

Dawson High School Band Principles

The Dawson Band Program is based on more than just musical excellence. We take great pride not only in how well we perform as musicians, but more importantly, in the way in which we conduct ourselves on a daily basis, both in and out of the band classroom, on stage, or on the marching field. It is the way we treat ourselves and others, both in and out of our band family, that makes the Dawson Band Program the best that it can be.

There are several key guidelines we try to live by that facilitate these values:

1. **Attitude** – “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you choose to react to it.” Approaching every situation with the proper mindset can dramatically affect the outcome.
2. **Be Proactive** – Always think and plan ahead. Do not wait to be told how to do things you already know how to do. Do not let life take you by surprise. Try to anticipate events and circumstances, and prepare for them in advance.
3. **Commitment** – The ability to begin a task or concept and follow through until its full completion. This often means fighting through frustration, difficult times or momentary distractions to reach a worthwhile goal.
4. **Generosity** – Share the talents you have been given unselfishly with others. This often refers to donations, but it also is simply taking time out of your day to help another person. Who did you go “out of your way” for today?
5. **Integrity** – Always do the right thing in every situation – even if it isn’t the easy choice. What decisions do you make when you are by yourself?
6. **Judgment** – The ability to decide what is important and what is not. Do not waste energy on situations beyond your control, but don’t use this as a cop-out for situations that you could positively affect with effort.
7. **Respect** – Treat others in a kind and caring way. “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” (The Golden Rule)
8. **Responsibility** – The ability to respond to every situation with your own choice. Evaluate yourself honestly, and always strive for

improvement. Push yourself to do your best in all you do.

9. **Trust** – The ability to believe in and depend upon a person’s character. Trust is an essential element in any meaningful relationship. With every interaction trust is gained or lost. Make sure you build trust with as many people as possible through all human contact.
10. **Walk the Talk** – Actions speak louder than words. Don’t be hypocritical. If you say you are going to take care of something, make sure it gets done. If you offer help to others, make sure you have taken your own advice.

Through positive attitudes and actions, we try to affect the world around us in the most productive and helpful way possible. Through music, we hope to bring enjoyment to those for whom we perform. This is one of the true rewards for the diligent work of all the students, private lesson teachers and directors at Dawson High School.

Special thanks to Steve Smith