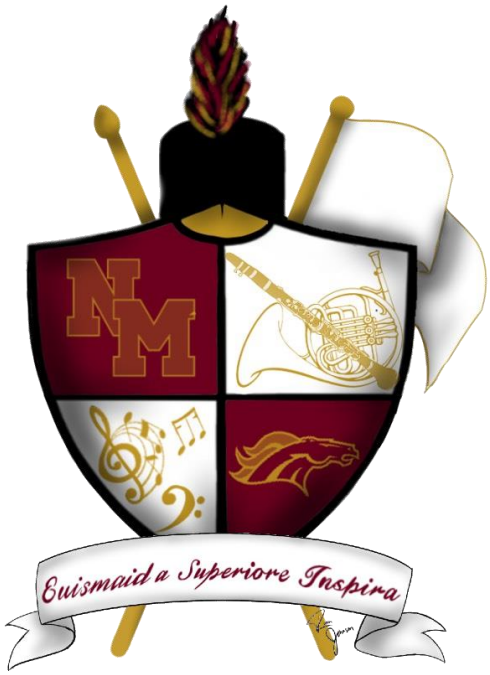
North Marion High School Band Program



2022 – 2023 Member Handbook

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From the Director

Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited for each member, both new and returning, who chooses to be a part of this organization. Every student brings something special to the program, and it is part of our mission to facilitate significant musical and personal growth in each one. Joining the NMHS Music Department is a full-year commitment – every student becomes part of *one organization*, which is multi-faceted in its ensembles and offerings.

With a calendar full of events, many after-school activities, and a variety of required personal supplies, each student and family must make a commitment to be informed and prepared for every band activity. This expectation is in effect all year. As Director, I will do my part to ensure student success by distributing a calendar of events, providing detailed expectations for each class day, rehearsal, and performance, as well as a full list of supplies that are required by each student. This information is all contained in our handbook - copies are available any time from our band website. In order for each member and all of their peers to be successful, I ask that every student and family carefully read through the handbook. Mark down dates in a physical calendar and an electronic one with reminders – printed dates will not change nor will any extra commitments be added outside of extenuating circumstances. Know exactly what supplies are needed every time the band meets, and speak with me directly if a family situation prevents anyone from being fully prepared for class. Please note, the Handbook Contract needs to be signed by both the student and parent/guardian, indicating you have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. This form must be returned to the Director no later than May 21st, 2022.

This musical endeavor is an equally collaborative project between students, family, staff members, and the director. We each have hard work ahead of us, we will all put in extra time outside of school hours, but most importantly, we will all advance our musicianship and share the experience of music making with our peers, families, and community. If anyone has questions which cannot be answered by information in our handbook, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by email, or through our Booster President. I am looking forward to an exciting and successful 2022-2023 school year. Thank you, and go Colts!

Aaron Janosa,

Director of Music

Vision Statement

Inspire Superior Performance Every Day, in Every Student

Mission Statement

It shall be the mission of the North Marion High School Music Department to facilitate musical growth to the highest level in each member, to ensure personal development through responsibility and work ethic, and to teach the value of working together with others to reach a common goal. No student will be turned away from the music-making experience if they are willing to invest and trust the process – we work together as one unit, and every member is of equal value and importance.

Band Motto

"It Doesn't Count Unless You Take the Next Step"

Ensembles Offered

Concert Band and Symphonic Band

The Concert Band and Symphonic Band are the nuclei of the band program. Their repertoire consists of well-known and varied works in the Grade level 3, 4, and 5 for concert bands. The Concert Band is comprised of newer or younger musicians. The Symphonic Band consists or higher-level performers or those who have auditioned into the group. These ensembles perform at least two concerts during the year and performs at graduation, the Marion County Optimist Concert Band Festival and the FBA District Concert Music Performance Assessment (MPA). There are also many other opportunities for smaller, specialized ensembles. *Prerequisite: Students must be a member of the Competition or Football Marching Bands to participate in the Concert Band unless an exception is approved.*

REHEARSALS: Most Tuesdays (after marching band) from 3:45PM – 6:00PM. Additional rehearsals and sectional times may be scheduled given appropriate notice.

Colt Stampede Marching Band

Colt Stampede is a marching ensemble organized during the summer for the duration of the football/competition season. It is divided into two units: the Competition and Football bands. Competition band membership is by audition with the NMHS Band Director. The Football band is open to all qualified band students. The marching band provides entertainment for all home and selected away football games, and performs annually before thousands of spectators at various pep rallies, festivals, parades and competitions. *Prerequisite: Students must be a member of the Concert Band or Symphonic Band to participate in the Marching Band unless an exception is approved.*

REHEARSALS: Members receive a school credit, and are automatically signed up for the marching band class (7th Period). The Competition Band rehearses Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3:45PM – 6:30PM, and Fridays that we have games. Wednesday afternoons are also reserved for sectional rehearsals, as announced. The Football-only Band only attends Fridays that we have games.

Colorguard

Colorguard is an outdoor visual ensemble during the fall season that supports the Marching Band, with routines that portray the music and help set the atmosphere on the field. Equipment utilized in the Colorguard can vary from flags, sabers, rifles, swing flags and many other types of equipment. The Colorguard will learn drill routines and some dance techniques. *Participation in indoor ensembles (Concert Band, Jazz Band, etc) are not prerequisites to being a Colorguard member, but students who also play instruments are highly encouraged to hone their musicianship by participating in these ensembles as well.*

Members receive a school credit, and are automatically signed up for the marching band class (7th Period). The Colorguard rehearses with the Marching Band on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:45 – 6:30PM, and Fridays that we have games. The Colorguard may have additional rehearsals as needed, given appropriate notice.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is an integral part of the overall band program – performing Jazz/Latin/Pop/Rock repertoire, and promoting the study of a variety of genres. Membership for the ensemble *may be* determined by auditions. Any qualified student is able to audition for this ensemble. This ensemble plays at concerts, community performances, and for ratings at a variety of festivals. This group rehearses on Thursdays after the marching season. Students in the Jazz receive a full credit during the school year. *Prerequisite: Students must be a member of the Marching/Concert Band to participate in the Jazz Band, unless an exception is approved.*

General Information and Policies

Basic Rules

- Students must participate in class every day. If you are too ill to participate in class then you need to go to the clinic to be sent home.
- Each student is required to have their instrument, music, a pencil and any other materials that the Director deems necessary for rehearsal.
- Profanity, rudeness and horseplay will not be tolerated.
- No talking is permitted during instructional time. Students must raise their hand and wait to be recognized.
- No eating, drinking, or gum chewing in the band room at any time except for water.
- No food or drink is to be stored in the instrument room.
- Do not touch any instrument that is not explicitly yours to use.
- The dress code will be enforced all year.
- No public displays of affection in uniform.
- Insubordination towards the Band Director, Staff, Teachers, Chaperones, Administrators, or Band Boosters could result in temporary/permanent dismissal from the band.
- Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or other illicit substances may result in immediate dismissal from the band program, as well as disciplinary action per MCPS Student Code of Conduct policies.

Violation of Band Program Policies

- All infractions may be documented and reported to school administration as appropriate.
- A serious infraction of rules and policies could constitute removal from the Band Program
- In the case of serious behavioral violations while off campus, the student's parents will be called and the student will be asked to leave at their own expense

Overview of Expectations

In order to achieve and maintain a band program of the highest caliber, it is imperative that all members adhere to all of the following expectations at all times.

- Attend all required rehearsals and performance – <u>the minimum expectation is 100% attendance.</u> Being on time (a.k.a. early) to all events is part of this expectation.
- Be fully prepared for rehearsals and performances. You must have your working instrument, music/folder/lyre, pencil, extra reeds, valve oil, etc.
- Instrument and all related equipment must be kept in performance condition at all times.
- Understand the duties of the Officers in order to work with them.
- Practice regularly at home (2 hours/week minimum), and **study privately, if at all possible.**
    - Practice time should be spent on scales, long tones, ensemble music, etc.
- Keep the band facility neat and clean. Folders should be stored in the rack neatly. Only instruments and related equipment should be kept in the storage room.
- If you use it…put it back (stands, mutes, percussion equipment, etc.)
- Fulfill your Fair Share obligation, mainly by participating in fundraisers until this is accomplished.
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn, improve yourself, and create a culture of respect and dignity within our program.

Dropping Band

- All band courses are to be completed in full once school has been in session for two weeks
- After this point, the student must consult with the Director, parents, and a guidance counselor

Attendance

Because we are a performance-based arts discipline, a certain amount of extra rehearsal is necessary to maintain a consistent level of excellence. All performances and after school rehearsals require mandatory attendance. An extra effort is made by the director to give students and parents advance notice of all events. Therefore, we ask that appointments be scheduled so that they do not conflict with the band calendar. **To avoid any confusion, there generally will be no excused or unexcused absences. Either you're there or you're not…rehearsals cannot be "made up."** Therefore, students are highly encouraged to avoid being absent. An excessive number of tardies or absences will result in removal from select performances or band entirely. **In addition, members must be in school the day of a performance or they may not be allowed to perform that evening.** We simply cannot afford to allow absences or tardies to slip by if we want to be a Superior band. We are only as strong as our weakest link.

Attendance details

- If you miss two or more rehearsals prior to and in preparation for a performance, you may not be allowed to perform in that particular performance.
- If you miss the final rehearsal before a performance (be it in class or after school), you may not be allowed to perform.
- If you miss the final rehearsal before a marching band performance, you will be required to perform while standing on the sideline. This is a consequence of maintaining safety.
- In the case of a conflict between an NMHS Band rehearsal and another NMHS activity, the student must notify the director immediately upon realizing the conflict and allow the teachers to address the issue.
- Work is not an excuse for missing an event. As an adult, it is *your* responsibility to plan ahead. I will gladly provide a letter to your employer explaining when we have required, graded responsibilities at school.
- Students not eligible to perform are required to attend the concert in concert dress and complete a two page summary **in order to receive credit.**

Absence Procedures

- If you know about a conflict ahead of time, fill out a **Request for Excused Absence/Tardy** form, available on the Band Website.
    - Remember, this is a *request*, not a guarantee
    - Advance requests must be turned in *at least one week ahead of time*
- In the case of an emergency, please get in touch with Mr. Janosa in writing:
    - Email Mr. Janosa at **aaron.janosa@marion.k12.fl.us**
        - If an emergency arises, please still fill out the **Request for Excused Absence/Tardy** from our band website within two days of the unexpected absence
- **No form turned in = no grade for the required event**

Event Cancellations

In case of inclement weather, assume we are still meeting for the scheduled event. If the decision is then made not to go, the students may call to arrange for transportation home. **Only official communication from Mr. Janosa or Marion County Public Schools can announce an event cancellation**

Because cancellations are always possible, is imperative that all parent contact information is kept updated in Skyward and with Mr. Janosa.

Student Leadership

Purpose

Student leadership (a.k.a. officers) are band members who go above and beyond to support all activities of the band program. They volunteer their time and energy to create a better musical and professional environment for all members. They are the role models of the program, and they represent the North Marion High School Band with the highest level of dignity and respect at all times.

Selection Process

Everyone interested in being an officer must fill out a short application, and attend an in-person interview before a staff/volunteer panel. Drum Major candidates must also audition for the position. In addition to these requirements, student leaders are selected by a year-long process. Every student is constantly considered for their suitability as a future leader in the band program. While a strong interview and thoughtful application answers are beneficial, students who demonstrate excellence at all times are ideal candidates as officers.

Hierarchy and Responsibilities

In order to be an officer, students are selected based on excellence in all of the following areas: attitude, being a positive example, attendance and punctuality, musical achievement, reliability, school grades, and experience. Note that "being a first chair/part player" is a very small component of leadership selection, at best. **All leadership students must also attend a leadership clinic which will take place near the end of the school year.**

Student officers follow a hierarchy of tasks and responsibilities. The position titles and brief descriptions (not comprehensive) are listed below.

Drum Majors

- Greatest responsibilities and expectations
- Supervises all other student officers
- Conducts the band during marching band rehearsals
- Records attendance and leads stretches
- Willing to take on any other leadership role as needed
- Act as a representative for the band program as a whole
- Ensures other leadership responsibilities are fulfilled

Captains (Brass, Woodwind, Colorguard, Percussion, Equipment)

- Serves as the role model for their sections
- Assists in enforcing rehearsal etiquette
- Leads sectionals and memorization checks
- Responsible for uniform and equipment inspections
- Oversees uniform/equipment setup as assigned
- Ensures cleanliness of equipment and band room
- Equipment: coordinate all loading and unloading procedures
- Reports to Drum Majors

Lieutenants (Equipment/Logistics)

- Carries out duties as assigned by Captains and/or Director
- Responsible for equipment being ready at rehearsals
- Assists with loading equipment for travel
- Maintains organization of music, library, band room chairs, etc.
- Reports to Captains

Current Leadership

Drum Majors

Head Drum Major: TBA for 2022- 2023
Assistant Drum Major: TBA for 2022- 2023

Captains

Woodwind: TBA for 2022- 2023
Brass: TBA for 2022- 2023
Percussion: TBA for 2022- 2023
Colorguard: TBA for 2022- 2023
Equipment and Field Captains: TBA for 2022- 2023

Lieutenants

TBA for 2022- 2023

➔ **Please direct your day-to-day questions regarding our schedule and in-class expectations to leadership "up the chain of command". For example, ask a lieutenant first. If they do not know the answer, ask your large-section captain, etc.**

Band Boosters

Purpose

The NMHS Band Boosters' purpose is to advance the best interests of the North Marion High School Music Department by giving support as requested by the Director. All parents/guardians of students enrolled in the Music Program are members of the Music Boosters. A $5.00 membership fee is charged to become a voting member, and also covers insurance costs for parents/guardians who volunteer with the band. Maintaining an active band program requires support and funding beyond that provided by the school system, and our Band Boosters are a key part of that success.

Activities of the Booster Program

- Purchase and maintenance of uniforms
- Purchase of instruments
- Running and maintaining the Band Concession Stand
- Running the Kingdom of the Sun Festival
- Providing Chaperones for Band events
- Provision of funds for music and supplies as requested by the Director
- Organization and implementation of fundraising events
- Encouragement of new parent involvement
- Support for music and Fine Arts programs in all public schools

2021 - 2022 Booster Officers

- **President: Danny Mullener**
- **Vice President: Alicia Tank**
- **Treasurer: Alicia Farnbach**
- **Secretary: Sondra Mullener**

Marching Band Procedures

Marching Band Rehearsal Procedures

- Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory. During football season, marching rehearsals are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45 – 6:30PM (Marching Band is Period 7). Additional rehearsals may be scheduled throughout the season. See calendar for specifics.
- Occasional sectionals will be held on Wednesday afternoons, or on another time agreed upon by every member of a section. *Once agreed upon in writing, sectional attendance counts towards each student's grade.*
- When entering the band room, check the TV screen for instructions.
- No cases or backpacks should be in the concert arc or under chairs. (Cases should be in the instrument room, back packs against the wall in designated areas.)
- Before rehearsal begins, you should warm up individually (long tones, scales, etc.) until the Director signals to stop. At that moment, all playing and talking will stop.
- You should be at the rehearsal site by **3:40PM** with all necessary equipment.
- Members should be in Warm up block at **3:45PM** or student will be marked tardy.
- The Drum Majors have authority until the Director reaches the practice site.
- If a question arises during rehearsal, please raise your hand & wait to be called upon.
- There should be no talking or extra playing during rehearsal.
- When name or section is called students will raise their hands and eyes should go to whomever is speaking.
- Proper dress is required.
    - **Sneakers/tennis shoes/marching shoes ONLY**
    - **No jeans (unless it is very cold)**
    - **No hoodies/sweatshirts (again, unless it is cold outside)**
    - **No clothing items that impede proper marching/performance**
- Proper musicianship should be displayed at all times.
- No students should leave campus before rehearsal unless they have a note from their parent.

Uniform Inspection

The uniform is to be worn properly at all times. Captains will conduct an inspection prior to every performance, and the uniform must be checked back in by the Equipment Captain/Uniform Volunteer parent before being dismissed.

- Under-Uniform consists of: band shirt, basketball shorts, baseball cap, Dinkles, long black socks, backpack, and water jug
- T-shirt must be tucked in.
- Shoes should be polished and clean.
- Percussion equipment should be cleaned.
- Gloves should be clean.
- Hair should be properly groomed.
- Long hair must be worn up under the hat during marching performances. Hair should not touch the coat collar.
- Makeup should not be noticeable unless it is part of a costume/uniform
- Suspenders shall be adjusted properly so the trouser length is correct.
- Trouser bottoms to be no higher or lower than two to three inches from the ground.
- Sunglasses, medals, rings, earrings and other accessories **may not be worn**. (Sunglasses in the stands or at outdoor marching rehearsals are acceptable.)
- If the uniform is deemed not performance ready, the student will not march.
- Never wear an incomplete uniform in public

Home Game Procedures

- The band practices Friday after school in the stadium from **3:45 - 5:00PM**.
- No students are allowed to leave the school grounds following rehearsal.
- Students will then line up to grab hat boxes and carry anything necessary for the game minus instrument down to stadium prior to eating dinner. This includes music, cases, stands, and hat boxes.
- Dinner is served around **5:30pm.** Band students eat free of charge in the cafeteria. Students may also elect to bring their own food. No leaving school grounds!
- **No food or drinks in the band room.**
- At **6:15PM**, all students should be dressed in two lines in assigned order outside the band room for uniform and equipment inspections (no plumes for pre-game).
- Remember: Band shorts/shirts are required underneath the uniform.
- Uniforms/instruments will be inspected by section leaders who will report to the captains.
- The band should be ready to move out at **6:20PM** to march to the stadium.
- When marching to the performance area, do it with pride. Concentrate on your marching style, keep your spacing, and pay attention to body carriage (head up and facing forward, back straight). Do not talk!
- No additional personal items shall be carried by a student to the stadium. Please do this between **5:00** and **5:30PM** or make other arrangements.
- Upon arrival at the stadium, students will march directly to our warm-up area behind the scoreboard on the north side of the field.
- After warm-ups, the band will set up in pre-game formation and wait for the signal from the Director/Drum Major to begin the pre-game performance.
- At the conclusion of pre-game, students immediately and quickly exit the field towards the home side, form a line and walk quickly to their assigned seats, remain standing until signaled by the Drum Major to take their seats and remove their jackets.

Away Game Procedures

- Depending upon the distance, the band may or may not rehearse before departure for game.
- Food and drink will be provided by the Band Boosters before leaving school.
- At the appointed time, take your instrument outside by the truck/trailer to be loaded. Each person is responsible for their own equipment.
- Check out uniform and shako.
- When signaled, board assigned bus and sit quietly for roll call.
    - Captains/DMs determine seating order
    - No assigned seating either…unless behavior deems it necessary
- When we arrive at the venue, wait for the signal to get dressed and exit the buses.
- Take instrument from truck/trailer and line up in instrument order in two lines for departure to the stands.
- Uniforms/instruments will be inspected.
- All students will ride the bus to and from the performance, unless given specific permission by the Director with prior written parental consent.

Stadium Procedures

- Each student should find their seat and sit with their section.
- Non-band members are not allowed within the band section.
- Band members should treat other Band Directors and guests courteously. If something good can't be said about the visiting band, don't say anything!
- All students should be aware of the Drum Major and be ready to play.
- Students should be ready to play the school fight song for touchdowns.

Stadium Procedures

- When the band is playing a selection or doing a cheer, we are performing – entire band participates.
- No individual playing or screaming out for stand music is allowed.
- No food or drinks, with the exception of water, are permitted in the stands.
- Students will be allowed to go to the restroom during the game. However no more than 3 students may be gone at one time. Three students within a section should not leave.
- Uniforms are to be properly worn at all times, unless otherwise instructed.
- Shakos (hats) and gloves may be removed.
- Gloves are to be placed inside the hat.
- Shakos should be put in the hat box and placed to the right of each player (or away from a walkway, as directed)

Halftime Show Procedures

- When the signal is given, the band will stand and file row by row out of the stands and go down to the warm up area.
- Plumes will be picked up at the bottom of the stands.
- At the conclusion of the performance, the band will return to the stands, return the plumes to a chaperone and put instruments away in cases.
- Students are allowed to visit the concession stands and restrooms during the 3rd Quarter, but must be back in the stands ready to play by the end (00:00 on clock) of the 3rd quarter. **Any student not back on time will lose this privilege for the next game – you are given free dinner BEFORE the game for a reason.**
- At the conclusion of the game, put your instrument back in its case and wait for the signal to line up for our return to the band room or buses from the Director or Drum Majors.
- When exiting the stadium, remain in line until you have been given the command to break formation.
- For home games - proceed to the band room.
- For away games – place your instrument next to the equipment truck/trailer and board the bus on which you arrived.

Return to Band Room

- If an away game, please retrieve your instrument from the truck/trailer before putting away your uniform.
- Put your instrument away.
- Hang up your uniform properly and return it to the uniform room (on the uniform rack).
- Clean up your area (music, shoes, clothes, gloves, etc.).
- Drum Majors and Band Officers may not leave until dismissed by the Director.

Care of Music

- Each student should have their own folder, with your name marked on it clearly.
- Flip folders must be labeled with your name.
- Do not leave music/folders/lyres out in the Band Room. They should be kept in folder slots or with your belongings.
- Students will be charged for music not cared for properly.

Marching and Music Preparation

Given appropriate notice, any member or instrument section may be required to perform a selection of music or drill for the Director/staff member. Failure to demonstrate adequate preparation may result in loss of performance privileges for a set time. This both holds our performance quality to the highest possible level, and more importantly, *ensures student safety on the marching field.*

Concert/Jazz Band Procedures

Rehearsal Procedures

- All rehearsals are mandatory.
- Read the TV panel for instructions.
- Music should be placed in the proper order according to the instructions on the board.
- *Students are not allowed to write on the whiteboard or add anything to the bulletin board without permission from the Band Director. Posted information should never be removed from the bulletin or whiteboard without the permission from the Band Director.*
- Required for every rehearsal: Instrument in good working order, no less than 5 reeds, necessary mutes, music in order, pencil, etc.
- Warm up individually (long tones, scales, etc.) until the Director signals to stop. All playing and talking will stop at that time.
- If a student is not seated at the designated time, the student will be marked tardy.
- Correct posture is essential to proper breathing and will be required at all times.
- Winds: Sit on the edge of your chair with shoulders relaxed and head held high.
- Percussionists: Stand while playing.
- Raise your hand to ask a question and wait to be called upon. Otherwise, **no talking during rehearsal.**
- **No playing "out of turn" – we work as one ensemble, and we play as one (or as directed)**
- No students should leave campus before rehearsal.

Chair Placement

- The Director assigns students to parts or chairs to achieve proper balance. Students are placed on a part according to their ability.
- Sections may be staggered to provide the best sound possible.
- Auditions MAY be held to determine chair placement, assignment of solos, etc.
- Performance test grades may also be used to determine placement.
- The music check-off system and the student's ability to play the music at rehearsals also determines placement.
- The Director may reseat the student accordingly according to ensemble needs and level of individual preparation.

Uniforms

- All students are required to have each of the following items, available from our uniform supplier **Ictus Limited.**
- No substitute uniform items are acceptable.
    - Black Dress Shirt (Men's and Women's cuts available)
    - Black Tuxedo Pants (purchase/rental available)
    - Black Bowtie
    - Black dress shoes (marching band shoes work!)
- Students must supply: black socks, black/neutral hair ties, etc.
- Jazz band uniforms are identical, except for accessory bowties/neckties which will be provided if applicable.

Instrument Rental and Care

All instruments should be kept in excellent playing condition and should be cleaned and polished before every performance. Inspections will be held periodically.

Instrument Rental

- The band department will provide instruments for those students who do not have their own instrument.
- An Instrument Rental and Care Agreement should be filled out at the beginning of the school year and signed by the student and his/her parents.
- If using an extra/optional school-owned instrument, pay the yearly rental fee (see **Financial Agreement**).
- The school will assume full responsibility for annual maintenance of necessary/required instruments.
- Any damages or serious malfunctions should be reported to the Director at once.
- Damage due to the negligence of the student will be charged to the student account.
- If the instrument is lost or stolen while away from the band, the student must reimburse the band for the cost of the instrument.
- A privately owned instrument is the responsibility of the student who owns it
- **Before purchasing an instrument, students should consult the Band Director.**
- **The music department is not responsible for repairs of student owned instruments nor payment of repair bills!**

Instrument Care

Woodwinds and Percussion

General

- Swab the bore after each playing session.
- Periodically oil the keys.
- Wipe the keys and body clean with a soft cotton cloth after playing.

Flute

- Periodically check the position of the tuning cork.

Clarinet and Saxes

- Rinse the mouthpiece daily with warm water and avoid mouthpiece brushes.
- Always have spare reeds. Rotate them so that you have at least three broken in at a time.
- Buy a reed guard and use it. It will pay for itself within a few weeks.

Double Reeds

- Soak reeds before playing on them to avoid cracks.
- Learn to make your own reeds or at least to adjust the ones you buy commercially.

Percussion

- Avoid damage to heads by using the proper sticks or mallets for each instrument.
- Become familiar with proper techniques of changing heads, tuning and routine maintenance.
- Keep instrument clean and dry.

Brass

General

- Run lukewarm water through the instrument at least once a week and give it a bath at least once a month. Never use hot water.
- Wear cotton gloves while playing and wipe off all fingerprints after each use.
- Never use brass or other metal polish on brass lacquer finish (shiny gold) instruments. Use a clean cotton cloth and water to wipe instruments clean.
- Use Vaseline on all tuning slides.
- Periodically check corks on water keys to make sure that they are sealing properly.
- Occasionally vacuum your case to keep sand and dirt from scratching the instrument finish.

Piston-Valve Instruments

- Use fresh valve oil as needed.
- Be sure fingers remain curved while playing so that the valve action is straight up and down. This will avoid uneven wear on the pistons.
- Check felts to make sure that they are not worn or compacted. Replace as needed.

Trombones

- Use trombone slide cream such as *Super-Slick* or *Trombontine* and a spray bottle of water on slide. Do not use oil.

Rotary-Valve Instruments

- Use rotary valve oil.

Grading Policies

All musicians are expected to be enrolled in the Concert Band class and the 7th Period Marching Band Class for credit. All students will be given a grade provided they follow the policies of the Music Course.

Grade Breakdown

Participation - 50%
Homework - 30%
Tests/Projects - 20%

Participation

The majority of your grade (50%) comes from the participation category. Performance at rehearsals, performances, and in-class activities make up this grade. Additionally, there may be required assessments that include recording submissions, scale tests, etc. in this category.

Homework

This category, worth 30%, will be used to evaluate at-home assignments. These will primarily be practice log/reflections, as well as Breezin' Thru music theory drills. In order to be a successful band, it is imperative that some work be accomplished at home – we cannot accomplish everything necessary in class.

Tests/Projects

All major individual assignments will fall into this category. Examples include music theory tests and Musician Portfolios.

Attendance

Per the stated attendance policy, you cannot receive a grade for a rehearsal or performance that you did not attend. Additionally, CPALMS (Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions) has a provision that "This course requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day." Make-up assignments for a missing grade will be provided if/when the **Request for Excused Absence/Tardy** form is received according to policy.

Optional Activities

In order to further your own musicianship, participating in music-related activities outside of NMHS directly are crucial. A variety of yearly events take place around the state which everyone has the opportunity to participate in.

Private Lessons

The single most important key to becoming a better musician is by taking private lessons. *We cannot stress enough how important this is!* Instructors are generally available at College of Central Florida, in Gainesville, or in Ocala. There is nothing like having music instruction tailored exactly to your needs on a regular basis -- it's an incredibly worthwhile expense.

FBA District and State Solo and Ensemble

- Students prepare a music selection for district level evaluation in **February**. These selections may be unaccompanied, accompanied by a pianist (students are responsible for paying the accompanist) or a chamber (small ensemble) with no accompanist needed.
- Those earning a Superior (playing Grade V or higher) qualify for the State Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment in **March/April**.
- Participation is for performance and feedback opportunities only. It is not competitive and is *highly encouraged* for every member.
- Attire for these events should show professionalism and respect to the adjudicators.

Honor Bands

Students with the necessary musicianship & desire will be encouraged to audition for the All-State Band All-District bands.

All-State Bands

- Auditions held in early **September**.
- Qualifying students will travel to the Florida All-State Clinic (Tampa) in early **January**.

All-District Band

- Auditions held in early **December**.
- Qualifying students will rehearse and perform at a local high school in **January.**

Marion All-County Band

- Selected by Director nomination in January, rehearsals and concert (at a local high school) held in **March/April**

Festival of Winds/Tri-State Honor Band Festivals

- Selected by Director nomination in the Fall, rehearsals and concerts held at the University of South Florida, and Florida State University, respectively. Performances in **mid-December.**

Summer Camps

Often, local universities will host summer camps to study drum major conducting, instrumental performance, and leadership. These are great opportunities to meet other students in this activity, and to learn from the best of the best teachers. Information about these will be posted as they are announced.

Finances

Like any worthwhile activity, these experiences all have financial strings attached. Travel to honor bands, lodging, etc. are the responsibility of selected students to pay. However, the Band Program shall cover entrance fees for Solo and Ensemble, and Honor Band auditions. For Solo and Ensemble, students shall be responsible for paying an accompanist (for solos) and purchasing an original copy of sheet music (all performers) if their music is not available in the library.

Finances

Please see our **Financial Agreement** in order to see a detailed breakdown of costs, fees, and fundraising expectations.

In addition to listed costs, there are incidental items (examples below) that students may need to purchase on an as-needed basis. These are necessary in order to keep your instrument in a safe, working condition.

- Woodwinds: Reeds (at least 5-8 in rotation), reed case, cleaning swabs, pad savers, soft cloth
- Brass: Valve oil, soft cloth, mouthpiece/instrument brush
- Percussionists: Sticks/mallets beyond the initially provided pairs.
- Colorguard: Upon direction of Colorguard Director.

Care of Music

- Copies of sheet music are provided in preparation for each performance.
- A charge will be assessed to replace any lost or damaged item.
- Do not fold, tear or otherwise mutilate music.
- Mark music (often!) using only a pencil.
- Students will be charged for music not cared for properly according to their original replacement cost.
- Concert folders will be assigned according to instrumentation, seating and parts. Each folder will be numbered to match a slot in the music rack.
- All music is to be kept in your band folder, in the assigned music rack slot. Music and folders should not be left on the music stand
- Frequent inspections will be made to see that each student has all music in their folder.

Travel

- Chaperones give their free time to assist the Music Department with trips and performances. We ask you to respect their decisions and requests. If you have a problem with a Chaperone, please see the Director. Make the Chaperones proud to be associated with you and the NMHS Music Department.
- The complete uniform should be worn properly at all times when in public
- Roll will be checked on each bus before departure. Students may not change buses without permission.
- All students must travel to and from performances on buses, not in personal cars.
- A student who needs to return from a performance with his/her parents or guardian should submit a permission slip signed by them
- The parent, etc. must check with the Director/Chaperone before taking their child
- No drinking or eating will be permitted in uniform, except when allowed by the Director
- Students are responsible for their own equipment and instruments
- Equipment should be placed in or near the equipment trucks or buses
- The Lieutenants will load the equipment truck and buses
- Students will receive an itinerary for major trips. Students are responsible for knowing departure times and must be on time
- Any illness or injury should be reported to the Director or Chaperone immediately, no matter how unimportant it may seem
- Upon arrival at a destination - students should remain on the buses until given directions by the Director, Chaperones, Drum Majors or Band Officers

Awards

Besides the regular school awards given for outstanding service and excellence, the Music Department also recognizes excellence and performance with the following awards. The Band Director selects each recipient, with potential input from the Band Boosters.

John Philip Sousa Award

This award is presented each year to the outstanding senior band member who displays superior **musicianship**, leadership, merit, dependability, attitude and cooperation, and other positive qualities of conduct. This member receives a lapel pin, certificate and a marble desk piece with a medallion. The student's name is placed on a plaque which is permanently displayed in the Band Room.

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

This award is presented to the outstanding senior jazz musician who has contributed the most to the program. The recipient receives a marble desk piece with a medallion, a lapel pin and certificate. The student's name will also be placed on a wall plaque, which is permanently displayed in the Band Room.

Hugh F. Wolcott Band Award

This award is presented each year to the outstanding male and female band member who displays superior **leadership**, musicianship, merit, dependability, attitude and cooperation, and other positive qualities of conduct. This member receives a certificate and the student's name is placed on a plaque which is permanently displayed in the Band Room.

Service Award

Given to students displaying unending dedication and service to the Band.

Most Improved Awards

Awarded to the person in each large who has made the most musical/performance improvement throughout the year.

Outstanding Awards

Awarded to a member of each large section who displays exceptional musicianship through their participation in the Solo and Ensemble festivals, All-State band, community programs and/or makes an extra contribution to the Band Program.

FBA Medals

Awarded for a superior or excellent rated performance in any area of the Florida Bandmasters Association District and/or State Music Performance Assessments including Marching, Concert, Jazz, Solo and Ensemble, Colorguard and Student Conductor.

Middle School Awards

Given to middle school students who fully participate in our band program for an entire year.

Letters and Service Bars

- A Varsity Letter will be awarded to a student upon satisfactory completion of their sophomore year in band.
- Freshmen, juniors and seniors completing their first, third or fourth full year of satisfactory participation in band will receive a service bar for each complete year.
- Satisfactory participation will be determined by the Director, but requires that each member fully participate in Marching Band and Concert Band for the given year

2022-2023 Handbook Contract

View the Handbook on our website: www.nmhsmusic.com

Once a student has signed up for band and enrolled in the appropriate classes, it is expected that they will complete a full academic year commitment to the band. After the second week of the school year, a student may only be withdrawn after a conference with the student, parents/guardians, Band Director, and guidance counselor. Conversely, students in significant breach of contract may be removed from the band program at the discretion of the Director and Principal.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

I have read the policies and rules pertaining to membership and participation in the North Marion High School Band Program. I further understand the conditions and regulations as set forth and do hereby grant my permission to participate in Band. In addition, I agree to uphold the rules and regulations as forth by the Director. I also acknowledge that my child is enrolled in a performance-based curriculum for academic credit and I agree not to use suspension of his or her participation in rehearsals or performances as a disciplinary tool.

_____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

_____

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

STUDENTS:

I have read the policies and rules pertaining to membership and participation in the North Marion High School Band Program. I further understand the conditions and regulations as set forth and do hereby agree to obey and abide by them. I will cooperate with the Directors and Staff and perform my duties to the best of my ability. I understand that if I do not follow the policies set forth in the above Handbook, I can and will be removed from any ensemble.

_____

Student Name (Print)

_____

Student Signature and Date