



Desert Sky Band/Choir/Orchestra Syllabus 2022-2023

Instructor: Mr. Anthony Acevedo
Email: Anthony.Acevedo@dvusd.org

Course Rationale:

While performing and rehearsing music, students will gain more than musical knowledge. Students will learn the value of *self-discipline, accountability, personal expression, team cooperation and leadership.....Life Skills!* Music will help set students on a path to be professionally prepared for life.

Course Objective:

Students will:

1. *Perform on instruments, in various ensemble settings and repertoire*
2. *Read and notate music*
3. *Study concepts of rhythm*
4. *Study concepts of intonation*
5. *Listen, analyze and critique music*
6. *Demonstrate a growth and development in pursuit of personal and ensemble excellence*

Grades and Assessment:

Musicians of the Desert Sky Music Program will be assessed on: rehearsals and performances, regularly scheduled playing tests, written tests and quizzes, daily class participation, preparedness and behavior.

Grading Breakdown:

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| 1. <i>Assessments (Tests)</i> | <i>Points vary based on content</i> |
| 2. <i>Assessments (Performances)</i> | <i>50 points per performance</i> |
| 3. <i>Assignments (Homework and Participation)</i> | <i>5 Points per Week (1 Per Day)</i> |

Late Work:

Work can be accepted late at a 10 percent grading penalty

Test Retakes:

Tests can be retaken but must be scheduled before, after school, or at FLASH time.

Concerts and Performances:

Musicians of the Desert Sky Music Program are **required** to be in attendance at all concerts! These are performance-based classes and these concerts are your time to show off your hard work in class, as well as to support your “teammates” who have worked equally as hard.

Concert Dress: Members of the Desert Sky Music Program will dress in “concert black”:

- **Boys:** will be expected to wear black slacks, black long sleeve button up shirt (tucked in), Black belt, black socks and black dress shoes

- **Girls:** will be expected to wear either black slacks, or modest dress/skirt and black blouse/top, and black flats or “*sensible*” heels.

NO Tennis Shoes, Vans, T-shirts or Jeans!

Failure to adhere to concert dress policy could result in student getting sent home and losing points for the given performance.

Written Tests/Quizzes:

Content of written tests will include:

- Music theory discussed course
- Writing out major scales
- Musical Terms/ Music history discussed in class

Playing Tests:

Musicians of the Desert Sky Music Program will be individually assessed on developing musical skills and technique through playing tests. These tests will be administered in a one-on-one setting or through video assignments.

Content of these tests will include:

- Scales
- Excerpts from concert pieces
- Technique topics covered in class

***Festivals and District Events:** It is a privilege to travel to any festival performance. While at festival performances, Musicians of the Desert Sky Music Program are expected to abide by all behavioral expectations set forth in the Student Handbook as well as expectations set by the Instrumental Programs.

Event Dates: Dates are subject to Change! (Everyone)

- Deer Valley Marching Band Future Freshman Night: October 28th
- Orchestra and Choir Concert: December 6th at 6:30PM Call time at 6PM
- Band Concert: December 7th at 6:30PM Call time at 6PM
- End of the Year Concert Dates: May 3rd (Date Subject to Change)

Choir Only

- District Pre-Assessment Choir: Tuesday October 18th, 2022 @Goldwater
- Honor Choir: Thursday November 10th, 2022
- District Post-Assessment Choir: Thursday March 22nd, 2023 @Goldwater
- ACE Choir Competition: TBD (We Will Travel)
- Diamondbacks Night: TBD

Band Only

- District Pre-Assessment Band: Thursday November 17th, 2022 @Mountain Ridge
- Deer Valley High School Feeder Concert: February 8th @DVHS
- Deer Valley District Honor Band: Thursday Feb 9th, 2023 @Mountain Ridge

- ABODA Band Competition Dates: TBD (We Will Travel)
- District Post-Assessment Band: Wednesday April 26th, 2023 @Mountain Ridge

After School Band:

Students are more than welcome to stay after school to practice or work with me one on one. After School Band will be Monday thru Thursday every week. This is great for students with larger instruments that are hard to take home! I ask that all students be picked up no later than 4PM. If you would like to set up a schedule with me for one on one help please email me!

Jazz Band:

I am planning on offering an after school Jazz band class. This will be a non-graded, audition based, performance ensemble. We will meet Monday and Wednesday from 3pm to 4:30pm every week. I will only place students in this ensemble who are at the appropriate ability to participate in it. This ensemble will have to commit to all performance opportunities and will perform at appropriate band concerts. The ensemble will consist of Flutes, Alto Saxophones, Tenor Saxophones, Baritone Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Drum Set, Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar, and Vocalists. If you would like to switch instruments for jazz band please come see me.

Honor Band/Choir:

Honor Band is an audition based event that occurs in February and March. The selected students will travel to a high school within our district where they will work with clinicians who are professionals in the music education field playing with other top caliber musicians across DVUSD. Everyone is welcome to audition but unfortunately, not all will make it. This is always a very fun day. It is one of my favorites. I hope many of you audition.

District Assessment:

The Deer Valley Unified School District is known for its excellent music programs. One of the events the district offers are in-district assessments. This is where we play for a panel of professional judges to help students and directors to grow as musicians and educators. The DVUSD schools travel to a high school within the district. This is during the school day and we return before school gets out. This is closed to parents as this is not a concert but an assessment of our work. However, Parents are permitted to go and watch if they are helping to travel equipment to the venue.

Feeder Nights:

Feeder nights are by far the most important nights for our students. This is an opportunity to see what a High School Band is like. We are fortunate enough to feed one of the most decorated High School Band Programs in Arizona, Deer Valley High School! They are gracious enough to invite us to go play with their Marching Band and play a concert with them on their magnificent stage! The marching band event is ***strongly recommended*** for all 8th graders and 7th graders are also welcomed to come. The feeder concert is ***required*** for students in the participating ensembles.

Diamondbacks Night:

The Deer Valley Unified School District is asked at least ONCE a year to sing the national anthem at a Diamondbacks game. This is an ***optional*** event! We will have a special link where you can purchase tickets from. The link will not only get you your ticket for the event but a part of it will be

donated to our school's choir program. You ***MUST*** bring a parent to the event to sign you in & out. You do not have to stay for the whole game. This is always a fun night every year!

Practice Records:

Musicians of the Desert Sky Music Program are ***expected*** to practice for at least fifteen minutes per day, five days per week totaling 75 minutes per week. Currently, I will **NOT** be requiring practice records. I believe that the students want to see improvement in themselves and in their band, and they know that consistent outside practicing is the only way that this will be achieved. If it begins to show that a large number of students are failing to do so, then practice records will be reinstated and enforced.

Participation, Classroom Expectations and Required Materials:

Musicians of the Desert Sky Music Program are expected to be in their seats, ready to play and with all materials needed at the start of each class. Those not ready will be marked late. While in rehearsal it is expected that musicians do not talk when they are not being worked with and maintain a manner of professionalism while other sections of the band are being worked with. Failure to abide by any given expectations or procedures after fair warning will result in a loss of participation points for the day, and after further warning will be sent to the front office.

Required Materials for each musician:

- Instrument
- Two-Pocket Folder
- Music (Warm-ups & Repertoire)
- Fingering Chart
- PENCIL! (pen is **not** acceptable, nor will any work that is done with it)
- Technique/Method book
- Any required items needed to play (valve oil, tuning slide grease, cork grease, reeds MORE THAN 1!!!), etc.
- A great and positive attitude!

Musicians that do not have all required materials are subject to a loss of daily participation points and ultimately, a grade reduction.

School-Wide Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed to be used on campus, unless explicitly directed by a teacher during the course of instruction. All cell phones are to remain off and put away at all times when on campus. Student use of cell phones or electronic devices will result in confiscation, and the student may pick up the device during dismissal at the end of the day for the first three violations. Upon the fourth violation, parents/guardians are required to pick up the phone from school. Continuous violations for this expectation may result in discipline in accordance with DVUSD standards. Earbuds or Bluetooth music devices may not be used in class or transition periods for any reason unless directed to by a teacher.

The guidelines and expectations listed in this document are intended to promote a structured and enjoyable learning environment that will promote nothing short of excellence from every musician in the Desert Sky Music Program.