

August 13, 2021

NNSC Band Students and Parents,

Welcome! I am very excited that you are a part of our band program for the 2021-2022 school year here at North Newton Jr-Sr High School. I'm excited to get to know each of you better, and looking forward to a productive year, full of continued growth and achievement. Please note, our website is <http://www.nnhsmusic.weebly.com/>. All information needed will be on that website. Another note, <http://www.eventlink.com> will house all the NNHS calendars. Please subscribe to the NNHS Music Dpt for all alerts.

I count myself very fortunate to be returning as your band director. I am a graduate of Saint Joseph's College, and I am looking forward to all that this year has in store. I am from Winamac, Indiana and have been heavily involved in band programs throughout the state. I look forward to utilizing my experiences to help ensure that everyone involved with the band program here has a positive and rewarding experience.

Attached you will find a copy of the band department handbook. The handbook includes information regarding ensembles, attendance, classroom expectations, grading, and other pertinent information. Please take time to look over it, and return the last page with the requested information. This will help to ensure that if a situation arises during a band event, the appropriate contact information will be on hand. **Please have the student return the sheet by August 17th.**

Please let me know if you have any questions about anything contained in the handbook, or otherwise. My door is always open, or if you prefer to contact me by e-mail or phone, my information is listed below.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this a great year!

Sincerely,

Craig Redlin

Director of Bands

North Newton School Corporation

(219)-285-2252 ext. 6044

credlin@nn.k12.in.us

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the North Newton School Corporation Band Program to develop the individual student through musical experiences that promote the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to become free-thinking individuals, independent musicians, life-long learners, informed consumers of music, participants of music-making, and advocates of music and music education.

Philosophy Statement

We study music because it is a unique form of knowledge and communication. It gives the student a chance to explore an emotional means of communication and discover how to express his/her own feelings in a positive and appropriate manner.

Performance is the primary means of learning in the band program. Through performance, a student achieves musical independence through the development of technical ability, listening skills, ensemble skills, and theoretical knowledge. Participation in the concert band is the primary vehicle for this musical development. Marching Band, Pep Band, ensembles, and solos enrich the overall musical experience for the students. In such a program, students are exposed to a wide variety of the finest in musical literature, and therefore learn to appreciate the value of music.

Besides achieving true musicianship, students gain an understanding of their musical heritage and develop their creative abilities. Each activity in the band program contributes to a well-rounded musical education and helps students experience the joy and satisfaction of music making.

There are also many valuable by-products of music study through band participation. Students learn the skills of responsible group membership and participation. Participation in band encourages the development of a good work ethic. In addition, current research studies have found the study of music to have positive effects on mental performance and critical thinking skills.

The band program, which has the students as its central focus, promotes learning through the art of music making and the development of musical understanding, will most fully provide all the benefits such a program can offer. We seek to be this type of an organization.

The Staff

Craig Redlin

Director of Instrumental Music

Office Phone: (219)-285-2252 ext. 6044

E-mail: credlin@nn.k12.in.us

Michael Jamieson- Woodwind Instructor

Donny Mori- Color Guard Instructor

The band program in the North Newton Schools form an important part of the total school life. It is a highly visible part of the school and of the community. We are ambassadors that perform throughout the area, while representing the North end of Newton County and the surrounding area. We represent our community with the highest standards of excellence and ethical conduct.

Membership Qualifications

Any student in 6th grade or higher who is in good standing with North Newton School Corporation is eligible for membership in the Band program. Good standing means the student has adequately demonstrated the educational skills and behaviors necessary to make a positive contribution to the band. It also means that the student has successfully completed all band requirements from the previous year (if applicable). After 8th grade, membership will ***only*** be granted for those who have not taken a band class that has had special circumstances occur. All students participating in band are expected to enroll for both the fall and spring semesters of the course (Unusual or special circumstances such as academic conflict may be considered by the director).

Ensembles

6th Grade Band, 7th & 8th Grade Band, High School Band, Jazz Band

These ensembles are the primary vehicle for music instruction. All Concert Bands are based on the grade level of the student. These ensembles perform a number of official concerts during the school year and may also participate in Indiana State School Music Association events in the spring.

Marching Band & Pep Band

The “Spartan Alliance” Marching Band & Pep Band are co-curricular ensembles open to all students in grades 9-12. 8th graders who demonstrate above average work-ethic and skill may participate by invitation from the director. The Marching Band performs at all home football games. The Pep Band performs at all home basketball games per year (boys & girls) as well as pep rallies and other events. Please note that **all events are considered performances** and are an expectation for continued participation in the ensemble. Marching & Pep Band participation is part of the North Newton Band curriculum and fulfills a vital community role for the band program.

1. Members of the Marching Band & Pep Band are required to be registered for band class. If there is a scheduling conflict, please see Mr. Redlin.
2. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances.
3. All members must purchase a t-shirt for pep band S-3XL- \$20. 6-8th grade band members will need to purchase a polo for concerts : S-XL- \$15, 2XL- \$15, and 3XL- \$18.

Other Events

There are several music organizations in Indiana that put on high quality events for band students throughout the year. They include ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest, IBA All-Region & All-District Band, All-State Band, and many others. For information about these activities, please contact Mr. Redlin.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Students are expected to be in the band room when the bell rings. Tardies will be enforced. Please note that excessive tardies in a High School class can result in removal from the course.
2. Attendance will be taken 3 minutes after the bell rings each day. Students should be seated and ready for rehearsal at this time. Students who are not in their seats will be counted as tardy. The accumulation of tardies during the semester will result in consequences from the office. (please see the student handbook).
3. **Each individual is responsible for having all materials for participation in class each day. ***This includes but not limited to: an instrument, pencil, 3 ring***

binder with sheet protectors, sheet music, at least 2 working reeds, and anything else that is applicable to participation in band class.

4. **There is no food or gum allowed in the band room at any time. Only Water. *unless special permission from Mr. Redlin.**
5. Talking while a conductor is on the podium is interpreted as a total lack of respect for your classmates and instructors. Please focus on the task at hand during rehearsal time.
6. Be respectful of school owned instruments and equipment. At the conclusion of rehearsal, instruments should be cleaned and put away properly. This includes: putting covers on instruments and storing mouthpieces, sticks, mallets, small percussion equipment, reeds, mutes, and other equipment properly.
7. Failure to follow any of the above listed rules may result in a grade deduction. The student may be referred to the office and the parent will be contacted for serious or repeated infractions.

Grading Expectations

Student grades are based on a blend of 3 categories:

- Classroom Participation
- Concert/Co-Curricular Performances (including outside rehearsals)
- Assessments (Playing or Written)

Classroom Participation

All students are expected to conduct themselves with the behavior of professional caliber musicians at all times during band department performances, rehearsals, & activities. Students will be evaluated on their achievement in this area.

Each week of band is worth 50 points. Each student will earn 50 points by default, with deductions made for the following missed opportunities for achievement:

- Tardy: -2/Missing Music: -2/Missing Instrument: -5/Classroom Disruption: -2 to -5

Concert/Co-Curricular Performances

All students will participate in required ensemble concerts and rehearsals outside of the school day. Each concert will have a grade value of 500 points. ISSMA Contests will be worth 1000 points. Since concerts are the primary exams in band, there are very few excused situations for absence. Our classes are "Co-Curricular" which means that events occurring outside the school day are **mandatory** for course requirements and grading. The following list is not all-inclusive, but should give an idea of what is and is not allowable:

Excused Absences from a Concert

- Severe illness verified with a physician's documentation.
- Sudden emergency situations (such as death of a family member).
- Recognized religious holidays or widely understood church-mandated absences, when documentation is given and **the request is made 30 DAYS BEFORE the concert date.**
- IHSAA-sanctioned single-elimination playoff events.

Excused Absences from a Rehearsal

- All items listed above PLUS:
- Participation in a sport or academic competition (performance trumps rehearsal)
- Absence from school that day (with physician note or parental note).

Unexcused Absences from a Concert- (this will result in an automatic zero)

- Job Conflicts
- Family Vacations
- Studying or doing homework (part of any organization is managing your time effectively. Don't commit if you can't follow through!)
- Malfunctioning musical equipment (i.e. my instrument broke)
- SAT or ACT tests (these events offer several dates, and therefore are avoidable)
- Undisclosed "personal reasons".
- Illness without school nurse or physician documentation.

Making Up Excused Absences from a Concert

Hopefully it is clear that performances are very important to our program, and absences are not taken lightly. When circumstances merit an absence, students must complete both of the following assignments:

- A personal recording of all music the student would have performed at the concert. This is due one week after the student's return after the concert.
- A written essay over a musical of the student's choice. 300 word minimum.

Making Up Excused Absences from Rehearsals

- Students may make up missed rehearsals with one hour of verified practice time (written note or e-mail from a parent). Students may also practice during two study hall/lunchtime practice sessions.

Playing/Written Assessments

- Playing exams are given periodically as needed to ensure proper individual musical development. Playing tests are worth 50 points. All playing tests may be retaken ONCE for an improved grade. Exams may either be recorded or live.
- Written assignments will be periodically given in all NN Band classes to ensure students are not just learning performance skills. All band classes will have a written final exam at the end of semester 1 and a playing exam at the end of semester 2. These are subject to change at teacher discretion.

Guidelines for Band Trips

1. Be on time. "You're late if you're on time. You're on time if you're early."
2. You are responsible for seeing that all items that you will need are placed in the proper place for travel. Do NOT assume someone will do this for you.
3. **Everyone travels with the group and returns with the group.** Only in extreme circumstances will an exception be made in traveling to performances. Special permission to return home in some other manner may be granted if a **WRITTEN** note from a parent or guardian is given to the director before departure.
4. Bus travel is to be quiet. Only portable radios, cassette, CD, or MP3 players with earphones are allowed on the bus. Please use discretion when bringing valuables on a band trip.

5. Follow the instructions of the director, staff, bus drivers, and parent chaperones at all times. They are your legal guardians in the absence of your parents.
6. **Your parents should be notified of our return time prior to departure.** We will make every effort to return as according to the trip itinerary.
7. For the safety and security of all students, the director and chaperones reserve the right to check all luggage prior to departing on overnight trips.
8. Before every trip, your child will be given an itinerary for the day. This is done as a convenience for your family. We will make every effort to arrive home on time. **Please be on time when picking up your student.** Thank you for your efforts.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO POLICY: The use of these substances will not be tolerated during any band activity at the school or away. School and local authorities will deal with any students found with these items, incurring the same penalties as if the offense occurred during the school day. In addition, the student(s) will be sent home immediately at the parent's expense. Students in violation face the penalties set forth by the school, up to and including removal from the band program entirely.

Classroom/Concert/Contest Attire

All students are required to have all items pertaining to the ensemble they are in.

6th 7th & 8th Grade Bands

- North Newton Music Polo
- Khaki Colored Pants
- Brown socks
- Brown closed-toe dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flops)

High School Band and Jazz Band

- Concert Attire provided by Band Boosters (HS Band only)
- Jazz Band- black dress pants and black button down
- Black socks
- Black closed-toe dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flops)

School Instrument Rental

If a student is renting an instrument from the school they must fill out the instrument rental form and it must be on file with the director. All rental instruments must be turned in for basic repairs and cleaning at the end of each school year. If an instrument is not returned clean or if it has damage, the student may incur a fee for serious repairs. Instruments may be checked out over the summer, but it must be turned in before it may be checked back out.

General Information

Private Lessons

It is strongly recommended that students study privately on their instruments. Top leadership positions, awards, and scholarships go to those students who study the fine points of their instruments. If you are interested in auditioning for honor groups or scholarships, you must keep in mind that other students who are no more talented than you are working on their instruments and studying privately. Lessons are valuable because they address your specific needs, something that cannot always be done in a large group setting. If you are an advanced player, lessons will challenge you further. If you feel inadequate as a player, they will give you direction for improvement and to play with more confidence. As a private student, you will have the responsibility of attending your lessons regularly and applying the ideas and techniques you explore during a lesson to your daily practice routine. This, in turn, will help us improve as a band. Please see Mr. Redlin for lists of local private teachers.

Band Boosters –(Band and Choir Students)

Each parent that has a student enrolled in the band program is considered a member of the NNHS Band Booster organization. The purpose of this parent group is to provide supplementary communication, encouragement, assistance, and financial support to the band program. Each year there is an election of executive officers for the band boosters, of which any parent is eligible. General meetings will be held monthly in which all parents are encouraged to attend. The boosters also conduct a series of fundraisers and band events to support the tremendous amount of work that the students put in each year. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in your child's education and to help support the band program here at North Newton. For more information, please contact the director or one of the Booster officers. The boosters or the director, Mr. Redlin has the right to photograph or video record any performance or rehearsal for website or yearbook use at any given time. **The band boosters are asking for a donation from each family: 1) money-to help offset some of the costs that directly impacts the students or 2) time-to help current boosters at events.**

Director's Statement

Please understand that the director will have final say on any issue related to the North Newton School Corporation's Band program. The policies laid forth in this handbook will be enforced. Under extremely rare circumstances, however, the director may find it necessary to alter the policy for the best interest of the student. Be aware that every effort will be made to avoid this circumstance if possible.

2021-2022 Parent Contact Information

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Address: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Band: (Please circle all that apply) 6th 7th/8th High School Jazz Band

Please contact me if you need volunteers for Band sponsored events.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips/Chaperoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Uniforms/Fittings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Making/Serving Meals/Snacks |

PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We understand and agree to abide by the information contained in the North Newton Jr-Sr High Schools Band Handbook. We further understand that failure to follow these guidelines could result in academic and/or participation penalties.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date