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DEKALB HIGH SCHOOL

FIGHTING TIGERS MARCHING BAND

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2010 - 2011 HANDBOOK



Jonathan Wright - Director

## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the DeKalb County High School Band! By choosing to participate in this program you will become a part of a continuing tradition of excellence. You will increase your skills as a musician, foster a strong character that will assist you long after you graduate, and develop friendships that will last a lifetime.

The band program was formed in 1959 with Donald Bhem as the director. Over the past 50 years the band has been under the baton of Fowler Stanton, Larry Baskin, Doug Rogers, Randy Rhody, Karl Proctor, Shannon Pirtle, Bruce Cook, David Earl, Josh Trent, Trevor Baxter, Chuck Gilbert, Joshua Davis, Kristin Reagh, Rebecca Purdue, and Kelly Jo Birmingham. Because of the hard work of these music educators, the Fighting Tigers Band has won hundreds of awards and has been recognized by the community as an important part DeKalb County.

The strength of this program lies in the hard work and dedication of the students. The students involved in band care a great deal about pride, discipline, respect, honor, and displaying a positive attitude. Students involve in band not only excel in music and in school, they excel in life. In band there is a great deal of personal responsibility placed on each student and they always rise to this challenge and produce amazing results! By joining the program you are participating in a long standing tradition of excellence and success.

## THE DIRECTOR

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### **Jonathan Wright**

Jonathan Wright has been teaching and performing in the Middle Tennessee area for over nine years and this is his third year as Band Director in DeKalb County. He received his Bachelors and Masters in Music Education at Middle Tennessee State University. He was Band Director at Rose Park Magnet School in Nashville for two years and was the percussion instructor and arranger at John Overton High School in 2005 and 2006. He is a percussionist for the Murfreesboro Philharmonic Orchestra and is a former member of the 2001 and 2002 World Champion Cavalier Drum and Bugle Corps. Mr. Wright is a member of the music honors fraternity Pi Kappa Lambda, the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, Percussive Arts Society, and the Music Educators National Conference.

## ADDITIONAL STAFF

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- **Shawn Naumann - Color Guard and Percussion**
- **Greg Owens - Visual and General Effect**
- **Jonathan Turner - Color Guard**
- **Joey Wilburn - Brass and Woodwinds**

All staff that work for the Band Program have had extensive background checks through the Central Office of DeKalb County and are approved to work with the students.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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Our goals for this program are to strive for excellence in all areas of life and to promote a love and appreciation of music. We seek high standards for each individual band member and for the band as a whole. Students who participate will be held to high expectations of work ethic, personal character, and musicianship. Personal accountability is necessary as students learn to participate in not only in the band program, but in society as well.

## BAND COURSE OFFERINGS AT DCHS

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**The Fighting Tigers Marching Band:** The Marching Band meets in the first semester and is made up of brass, woodwinds, percussion, and color guard. The Marching Band has two roles. The first is to serve as a competitive group. The Marching Band will participate in various competitions throughout the first half of the school year. These competitions take place on the weekends and offer students an opportunity to travel and compete against other bands. The second role of the Marching Band is to support our school and the community. The band will perform at pep rallies and during half time at home and away football games. The band also marches in parades and performs for the public during holiday events. Because of the competitive nature of the group there is an extensive practice schedule. All woodwinds, brass, and percussion who participate in Marching Band must be signed up for both the fall and spring semesters of band. All Color Guard members must be signed up for Marching Band in the fall semester.

**Concert Band:** Concert Band serves as the foundation of the band program and will begin preparing for concerts at the conclusion of marching season. The ensemble is made up of brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Students will rehearse and perform quality music that will be performed at concerts throughout the year. The Concert Band will also participate in various festivals and recitals. The Concert Band rehearses during the regular school day. All students who wish to participate in any other performance ensemble, Marching Band, Brass Ensemble, DC-1, etc., must be enrolled in the Concert Band.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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### Primary Requirements

- The student must agree to and comply with the terms of this handbook.
- The student and parent must complete and turn in the "Band Membership Agreement" located in the back of this handbook.
- The student must be able to meet the financial obligations explained in detail below.
- Fill out and notarize insurance and contact information.

### Attitude

- The student must come to rehearsals ready to learn and improve.
- The student must express a Positive Mental Attitude!
- The student must show respect and courtesy to the directors, staff, and volunteers.

### **Musical Responsibilities**

- The student must be able to play or be willing to learn an instrument (this excludes Color Guard).
- The student must learn music ahead of time and come to rehearsals prepared.
- The student must be able to care for their instrument and equipment and keep it in good condition. Woodwind players must play on quality reeds and percussionists must use quality sticks and mallets.
- The student must be enrolled in the proper band class.

### **Financial Obligations**

- There is a \$250.00 Student Fair Share fee per student to participate in Marching Band. This fee covers a number of costs. An itemized budget is available upon request from the Treasurer. There are two payments as explained below.
  - Placement Guarantee Deposit: A non-refundable \$50.00 deposit is due on or before May 20<sup>th</sup>. This guarantees a spot in the fall Marching Band show for the student.
  - Second Deposit: The remaining \$200.00 is due on or before the first day of Fundamentals Camp which is July 19<sup>th</sup>. If you need to set up a payment plan contact the Treasurer. **If a payment plan is necessary all money will be due before November of 2010.**
  - Any student who has not paid their band fees by the end of the school year will be placed on the school delinquency list and will not receive their final report card and transcript until all fees are paid.
- All students are responsible for paying the same amount. The Student Fair Share fee is a method by which every band member is responsible for an equal share of band program costs. Many organizations have very high student participation fees (some schools charge over \$1000.00 per student). We are able to keep costs low because the Band Boosters have dedicated themselves to fund-raise any additional program costs by special projects, such as the Fiddler Jamboree booth, football concessions, etc. *As parents of students in the Band Program we will require your help with this fundraising.* Without your help, this program would not be possible.
- Students must keep their instrument in excellent working condition. If the instrument is rented from the band, the student will be responsible for returning the instrument in the same condition at the end of the school year. Any damage done to the instrument beyond normal wear and tear is the responsibility of the student to have repaired.
- Each student is responsible for purchasing items to wear with their uniform (see Uniform Procedures below).

### **Attendance**

- Students are required to be on time at all rehearsals and performances. All absences are unexcused unless due to personal illness, death in the family, an emergency, or special permission from Mr. Wright.
- It is the student's responsibility to inform Mr. Wright ahead of time, when possible, of an absence.
- If an absence is due to personal illness, a doctor's note must be shown for the absence to be excused.

- All missed rehearsals and performances will have a negative impact on the student's grade.
- If a student has a high number of unexcused absences or is late often for Marching Band rehearsals, they will not be allowed to perform with the Marching Band and may be removed permanently from the group.

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## RULES AND REGULATIONS

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### CONDUCT

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#### **Conduct in general**

- The student must comply with all rules and regulations for the Band Program and the DeKalb County school system. The student must remain in good standing in all other classes outside of band. You must stay out of trouble, both from an academic standpoint and from a disciplinary standpoint. Illegal drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes are strictly prohibited. Students caught with any of these substances will be suspended from school, and turned in to the authorities.
- Treat the Band Director, staff, chaperones, volunteers, and other students with courtesy and respect.
- No foul language is to be used during any band function, rehearsal, or event.
- NO CELL PHONES IN REHEARSAL! Cell phones will be taken up and turned in to the main office.

#### **Conduct in the band room**

- The band room is our home away from home and must be treated with respect.
- Dispose of all of your trash and clean up after yourself.
- No running or horseplay.
- If you do not play it, do not touch it. Do not touch or use other student's instruments without their permission. Do not lean on the percussion instruments and don't use them as a table.

#### **Conduct in public**

- When we perform together as a band, we are representing the school, the county of DeKalb, and more than 50 years of tradition. There is a high expectation of how the band should look and behave.
- When in public, be on your best behavior.
- This is a band function, not a date. Absolutely no improper display of public affection.
- Always wear your uniform and/or band shirt correctly.

#### **Disciplinary Actions**

- Students may be asked to run laps, do push-ups, and/or sit-ups for tardiness, disrupting rehearsal, not following instructions, etc. This is a long standing tradition of the band and is used to reinforce discipline, foster excellence, and hold the students accountable for their actions. If for any reason you wish your child not to be disciplined in this way, please talk to Mr. Wright.

- The band has assigned student section leaders that have the authority to help maintain discipline. If at any point you feel the section leader is out of line or disrespectful to another student let the Mr. Wright know as soon as possible.

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## USE OF BAND FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

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### Facilities

- No students are allowed in the band room unless the Band Directors, staff, or a chaperone is present.
- All personal items must be kept in your locker. Lockers will be assigned the first week of school.
- There is no food and drink allowed in the band room at any time without the Director's permission. You may have water in a bottle with a sealable top at any time.
- No student is allowed in the Band Director's office without permission.
- The band room will be straightened up after every rehearsal.
  - It is the responsibility of the Color Guard to keep the guard room clean and organized.
  - It is the responsibility of the Percussion Section to keep the back of the band room clean and organized.
  - It is the responsibility of the Woodwinds and Brass to keep the instrument shelves clean and organized.

### Equipment

- Instruments are available for rental from the band program. See the Band Director if you would like to rent an instrument.
- All guard equipment must be kept in the guard room.
- All music and exercises passed out must be kept in a folder. Do not fold the music. Only write on the music using pencil.

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## AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

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- Attendance at Marching Band rehearsals make up a part of the student's overall grade. Any unexcused absences will seriously affect your grade in band.
- Rehearsals will begin promptly at the assigned time. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to gather your instrument and any other materials you may need for the rehearsal.
- Your time is valuable and should be respected. We will not end a rehearsal late unless all students agree to stay for the extra time.
- Marching Band is an outdoor activity! Here are some suggestions of items to use during rehearsals.
  - **Always bring water to rehearsal!** Make sure you are drinking plenty of water throughout the day.
  - Do not wear dark colored clothing in the summer.
  - Always wear sunscreen.
  - Baseball caps and sunglasses are recommended.

- Athletic shoes with the laces tied are recommended.
- Dress in layers, especially in the fall.
- If your section wishes to call an extra rehearsal, inform the Band Directors and they will make sure you have a practice facility.

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## PROCEDURES AT FOOTBALL GAMES

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### **Pregame**

- All students must meet at the designated time and place. This may change from time to time so always make sure you know when and where to meet.
- Students will change into uniform and make sure their instruments are in working order. Make sure you have whatever you will need for the game (i.e. music).
- At the designated time students will line up in parade formation for inspection. You will be checked for your appearance. It is your responsibility to keep your uniform clean and to wear it correctly. Volunteers will be available to help you if you need something fixed.

### **During the game**

- Uniform jackets will only be removed with the permission of the Band Director. When jackets are removed take care that they are kept off of the ground and kept clean.
- It is our responsibility to play pep tunes in the stand and cheer on the team. Everyone must play every song and everyone must help cheer!
- You may not play a stands tune unless directed. Do not play your instrument unless the entire band is playing.
- If you need to go to the restroom make sure that all musical parts within your section are covered. Only one player per section may leave at a time.
- During the second half of the second quarter the band will leave the stands to warm up for the half time performance. Make sure that you have all parts of your uniform and that if needed, you have used the restroom before the band leaves to warm up.
- During the third quarter you will have time to take a break and get a snack. Make sure that you are back in the stands and ready to play during the fourth quarter.

### **Halftime**

- Every performance is an opportunity to entertain and to improve as a group. We will always give our all at every performance!
- If we are performing at a home game we will perform after the visiting band. If we are at an away game, we will perform first.
- When the other band is performing, be supportive and watch! They have worked just as hard as we have and they deserve our support and respect.

### **After the game**

- Do not leave the stands until the directors dismiss the band.
- Every student is responsible for returning their uniform and instrument to the proper place.
- Every percussionist must remain until all percussion equipment is put away properly.
- If we take a bus to an away game you must ride the bus to and from the game. If you wish to ride with your parents, you must ask for permission from the Band Directors.

- Everyone must do their part to make sure the band room is left in good condition after the game.

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## TRAVEL PROCEDURES

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### **Loading and Unloading**

- Every student must help load and unload!
- Every student is responsible for loading their own instrument. Other students are not allowed to load your equipment.
- Before loading you must have your equipment at all parts of your uniform checked by your section leader before loading your instrument and boarding the bus.

### **Contests**

- You will be given an itinerary for all contest days. This will include rehearsal times, performance times, when the band will leave the school and when the band will return.
- All students must ride the bus to and from the contest unless you have permission from the Band Director.
- Upon arrival to the contest the Band Director will give you instructions. You are not allowed to leave the bus unless the Director or chaperones give you permission.
- Any time you leave the group to go to the restroom, get food, etc., you must let the Director, staff, or chaperone know.
- If there are any changes to the schedule we will inform parents as soon as possible.

### **Bus Rules**

- Always respect the chaperones and follow their instructions.
- You must honor any rules that the bus driver has for their bus.
- Only students, staff, and children of chaperones are allowed to ride the bus with the band. No siblings, alumni, or friends are allowed without permission from the Band Director.
- Do not put anything out of the windows.
- Do not open the rear exit unless you have permission from the bus driver or there is an emergency.
- Do not do anything that would distract the bus driver (use flashlights, loud screaming, etc.).
- When leaving the bus, pick up all of your trash and make sure you have your personal items.

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## GRADING POLICY

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<b>Daily participation/Attendance</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Playing tests/Written tests</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Performances</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>10%</b>

**Daily participation/Attendance:** Students are expected to come to rehearsal prepared. Your instrument and all equipment must be in working order. Any assigned music must be prepared ahead of time. If a student is unprepared or does not have all of their materials, their grade will be affected. If a student is absent they will receive a grade of 0 for that rehearsal. If the absence in



unexcused, this grade cannot be made up. If a student has an excused absence, they will be allowed to make up for the lost credit.

**Playing Tests/Written Tests:** Tests will be given throughout the school year, every two or three weeks. Grading criteria for these tests will be presented before they are given.

**Performances:** Performances are the most important part of being in band. Students and parents must make every effort to be present at all performances. If a student is absent they will receive a grade of 0 for that performance. If the absence is unexcused, this grade cannot be made up and the student may face expulsion from the band program. If a student has an excused absence, they will be allowed to make up for the lost credit.

**Project:** Every grading period the student will be responsible for completing a project. These projects include, but are not limited to, performing a solo, writing a composition, attending a concert, and doing research on a topic. Students will be asked to choose a project at the beginning of each grading period.

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## UNIFORMS

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### BAND SUPPLIED PARTS

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#### **Winds and Percussion**

- Uniform jacket
- Uniform pants
- Hat w. plum (chicken)
- Gloves
- Band show shirt (given the week of band camp)

#### **Color Guard**

- Uniform top and bottom

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### STUDENT SUPPLIED PARTS (PURCHASED BY STUDENT)

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#### **Winds and Percussion**

- Three ring binder with plastic sheets.
- Marching Shoes: An order will be made at the beginning of the season and cost about \$30.00 a pair. These may be used for more than one season. Used shoes may be available for purchase from former members.
- Gauntlets: An order will be made at the beginning of the season and will cost \$23.00 a pair. These may be used for more than one season.
- Black athletic socks: Must cover the ankle! You will want to buy a couple pair.
- Black undershirts: To be worn under uniform.

#### **Color Guard**

- Dance shoes: An order will be made at the beginning of the season and cost about \$38.00 a pair. Used shoes may be available for purchase from former members.
- Gloves: For rifle only.
- Appropriate undergarment for uniform.
- Make-up, hair ties, etc.

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### UNIFORM ETTIQUITE

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- No visible jewelry of any kind may be worn while in uniform. This includes earrings and watches. If your earring cannot be removed you may cover it with a band-aid.
- No unnatural hair color (green, blue, etc.) may be visible while in uniform.
- Moderate and tasteful make-up is allowed. No black or outrageous colors allowed.
- All hair that falls to the neck or below must be tied up while performing. Color-guard may wear a pony-tail or other styles approved by the guard instructor.
- You may not wear any type of hat or baseball cap while in uniform. Toboggans and earmuffs are allowed when it is cold.
- No running or horseplay is allowed.
- No public displays of affection beyond friendly hugs are allowed.

## DEKALB HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS

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The DeKalb High School Band Boosters is a non-profit organization of Band Student Parents who assist the Band Director in providing a high quality musical experience for all students enrolled in the Band Program at DCHS. The primary goal of the Boosters is to aid in providing needed funds to support the budget of the Band Program as set forth by the Band Directors. This is done by providing fund raising events for both band parents and band students to participate in. Additionally, the Boosters provide needed funds for band equipment, instruction needs, and overall assistance as requested by the Band Director for the operation of the DeKalb Band. The club has a constitution and by-laws (which are available for anyone to read on request) that is used to manage the operations of the club.

Volunteer Band Booster members should understand that their role and purpose in their quest to help the Band Program. As stated in the constitution of the DeKalb High School Band Boosters Club, the prime objective is to "...assist the Band Director of the DCHS Band in providing a high quality music experience for the students who are enrolled in the Band Program of DCHS.

In order to promote and maintain a positive learning environment, it is essential that all Band Booster Members work together harmoniously. Under vision and guidance of the Band Director, Band Booster members are to assist the Band members, staff, and Director in their quest for excellence in educational endeavors. With this in mind, we welcome you to the DCHS Band Family!

### BAND BOOSTER ACTIVITIES

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Parents are an important part of the DCHS Band, and have a vital role to play. There are many things parents can do.

- Attend Band Booster meetings. They are monthly and meeting times will be given ahead of time.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and you can find the niche that best suits you: Chaperone, uniforms, concessions, pit/load/trailer crew, sewing, and publicity are just a few of these areas that we need filled.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child by:
  - Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance as well as meeting deadlines and responsibilities.
  - Notifying the Band Director in advance if your child is to be late for a performance or rehearsals. Emergencies are the only exceptions.
  - Encourage your child to practice at home. Arrange for private lessons for your child if at all possible. Showing your interest and support in your child's study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
  - Discussing with the Band Director anything that will help them understand how to better serve your child.

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# CONTRACT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE DEKALB HIGH SCHOOL BAND

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I hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the DeKalb High School Band Handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the rules, regulations, and intent of said Handbook, and understand the penalties for not doing so. I understand that an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will seriously affect my grade in Band. I have had all questions concerning the content of this Handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

**Student's signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have read the Dekalb High School Band Handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the rules and regulations of the Band as expressed in the Band Handbook. I/We understand that all fees must be paid or my/our child will not receive their final report card and transcript. I/We also understand the Band Boosters will need my help in fundraising activities.

**Parent's signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_