

Neshoba Central High School Band Guidelines

To aid in the smooth performance of all aspects of the NCHS band, parents and students should read and follow all the guidelines herein set forth. All members of the NCHS band will strive to embody the Every Day in Every Way philosophy: Be all superior, every day of the year, in everything you do. The guidelines discussed below support and reinforce the Every Day in Every Way philosophy.

Performances

Performances are a mandatory requirement for band. Students are expected to attend all performances. In the case of conflicts with other school activities, students are expected to give priority to that which was scheduled first. There will be an earnest attempt to give priority to performances in relation to their relative importance. State MHSAA events will be given priority over district events. District events will be given priority over local events. Performances will be given priority over practices. Students will not be penalized for these absences provided the student informs the director/coach as required by his or her activity. Students will be given adequate notice of required band events. The directors should be notified as soon as possible as to any problem that may arise with attendance to these events. Any student that is in The Neshoba Central High School band will march the halftime show no exceptions and every contest. The 2023 Neshoba County Fair, we normally perform during the week Monday-Thursday. These performances are mandatory for each student. We will be performing in the 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Parade; this is also mandatory for all students.

Rehearsals

Students will be present for all rehearsals. Students are expected to give their best effort every day in every way. Students who miss rehearsals will have their membership in the NCHS band reviewed for possible dismissal. High school students that are involved in other school activities and are band members will be expected to attend rehearsals (exceptions can be allowed at the discretion of the directors). When a conflict arises with another activity's practice, priority should be given to that which was scheduled first. Missing or leaving practice early for work is not excusable. **In the case of an unavoidable absence, students must contact a band director through email/phone 601-656-3127 or our remind text messaging service.** Classes, rehearsals, and performances go forward **rain or shine**. Directors will decide if a performance or a rehearsal will be canceled, and students will be notified through Remind.

Rehearsal safety and health

Band members must have the following items at every rehearsal: your instrument/color guard equipment, athletic shoes, water bottle, your show music, and your drill cards. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and head coverings are recommended. Don't wear hot clothes. To keep your body functioning well and avoid issues or health risks, always stay hydrated, eat proper meals, get sufficient sleep at night, and stay active. Students feeling light-headed, dizzy, overheated, or have tunnel vision should sit in the shade and drink fluids. **However, students who consistently have to sit out of rehearsal due to not taking the recommended precautions will be removed from the marching show for the safety of their health and well-being. It is the student's responsibility to keep his or her body prepared for marching rehearsal every day!**

ALL PERFORMANCES AND PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY

Band Discipline Policy

• Students will be disciplined on a **DEMERIT SYSTEM**. Upon the issuance of 5 demerits, the student can be dismissed from band. **DEMERITS** are issued to students who display unacceptable behavior. Demerits can **ONLY** be issued by the director. Reminder: Students will be treated as young adults; therefore, they are expected to act as such. Here is a list of unacceptable behaviors and their consequences:

1. Excessive Talking, Disrespect towards Any Band Member or Staff, or Disruption during Class/Rehearsal (in order of consecutive violations)

- 1 Warning
- 1 Demerit and parents will be contacted.
- Subsequent violations will result in being removed from rehearsal **AND** Issuance of 2nd Demerit **AND** parents will be contacted.

2. Tardy to Rehearsal or Performance/Not Having Proper Equipment, clothing, or tennis shoes for Rehearsal

- 1 Warning
- 1 Demerit and parents will be contacted.
- Subsequent violations will result in issuance of 2nd Demerit AND parents will be contacted.

3. Unexcused Absence from a Rehearsal

- 2 Demerits
- Subsequent violations will result in issuance of 3rd demerit. See below for consequences of 3rd demerit.

4. Unexcused Absence from a Football Game/Parade/Concert

- 3 Demerits

5. Unexcused Absence from Contest (Fall or Spring)

- 4 Demerits

• In the fall, students will receive a one game suspension for every **3** demerits received. The game suspension will be carried out during the next football game following the receiving of demerits. Students will be expected to attend that game and participate in the stands; however, they will stand on the sideline at attention during the half-time performance.

• Students with 4 demerits for the year may only be allowed to sign up for band the next year after a student/parent/teacher conference has been conducted.

• Band Directors may forgive demerits for tardies or other minor infractions depending on the situation.

• A student may be removed from the band at any time for stealing, fighting, gross disrespect, or possession of illegal substances.

Unexcused and Excused Absences

• **Excused** absences include the following:

- Personal illness that results in the student's missing school for that day. Must contact a director.
- Death in the student's **immediate** family.

○ **Pre-arranged conflict which must be cleared in advance (2 full weeks) with the band director.**

• **Unexcused** absences include the following:

- Employment conflict
- Make-up test
- Doctor and other appointments that could have been scheduled at a different time. Each student during marching season has at least one day off during the school week.
- Any other conflict not cleared in advance with the director.

• The most important thing to do is communicate with the directors. Emergencies will arise and with proper communication, confusion can be avoided.

Cell Phone Policy

• If a phone is seen during instructional time, practice, or any performances it will be confiscated and turned in to the office.

• A warning/demerit will be issued according to No. 1 under the band discipline policy.

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Drum Majors

- assist and work closely with the directors in halftime shows, administrative work, and during rehearsals.
- keep a daily attendance and behavioral report to be shared with directors at the start and end of rehearsals and performances.
- promote good band spirit and morale whenever and wherever possible. Drum Major(s) will be chosen by audition in the spring. To be eligible for Drum Major, the student should have a 77 average or above in all academic classes, no office referrals, and should be current with all monies owed to the band.

Band Leadership Council Members

- demonstrate outstanding leadership, work ethic, and performance ability.
- be responsible for the drill placement of his/her assigned section(s) during marching band rehearsals.
- be responsible for helping everyone in his/her assigned section learn and play all music.
- take attendance at all rehearsals and performances and give a report to the drum majors.
- keep record of any warnings, demerits issued and report to band directors daily.

Loading Crew: Loading crew will be responsible for loading the trailer before and after ball games and performances.

Plumes: All leadership council members will be responsible for distributing and taking up plumes at all performances.

Grading Policy: To maintain a 100 average adhere to the following.

- Students must attend all rehearsals and performances.
- Students must be on time with all necessary equipment including but not limited to clothing and shoes.
- Any infractions of attendance policy, disciplinary issues, or failure to follow other school policies will result in lowering of grades.

Band Camp Fee:

- Each student in the high school band will be assessed a \$85 band fee.
- Due at Band Camp July 10th
- This covers member shirt, music, drill cards, camp staff expenses, snacks, etc.

Fair Share Fundraising

- Each student will be responsible for our fundraising goal of \$100 per student.
- Students may use the fundraisers we will be participating in this year to meet this goal or pay out of pocket.
- Due by May 1, 2024.

Other Expenditures: Band members will be expected to provide the following.

- 1 pair of Black Leather Band Shoes - Must be ordered by the end of band camp!
- Black Crew Socks
- Lyre and Flip Folder- everyone will have a flip folder and a lyre for rehearsal and football games.
- Indoor performance ensemble fees
- Color Guard - will pay fees according to the 2023 contract.
- Brass Members - will purchase their own valve oil, mouthpieces, etc.
- Woodwind Members - will purchase their own reeds, cork grease, etc.
- Drum Majors - will purchase their own uniform.
- Indoor performance ensemble members will purchase their own uniform.
- All new members will purchase the concert uniform. Cost is \$100.

ALL PERFORMANCES AND PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY

School-owned instruments

- All school-owned instruments will be checked out.
- A rental fee of \$50 per **semester** will be assessed.
- This helps cover general wear and tear and maintenance.
Instruments include tuba, sousaphone, marching baritone, concert baritone, mellophone, French horn, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, bari-saxophone, piccolo, all percussion, and any other school owned instruments.

Uniforms

- Each Student will be issued a uniform at the beginning of the year.
- It is the student's responsibility to keep his or her uniform clean and neat.
- Uniforms will be returned at the end of each school year.
- If a student is missing a piece of his or her uniform, the student must pay to replace that part.
- Students will be fined \$25 and receive 2 demerits for gross neglect/abuse of the band uniform.
- **Black crew socks will be worn with the uniform. There will be no ankle socks worn or bare skin showing when the uniform is worn.**
- Lack of proper socks and/or uniform parts will result in suspension from the current performance and the issuance of a demerit according to the band discipline policy.
- Subsequent violations will result in evaluation of membership.

Hair

- All instrumentalists will place hair in a bun (at the crown of the head) for performances.
- If hair is not long enough for a bun, the hair must be off the neck and secured in the hat for performances, marching into the stadium, and for retreat at contests.
- No hair can be exposed or be tucked within the band jacket.
- A demonstration on how to properly wear the band hat and style will occur at band camp.
- No exceptions can be made.

Jewelry

- While at any performance students may only wear stud earrings in their ears.
- Bracelets, watches, rings, and exposed necklaces are not allowed.
- The band directors can ask a student to remove jewelry at any time.

Miscellaneous

- The school district and its band directors are not responsible for money or other items that might be stolen at school, camps, or on a trip. Do not bring large sums of money or valuables to school. Someone will take them.
- The school district and its band directors are not responsible for the repair and maintenance of instruments owned by the student.
 - When possible, a director will make repairs.
 - If the job requires a trained professional, the parent will be notified, and repair estimates obtained.
 - Students who play an instrument owned by the school are responsible for any damage that occurs to the instrument during the school year.
- When there is a question concerning your student or a band policy, please contact a band director. We will make ourselves available to hear your concerns either by phone or in person. Office Phone 601-656-3127. We have voicemail.

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Contact info

- Emails

dwade@neshobacentral.com amay@neshoba.central.com awade@neshobacentral.com
rbays@neshobacentral.com

- Remind text service is required for communication. All announcements will be made through this app. Sign up information is as follows

contact number: 81010

9th and 10th graders only text @bigblue9t

percussion only text @nchspc23

11th and 12th graders only text @bigblue11

color guard only text @ncguardf

I have read and I will abide by the 2023-2024 Neshoba Central Band Guidelines.

I do understand that ALL PERFORMANCES and PRACTICES are MANDATORY.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____

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GO BIG BLUE

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