PERCUSSION COMPOSER

Mike McIntosh

WHO TO GO TO WITH QUESTIONS

DIRECTOR

STAFF

DRUM MAJOR(s)

SECTION LEADERS

(Start Here and Work Your Way Up)

BAND BOOSTERS

Band functions require numerous volunteers involved in a variety of functions to be successful. These volunteer duties include fundraising coordinators; chaperones; assistance with the loading of props, instruments and other paraphernalia; uniform fitting and maintenance; the general care and feeding of the students; and numerous miscellaneous responsibilities.

Band fund raising activities are planned and carried out by the Boosters on an as needed basis. Plans have been made for a number of different fund raising events this year. Additionally, the organization strives to create and foster better channels of communication among all Damonte Ranch Band parents.

General membership meetings are held on the first Monday of each month throughout the year. Meetings are held in the Band Room starting at 6:30pm. Dates may be seen on the calendar at www.drhsband.org.

COMMUNICATION

-15-

The DRHS Band Program has several means of relaying important information to students and parents. Each of the following is an important link between Mr. Schifferdecker, the Band Parents and the students. Please make note of each of the communication lines so as to stay better informed.



Band Office 775-334-7208

If you need to contact Mr. Schifferdecker or any member of the Damonte Ranch Staff, this phone number will get you a connection directly to the Band Office. Additionally, an answering machine is on this line. Please, do call if your student cannot attend a practice or performance due to unforeseen circumstances or an emergency.

Band Website *www.drhsband.org*

The Band has a fabulous website that is updated almost **daily** with a yearly and weekly calendar, current events, announcements, downloadable forms, Booster details, and a host of other important information. We hope you utilize this tool to its maximum potential. Please, check the site often.

Calling Tree

From time to time, we will activate a calling tree to pass along information or seek volunteers for an activity or fundraiser when time is an issue.

Facebook

The Band has three pages on the social network. Check them out for fabulous photos, informative posts and events. They are: Damonte Ranch High School Band, Damonte Ranch High School Winterguard and Damonte Ranch High School Winter Drumline



The following are questions you may have regarding the Band Program at Damonte Ranch High School. Our goal at Damonte Ranch is to keep parents and students well informed and to make the transition from middle school to high school a safe and comfortable one for all involved.

❑ **WHY IS BAND IMPORTANT IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

In these uncertain times, parents are even more interested in providing a well-rounded education for their children. High School is one of the most critical times in a student's social and intellectual development. Music is an integral part of a student's growth both intellectually and emotionally. In order for students to succeed in life they need to feel secure, loved, challenged, and proud of their achievement. Band fulfills all of these needs. As a matter of fact, you will find many of the best students at Damonte Ranch participating in Band. That kind of success is found in the Band Room because we strongly believe:

- ❖ Students in Band develop discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- ❖ Band offers creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- ❖ A student's social skills, self-esteem, and positive attitude are developed through Band.
- ❖ Music is one of the few skills that last a lifetime and improves with age.
- ❖ Band teaches students to strive for excellence. In a highly technological, materialistic society, we need the special pleasures that music can provide to help us establish the *quality* of our life in a world preoccupied with *quantity*.

❑ **I HAVE HEARD THAT BAND TAKES A LOT OF STUDENT'S TIME. WHAT COMMITMENTS ARE INVOLVED?**

Some parents are concerned that their student will be over involved, will not have time to study, or will not budget his or her time well. Band does provide the students with a lot of activities throughout the year, but we would not have it any other way! Band teaches students to budget their time effectively. Band does not limit students, because the majority of our members are active in other organizations. One important factor is that Band students can participate in sports as well as Band. This is a major concern for some students. **It is proven statistically that students work best when they are active and doing things that challenge them and that they enjoy!**

Marching Band starts the year off with an exciting Band Camp before school begins. We then rehearse during the school day, some weeknights and occasional weekends. All additional Marching Band rehearsals cease about 2.5 months after school begins. After Marching Band, Symphonic Band performances, competitions, and festivals occur throughout the school year.



❑ **WHAT IS BAND CAMP?**

Because rehearsal time is limited when school is in session, we meet in August before school begins with additional staff to help students learn their music and marching fundamentals. It is very similar to why the fall sports teams begin practice prior to the start of school.

Additionally, this is a "get acquainted" time for Band veterans and an orientation period for the freshman. During Band Camp, we also try to hold several social events for the students and their parents that will further develop the much desired camaraderie that our Staff desires. All dates and times are on the calendar located at www.drhsband.org.

❑ **HOW LONG DOES MARCHING BAND LAST?**

Marching Band is active only a small portion of the school year. The last commitment of the Marching Band is usually toward the first weekend in November. At this time, the whole group is dispersed amongst our smaller ensembles. See *Course Offerings* on page 8.

❑ **IN WHAT WAYS CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?**

There are many ways to get involved with the Band Program. What a great way to get involved with your student's education! At the first meeting of the year we will give you a chance to sign up for involvement in many of the Band's activities. There is never any pressure. It is simply a lot of fun and a great feeling to work with students and be a part of the Damonte Ranch Band Program. See the Parent Volunteer form in the back of this Handbook!

❑ **HOW ARE TRIPS CHAPERONED?**

The Band travels to certain festivals and competitions throughout the year. There may be an additional trip in the spring if funding allows. Parents will be informed of any additions to the calendar in a more than timely fashion. The Band Boosters have a member on its Board of Directors who plans the trips and provides sufficient chaperones (*usually at a ratio of one parent to every 8-10 students*). Trips are carefully organized and rules are strictly enforced. We try to take as many parents on trips as space will allow.

❑ **WHAT ARE THE BAND BOOSTERS?**

The Damonte Ranch Band Boosters is a support group for the Band Program at Damonte Ranch High School. Meetings are held monthly. Issues are discussed and the fundraising projects are organized through these meetings. Remove the Parent Volunteer form from the rear of this Handbook and fill it out right away! See the Band Booster heading on page 15.

❑ **HOW WILL I BE KEPT INFORMED OF PERTINENT BAND INFORMATION?**

This Handbook is the main body of information for the school year. The Band calendar, located at www.drhsband.org, is updated regularly. Trip itineraries are given to students in advance. General parent meetings are held regularly throughout the year. Band Booster board members can be contacted at any time in order to receive the information that you may need. Also, during the school year the Band publishes newsletters containing important information about upcoming events and trip itineraries.

❑ **WILL MY SON OR DAUGHTER BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE ALL OF THE REQUIRED CLASSES AND TAKE BAND AT THE SAME TIME?**

YES! Even with our block schedule, there are many students who not only take a Concert Band class and Marching Band, but also are concurrently in Jazz Band, Music Theory, Choir or Orchestra. The most important thing, of course, is careful planning. You can take Band with your required classes and still have room for other electives if you sit down and plan for it during the student's first year of high school. Your student's counselor is an excellent source of help for program planning. Students have also been able to participate in sports concurrently with the Band Program; **we exclude no one!**

❑ **MY CHILD IS INTERESTED IN OTHER THINGS THAT DAMONTE RANCH HAS TO OFFER. WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREEING UP ELECTIVES?**

If other electives look attractive to your student, there are many options for students that will be discussed with them during their freshman year. Planning long term is the key. However, careful time management, summer school, and challenge tests are all viable options to create more space in their schedules.

❑ IS IT DIFFICULT TO BE IN BAND AND SPORTS AT THE SAME TIME?

This is perhaps one of the most frequently asked questions. The best way to find out how well this works is to talk to a student that is currently doing both. The sports coaches, the Athletic Director and the Band Staff will sit down in the spring and work out any foreseeable conflicts. Unforeseeable conflicts always will occur, but we will try very hard to work it out with the coach and student. We want students to feel they can try many things as long as they are committed to doing them all well. If there is a problem we will discuss it with the student and try to reach a viable solution that makes the student feel uncompromised.



❑ YOU SAY THAT YOU CAN DO OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE SAME TIME AS BAND, BUT I NOTICE ON THE CALENDAR THAT SOMETIMES EACH ONE HAS AN EVENT ON THE SAME DAY. WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THESE CONFLICTS?

All activities are important, but a hierarchy of importance exists. If one group has a practice and the other has a game or performance, then the game or performance takes precedence. If both have a performance or game (*unusual*), then the most important event takes precedence. This will be discussed and decided upon by the Director of Bands and the involved supervisor, coach or Athletic Director. If both groups have rehearsals or practices, then the time should be split equitably among the two activities.

We have had several students each year participate successfully in Band and fall sports as well as their church youth groups. It just does not make sense for a student to have to abandon their enjoyment of music for sports or visa-versa. The students that participate in more than one activity are often some of the best academic students at Damonte Ranch. Winter and spring sports rarely, if ever, conflict with a Band activity. We will do whatever it takes to offer music to our students!

❑ MY SON/DAUGHTER SEEMS TO BE UNINSPIRED ABOUT BAND. WHAT CAN I TELL THEM ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT MIGHT HELP MOTIVATE THEM TO GIVE BAND A TRY?

Try this analogy: Band is like ice cream. Although ice cream is all located in the same section of the grocery store, there are hundreds of different flavors and types. High school Band is a completely different flavor and consistency than middle school band. The level of performance increases, the quality increases, and students get to travel to new and exciting places. Even though they feel unmotivated or burnt out about Band, as soon as they see what the high school program is about, they cannot help but be motivated about Band, school, and life!

Giving up on music could also be compared to the painful process of building a house only to never complete the roof! You are never going to realize the potential of the house because it was never completed. Beginning Band can be compared to the foundation of the structure. Middle school Band is the walls. High school Band is the roof. It is also important to point out how many parts of the roof there are. There are many, many components to this one part of the whole house. Only by going through the complete construction process will your student be able to fully understand and appreciate the experience. Build the whole house and find out what true living is all about!

The following forms

are due by

July 14, 2011

*All forms
should be delivered
to the band office*

Damonte Ranch High School Band

I have read the 2011-2012 Damonte Ranch Band Handbook
and agree to accept the stated guidelines as a condition
of my membership of the Damonte Ranch High School Band.

Student Signature

Date

I have read the 2011-2012 Damonte Ranch Band Handbook
and agree to accept the stated guidelines as a condition
of my son or daughter's membership of the
Damonte Ranch High School Band.

Parent Signature

Date

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 anytime, 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.
- I-Pods, MP3 players 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.

Damonte Ranch High School Band
Parental Consent for Travel

As the parent or legal guardian of _____, I give my consent and approval for him/her to travel with the Damonte Ranch High School Band for the 2011-2012 school year. It is understood that all rules and regulations of the school and of the organization must be adhered to.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Birth-date _____ Home phone _____

Damonte Ranch High School Band
Authorization to Treat a Minor

I (we) the undersigned parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the undersigned student do hereby authorize and consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis rendered under the general or specific supervision of any member of the medical staff and emergency staff licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act or a dentist licensed under the provisions of the Dental Practice Act and on the staff of any acute general hospital holding a current license to operate a hospital from the Nevada Department of Public Health. It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospitalization being required but is given to provide authority and power to render care which the aforementioned physician, in the exercise of his or her best judgment, may deem advisable. It is understood that the effort shall be made to contact the undersigned prior to rendering treatment to the patient, but that any of the above treatment will not be withheld if the undersigned cannot be reached.

Student Name _____

May we administer Tylenol if requested by the student? YES____ NO____

List any restrictions _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Damonte Ranch High School Band Student Information

Student's Full Name _____ Date of Birth: / /

Male _____ Female _____ Class Grade(*circle one*): 9 10 11 12

Permanent Address

Mailing Address

Home Phone _____

Student's Cell _____

Student's email _____

Check one _____ Wind performer _____ Guard performer _____ Percussion performer

Primary instrument _____

Music class(es) enrolled in _____

Father's full name _____ Father's email _____ Father's
employer _____

Father's work phone _____ Father's Cell _____

Mother's full name _____ Mother's email _____

Mother's employer _____

Mother's work phone _____ Mother's Cell _____

Insurance Company _____

Group Number _____ Policy Number _____

List **ANY** special health problems in the past: _____

List **ANY** medications taken currently (include insulin, anti-convulsive, antihistamine, and tranquilizers)

Please state reason(s) for medication(s): _____

Family Physician: _____ Physician's phone: _____

Date of last Tetanus injection: _____

List all allergies to drugs or food: _____

Emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relation to student: _____

Damonte Ranch High School Band Parent Volunteer Information Sheet

Parent's names:

Dad _____ Mom _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Address _____

e-mail _____ e-mail _____

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Band Student's name(s) _____

The Damonte Ranch Band Parents Association needs volunteers to assist in all parts of the Band program. Please read the descriptions below to see what areas you are interested in. There should be something that appeals to everyone. If you have any questions, either contact Michele Gardner, Band Parent President, by phone at 775-750-8005 or email at MMerritt-Gardner@ensemble.net or visit www.drhsband.org and link to the "Contacts" page.

Place an "X" by the committees that interests you.

| Committee | Dad | Mom | Description |
|--|-----|-----|---|
| FUNDRAISING | | | Assist with general fund raising projects and help to identify new fundraising activities. We will be asking people to assist by taking charge of committees and general work. |
| CARE AND FOOD | | | Throughout the year we have a need for food service at competitions, fundraising events, bake sales, or just providing a treat for the students after a game or competition. Would also need help at Band BBQ's, Band Banquet, Football Games, etc. |
| BAND UNIFORMS | | | Assist with assignment and check out of uniforms before and after performances, games, competitions, as well as uniform maintenance and organizing the uniform room. |
| BAND EQUIPMENT/PROPS Construction-Maintenance- Repair | | | Prop/equipment building, maintenance, painting, and general repair. If you have access to metal working or wood working equipment, please list under 'comments' |
| BAND EQUIPMENT/PROPS Transport-Loading | | | Assist our truck driver in loading, unloading, transportation, and set up of props and equipment at concerts or marching band events. If you have a truck, trailer or quad that you have access to please list under 'comments' |
| COMMUNICATIONS* | | | Need people to work the telephone and email to get information out quickly to parents and collect data for the leaders. |

| Committee | Dad | Mom | Description |
|----------------|-----|-----|---|
| AWARDS/BANQUET | | | Assist the Vice President and work in conjunction with the Band Director to plan any contest awards ceremonies we may host during the year. Additional assistance with the annual Band Banquet may be required. |
| PUBLICITY* | | | Willing to help with promotion and/or advertising of shows, competitions, concerts, fundraising events through radio, newspaper, flyers, etc. Help with creation of programs for concerts and contests. |
| SEWING* | | | Help to sew and construct flags, uniforms, etc., for Band, Color Guard, Drum Line, etc... If you have any special skills or equipment please list under 'comments' |
| WATER WAGON | | | Help to provide water, cups to students at performances, games, competitions, and practice sessions if needed. |
| GRANT WRITING* | | | Researching and applying for grants for the Damonte Ranch Band and/or the Damonte Ranch Band Parents Association. |
| SPONSORSHIP* | | | Solicit and organize Partner Memberships from local businesses, corporations, and/or individuals. |
| CHAPERONE | | | Willing to ride with students on bus and go with the Band when they are on trips. |

* Perfect at-home job

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM ASAP AND RETURN TO THE BAND OFFICE OR MAIL TO:

Damonte Ranch High School Band
 10500 Rio Wrangler Parkway
 Reno, Nevada 89521

REMEMBER... YOU ARE the reason this works!
 Without your support this program would not be possible.
 If you are interested in any of the above categories
 but know you cannot be at every game or every performance, that is OK.
 Any service you can provide is needed and appreciated!

Damonte Ranch High School Band

Excused Absence Request

NAME _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

DATE OF PERFORMANCE or REHEARSAL _____

Circle group to be effected:

Symphonic Band Marching Band Jazz Band Winter Guard

Percussion Ensemble Basketball Band Winter Drumline

Reason: Please be specific. ("*Work*" will not be excused): _____

**A WRITTEN NOTE FROM YOUR PARENT OR
GUARDIAN MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM
Deliver *personally* to the director no later
than 1 month prior to a performance
or 2 days prior to a rehearsal.**

----- *Office use only* -----
Date received _____

- Request approved
- Request denied

Reason for denial: _____

Important Phone Numbers

Director:

Steve Schifferdecker 775-334-7208 snschifferdecker@washoe.k12.nv.us

Booster Contacts:

President:

Michele Merritt-Gardner 775-750-8005 MMerritt-Gardner@ensemble.net

Vice President:

Kim Sperling 775-851-3622 mommybus@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Melanie Mahan 541-829-7992 melanie_mahan@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Sharon Owens 775-771-8768 sharonowens@suttercreek.com

Care & Food:

Michele Merritt-Gardner 775-750-8005 MMerritt-Gardner@ensemble.net

Equipment & Props:

Jim Wills 775-224-7055 jtwills2000@aol.com

Uniforms:

Sharon Owens 775-771-8768 sharonowens@suttercreek.com

Awards:

Kim Sperling 775-851-3622 mommybus@sbcglobal.net

Chaperones:

Dawn Saathoff 775-852-2505 dawneday@hotmail.com

Web Master:

Dave Kisner 303-805-4615 dave@neuvisionmedia.com

To volunteer simply contact Mr. Schifferdecker, any board member or committee chair.

**Damonte Ranch High School Main Office: 775.851.5656 (phone)
775.851.5663 (fax)**

Damonte Ranch High School Band Website: www.drhsband.org

Donations to the Band are tax deductible.