



Parents,

My name is Mr. Williams. It is my distinct pleasure to teach your child at Destrehan High School. As their band director, it is my responsibility to continue teaching students the necessary fundamentals of playing their instrument as well as how to listen and play with others in an ensemble setting. I prefer doing this because the students will benefit from this kind of instruction now and after high school if they choose to continue in music. Because of this, I require my students to learn their music on their own. Doing so will allow the ensemble to learn and apply these fundamental skills as well as develop individual responsibility and accountability, two necessary professional standards needed in all fields of work.

In order to accomplish this, I will hold my students accountable for these professional standards in my class. The first standard is showing up to every rehearsal fully prepared with the following materials: 1" binder (with sheet protectors), pencils/mechanical pencils, and a music flip-folder (for winds students only). Having these materials will help us to save time and be productive in rehearsal and record ideas or concepts that we talk about in class for future reference.

Additionally, practice outside of rehearsal will be absolutely necessary, enforcing self-discipline which is yet another professional standard. One of the ways I plan to monitor this is to require students to complete pass-offs as a grade. Pass-offs will be a collection of exercises or segments of repertoire that students will need to perform for me. Often times, students will have to submit videos from home via email of them playing their required repertoire for me to review. I will be using Google Classroom as an integral part of my class to create virtual assignments and reminders for your student(s). With this technology, students can access all information and assignments for my class. Fortunately for you, I can add you as a parent/guardian so you can receive updates and information through Google Classroom as well. Please email me if you would like to be included in our class. If this is not an option for you or your child, please contact me so I can set aside times to assess your child. I will explain the full process to the class once school begins. The goal is to increase the amount of one-on-one feedback to students as a means of improving the overall quality of the ensemble. It is proven that students who are able to play their parts individually are an integral part of the ensemble's success. I hope you choose to support and aid me with this process throughout the school year.

As you know, I hold my students to high expectations; I similarly hold myself to high standards. I ask that you support me in achieving these standards by being an integral part in your child's practice time by encouraging him/her to practice. I will make myself available to aid students before and after school or after rehearsals, and will do my best to provide each student with individualized feedback. Please do not hesitate to email me at cwilliams1@stcharles.k12.la.us if you have any questions or concerns during the year. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Classroom Civility

We take a Restorative Approach to discipline at Destrehan High School. Our primary focus, in conjunction with teaching and learning, is to build positive and working relationships. My discipline management plan will be consistent with the following restorative action steps:

1. **Remind** – student will be reminded of rule(s) or directions
2. **Redirect** – student will be specifically redirected to the task at hand
3. **Relocate** – student will be relocated to either reflect upon (mis) behavior, calm down, or removed from a potentially disruptive situation (*If necessary*)
4. **Reflect** – student will be guided to reflect upon what happened, what could have prevented the situation, and how to make amends to the appropriate parties (*If necessary*)

**Further or more severe consequences may be assigned if disruptive behavior continues or for more serious incidents/offenses*

Sincerely,

Chris Williams
Director of Bands
Destrehan High School