



DAVIESS COUNTY

Band of Pride

Parents and Students,

New for the 2011-2012 School year, the DCHS Band Program will be implementing SmartMusic. SmartMusic is a powerful online program that allows students to practice and record playing tests at home. There are multiple features, but to generalize, here's how it works:

1. Student and Parents select the computer (Mac or PC) they wish to use for SmartMusic. This computer must meet the minimum requirements listed on the SmartMusic website and should be a machine that students can use at home any night if need be. For many students, this computer will be their DCHS laptop. Realize that this will limit use to the time frame students have the computer (Aug-May). If there is no/slow internet connection at home, students will have to use their DCHS laptop and complete assignments when they can connect to WiFi at school or another location.
2. Parents go to www.smartmusic.com and purchase a 1 year subscription and an instrument microphone. The prices they initially list are retain, as members of the DCHS band, our students receive a discount. This will be credited to the account once you are prompted to select your school during the checkout process. When I purchased my son's subscription and microphone, the total was just over \$50.
3. Once purchased, they will mail the microphone and an installation CD-ROM
4. When installed on the computer, student's create an account using an email address and setting a password.
5. Siblings who can use the same computer don't need multiple subscriptions or microphones. Multiple students can register accounts on the same computers.
6. Once registered and logged on, students add themselves to online classes created by Mr. Dale.
7. Mr. Dale can send assignments to students via SmartMusic. Students can practice and retake assignments until they get the grade they want and then submit it to Mr. Dale who can see a full report of the assessment and listen to a recording of the student.
8. Time will be taken in class to learn how to use all of the components.

This will really be a helpful tool for all of our musicians. They will have access to a huge library of music to play and will be able to play along with band or piano accompaniment to hear how their part fits in. They can save recordings of themselves and send to friends and family. The program features multiple embedded how-to videos to help students get started. I encourage parents and students to go to smartmusic.com and view some of the promotional videos posted there – you'll be amazed!

Students will need to purchase their subscription and microphone by August 5th in order to have the subscription active by the beginning of school. We will start sending playing assignments on SmartMusic within the first week of school. Questions can be emailed to Mr. Dale.

Sincerely,
DuWayne Dale
Director of Bands
Daviness County High School