

Northmont High School Band Student Handbook

Information for all student activities in the NHS Band Program

Introduction

In this Student Handbook, detailed information will be given about the following band activities:

- Concert Bands
- Band Boosters
- Jazz Band
- Pep Band

Treat this as a living document (situations may arise that require the band to alter procedures or schedules in order to achieve our goals). The Northmont High School Band and its leadership will make every effort to notify students and parents of any changes that occur in a timely manner.

Philosophy

Music is a basic form of human expression. As a universal language, it enriches the understanding of all cultures. Therefore, every student should experience a balanced, equitable, and sequential program of music education that develops and embraces creative musical expression and literacy.

Mission Statement

The Music Department of Northmont City School is committed to enriching students' lives through comprehensive and accessible music education. We will nurture in each student the development of musical skills and knowledge by offering choral, instrumental, appreciation and exploration curricula. Through a variety of performance and learning opportunities, we will foster **teamwork**, **growth** in self-esteem, community **responsibility**, respect for all cultures, and a life-long recognition of the intrinsic worth of music in the human experience.



Concert Bands

The goal of the Northmont High School Concerts Bands is to provide daily growth and development of the band student in a classroom and concert setting. Northmont High School has three concert bands that meet every day. Those bands are Concert Band , Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. Wind Ensemble is an Honors Credit course.

Attendance

1. Attendance is MANDATORY at all rehearsals and performances!
2. All absences from a performance must be given at least TWO WEEKS prior to the performance. This must be in the form of a note or phone call from a parent or guardian and the reason for being absent.
3. No early exit from a performance will be allowed. Students are expected to be present for the entire concert.
4. If you have an excused absence on the day of a concert, you are not required to perform. However, the following school day, you must bring a signed note explaining your absence.
 - *Students with an excused absence will have the opportunity to make up all points through a performance based assignment.
 - *Students with 1 unexcused absence will have the opportunity to make up the assignment for partial credit at the directors discretion.
 - *Students with multiple unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up the points past their first unexcused absence for the year.

Classroom Expectations

1. **NO GUM. NO FOOD.**
2. **Technology devices in the classroom will adhere to the rules outlined in the Northmont High School Student Handbook.**
3. Be on time and in your seat with your music and instrument. You will be given 5 minutes from the bell or the scheduled start of class to prepare yourself for rehearsal.
4. Once you enter the classroom, you can't leave without permission; this includes restroom privileges.
5. NO talking during a rehearsal while the conductor is on the podium.
6. ONLY percussion students are permitted in the percussion area, and ONLY percussion students are allowed to play the percussion instruments.
7. You MUST have your instrument, music, tuner, and pencil for every rehearsal.

Disciplinary Procedure

1. Verbal Warning
2. Detention as outlined in the Northmont High School Student Handbook (date to be assigned by the teacher).
3. Students are given an office referral. The principal and parents become involved, and the student receives NO credit for that day.

Locker Assignments

Instruments **MUST** be stored in a locker. Students may choose their locker with approval from Mr. Wissman or Mrs. Lewis. Students must choose the appropriate locker for their instrument size. It is recommended that you always store your instrument in a band locker with a combination lock. If you use a lock with a key, an extra key **MUST** be kept on file in the band office. Lockers must remain in good condition, free of trash and non-band class materials.

Practice Rooms

Practice rooms are available during 1st, 2nd, and 7th periods only. You must get a pass from Mr. Wissman or Mrs. Lewis in order to use the practice rooms. No other teachers are permitted to write you a pass to a practice room. Only one student is allowed in a practice room at a time unless specifically requested and approved by a director. Practice rooms are to be used for practice only, they are not a place to do homework, sleep, relax, eat, etc. If you are done with your practice session before the end of the class you will need to return to study hall. If demand is high for practice rooms you may only be granted access for a **PORTION** of the period. Students found to not be using practice rooms to practice will not be allowed to use one for a determined period of time.

Concert Attire

Students participating in **ALL** Northmont High School Music Ensembles **MUST** wear the approved concert attire; this means you are required to purchase a concert tuxedo or concert dress. No concert outfit will be given out until payment is submitted to Mr. Wissman or Mr. Lewis. Make your tuxedo or dress payment out to Northmont City Schools. Failure to pay for your tuxedo or dress will go on your school fees and may keep you from graduating!

Tuxedos and gowns cost **\$70** but are a great option for saving money at upcoming dances or other formal events. Concert outfits must be tried on and may need to be altered prior to your first performance. Almost all dresses will need some slight alterations. Once a dress or tuxedo is purchased, the student will no longer be required to purchase new unless the issued dress or tuxedo no longer fits. Concert attire may be donated back to the band for future use upon graduating. More information about sizing will go home in the first couple of weeks.

Concert Gowns:

Black Dress
Black Dress Shoes

Concert Tuxes:

Black Tuxedo Pants
Black Tuxedo Vest
Black Tuxedo Bowtie
White Tuxedo Shirt
Long Black Socks and Dress Shoes

Band Audition Procedure

All high school band students, grades 9-11, will participate in auditions toward the end of 3rd quarter/beginning of 4th quarter. The auditions will be set at a date later in the school year. Seniors are not required to audition as they will not participate in the concert band program the following school year. Any student not planning on participating in a concert band the following school year **WILL** be required to audition, just in case they change their mind later.

Auditions will be done by a professional on your specific instrument. This will ensure results are based on performance alone. This procedure is known as a “**blind audition.**” Students will be assigned a number with a director or teacher that will not assess the performances. At the end of the audition process, the corresponding student name will be given to the audition number, revealing the student's outcome.

Northmont High School Concert Band Audition Rubric	
Scales (2)	5 points per octave successfully performed
	Students will be asked to perform 2 scales, one being a major scale and one being a chromatic scale. *Trombones will be asked to play 2 major scales rather than a major scale and chromatic scale.
Excerpts (1-2)	5 points per measure successfully performed *If a mistake is noted within a measure (rhythm, incorrect pitch, accidental, note length, etc.) one point will be deducted for each mistake. A maximum of 5 points per measure will be deducted.
Total	Point totals from the scale and excerpt portions will be totaled. The highest score per instrument shall determine seating and band placement for the start of the following school year.

Financial Information

All NHS Band Members have a band fee of **\$17**. High School Marching Band members have a fee of **\$50**. These costs go toward school facilities and maintenance. Any additional money collected goes directly towards other miscellaneous band equipment. These fees can be paid to Northmont City Schools by check in the principal's office if they were not already added to your school fees.

If a student uses a school-owned instrument, they are responsible for any repairs needed following instrument assignment and check-out. The NHS Band Dept. will ensure the instrument is initially provided to the student in excellent working condition and must be returned in the same condition. Directors must approve the school-owned instrument repair location.

Band Booster Program

The Northmont Band Boosters help to support the band by raising money for instruments, uniforms, repairs, classroom equipment, and trips. Interested parents can contact Mr. Wissman or Mrs. Lewis in order to become more involved.

Instrument Repairs

On a weekly basis, a representative from Hauer Music, McCutcheon Music and Kincaid reports to deliver equipment, receive orders and also collect instruments needing repair. When an instrument is repaired, a trained repair professional will call the student's home to verify the work order and estimated expenses.

Hauer and Kincaid's Music are highly regarded companies for music educators and performers. The repair work done is of the highest quality, and the costs are comparable to all other service providers.

Hauer Music Company

Location: 528 Miamisburg- Centerville Rd
Dayton, Ohio 45459
Contact Number: 937-222-2815

Kincaid Music

Location: 1325 West 1st Street
Springfield, Ohio 45504
Contact Number: 937-325-7071

McCutcheon Music

Location: 38 Marco Lane
Centerville, Ohio 45458
Contact Number: 937-435-2900

Required for ALL Students

Fine Arts Report

At the end of each quarter, all students must complete a “Fine Arts” project worth 100 points. This is to encourage students to explore and expand their knowledge of the visual and performing arts. The project is due before the end of each quarter and is reported on a special form dispersed by the directors. Performances and/or lessons need to be verified by the instructor or concert program. Participation in performing groups or other activities outside of the school will need approval by the music department head, Mr. Chatterton.

Pep Band

The Northmont High School Pep Band performs at all home varsity basketball games (boys only) as well as possible select varsity girls games and volleyball matches. The goal of the Northmont High School Pep Band is to provide support and a game day atmosphere at certain athletic events. **Each member of the concert band programs will be required to perform at AT LEAST TWO basketball games to fulfill a graded assignment for the class.** We will pass around a signup sheet when the schedule is posted, which will give each student plenty of time to find at least two games that work for their schedule. Pep Band is **NOT** the time or place for students to experiment with other instruments. This is another opportunity for us to promote the Northmont Band Program, so we must do so with the best possible image and sound.

Pep Band Performances - Please follow the whiteboard announcements during basketball season.

Pep Band Attendance - Students must sign up for at least two games. By fulfilling your two-game requirement, you will earn a 100% grade for the performance and will be given 25 points toward your Fine Arts Credit for the quarter. Each additional game you attend will result in an additional 25 points.

Pep Band Attire - There is no set pep band attire, but students are asked to follow the school dress code. Wearing Northmont attire and/or school colors is highly encouraged!

Pep Band Financial Information - There is no fee for students to participate in pep band.

Optional Students

Jazz Band

The Northmont High School Jazz Band meets weekly after school starting in the second semester. This club ensemble does not require previous jazz experience. Students are encouraged to approach this ensemble with an open mind and willingness to try new music, styles and modes of performance.

Solo and Ensemble

2023-2024 Northmont High School Band Calendar

Wednesday, September 27 - High School Top Ensembles (Wind Ensemble Only) 7pm

Wednesday, December 13 - Winter Concert 7pm

Tuesday, March 12 - HS/MS Side-by-Side Concert (Wind Ensemble Only) 7pm

Wednesday, March 13 - Music In Our Schools Month Concert 7pm

Tuesday, April 30 - Jazz Band Concert 7pm

Thursday, May 2 - Elementary Band Recruitment Concert (Wind Ensemble Only) TBD

Tuesday, May 14 - Spring Concert 7pm

Sunday, May 19 - Graduation Band (All non-seniors) TBD

Contact Information

Mr. Brian D. Wissman
Director of Bands, Northmont High School
(937) 832-6033
BWissman@northmontschools.net

Mrs. Sara Lewis
Associate Director of Bands, Northmont High School
(937) 832-6033
sara.lewis@northmontschools.net

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM TO VERIFY THAT YOU AND A PARENT UNDERSTAND AND WILL FOLLOW THE REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NORTHMONT HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENT HANDBOOK.

Student Name and Band Class:	Band:
Student Signature:	
Parent(s) Name:	
Parent(s) Signature:	

Daytime Phone Number:
Evening Phone Number:
Student Email:
Parent Email:

The following information is kept for school records only. Knowing the student's instrument along with serial number will be needed if an instrument is lost or misplaced and later found.

Instrument Make and Serial Number:		
Are you using a school-owned instrument:	Yes	No
Do you use a lock on your locker?	Yes	No
If "Yes" to above, what is the combination? (spare keys are kept in band office)		

*PERCUSSION STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE AND MAINTAIN THEIR OWN STICKS/MALLETS

**THIS HANDBOOK CONTRACT IS DUE:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023
(WORTH 20 POINTS ON QUARTER 1 GRADE)**