

# NOBLE BANDS HANDBOOK

Please read the following band handbook and return only this cover page, with parent and student signatures by the timeline designated in class. This is a grade homework communication assignment. Students must be responsible for communicating information to parents throughout the school year.

“I have read and understand all the information in the Noble Bands handbook”.

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(print student name)

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(student signature)

## **Rehearsal Area Guidelines**

1. Food, drinks, gum, candy, etc are NOT permitted in rehearsal areas.
2. Only percussionists and directors may touch percussion equipment.
3. Only directors may touch the sound and recording equipment.
4. Only enrolled students are allowed in the band room.
5. Students should use and touch only their own instrument and/or equipment.
6. Instrument cubbies must be kept clean and will contain only your instrument and music.
7. Negativity, fighting, running, bad language will not be tolerated.
8. Respect others at all times.
9. Follow school rules in the rehearsal area and on all activity trips.

## **Rehearsal Guidelines**

1. When entering the room, students should prepare themselves and their equipment for rehearsal. This is NOT a time for socializing. Check the board each day for instructions and goals for that class period.
2. Class begins at the designated time. Students who are not in their correct place, ready to rehearse will be counted as late.
3. The class will be dismissed by the teacher. Classes that begin on time and are efficient during rehearsal will have plenty of time to stow away their equipment before the bell rings.
4. Be prepared to participate in class fully every day. Bring your instrument, music, pencil, and necessary equipment to class every day.

If you choose to disregard any of these guidelines, you may face consequences arranged by the directors or principals.

## **Grades:**

How to make an "A" in band class

- 1- Be in the right place at the right time
- 2- Do the right things every time
- 3- Make your best effort every time
- 4- Improve every day
- 5- Take care of business
- 6- Depart all band activities better than when you came

## **Extra Credit**

Extra credit may occasionally be offered for students to broaden their musical experience and knowledge. Opportunities will be posted when occasions arise. It is the opinion of the directors that if students simply do what they are supposed to when they are supposed to then they won't need extra credit.

## **Eligibility**

1. Become familiar with Noble Public Schools and the OSSAA rules for eligibility. You may not participate in band activities if you are ineligible.
2. Keep up with and turn in all your homework in all your classes!!! Having zeros for homework assignments is a very common reason for students to be failing a class.
3. Band is about teamwork, and we need all our team members to perform with us to be highly successful. Frequent ineligibility reports will result in a conference with directors and parents regarding further participation in band.

## **Concert Attire**

All middle school band students should wear the following for concert performances:

- Boys: Button up dress shirt (and a tie would be preferred), dress slacks, nice clean socks and shoes.
- Girls: Nice dress shirt and skirt or slacks or a dress if you prefer.

The bottom line is we want the students to be clean and neat in appearance. Dress as professional as possible.

All high school band students will typically wear band uniforms for performances. You will be required to provide clean all black shiny patent shoes and all black full length socks. High school students should also prepare for other optional dress standards. Please check the band web site [www.nobleps.com/schools/hs/org/band](http://www.nobleps.com/schools/hs/org/band) for details.

## **Fundraising**

There will be numerous band fundraising opportunities throughout the year. These fundraisers are vital to the band's success, as we purchase supplies, instruments, and music with the monies raised. On some occasions, individual student earnings may go directly towards their participation in designated band activities.

## Attendance

Band is a TEAM effort. Unlike many athletics though, we do not have a second string or substitute bench we can use at a moments notice. We plan and prepare for our band to perform and sound their best with the total given instrumentation. Any absence from rehearsal effects preparation efforts, which in turn compromises performance quality. Any absence from performance unfairly effects' the entire band. That being said the following attendance policy will be the accepted practice.

- Rehearsal absence (regular or extra) should be reported as far in advance as possible by calling the band office 239-3759 or email [fqueen@nobleps.com](mailto:fqueen@nobleps.com)
- Performance absence must be cleared in advance of performance by parent/guardian in writing or via email to director of bands. **Reason for requested absence must be detailed to be considered. ("We have other or previous plans" is not acceptable.)**
- Director of bands will review and approve all absence.
- "Excused" rehearsal absence may possibly require extra make up time depending on the circumstances.
- "Excused" performance absence may possibly require make up time depending on the circumstances.
- "Unexcused" rehearsal absence will be credited against student grade.
- Each "Unexcused" performance will lower student overall grade 10%.
- Any absence not pre-approved will be considered unexcused until properly documented to the director.
- Tardiness is unacceptable and will be credited against students' daily participation grade. School policies regarding tardiness will also be enforced which may include lunch time detention and Saturday school.
- Regular and continued absence and/or tardiness may result in temporary or permanent suspension from band performances and will have a major impact on students' grade.

We realize there are emergencies to deal with and there will be scheduling conflicts arise with other school and/or community events and activities. We simply ask that you keep a personal schedule planner and inform us immediately when conflicts arise so we might work them out in your best interests and in fairness to everyone involved. We have some of the busiest students in school in our band program. The successful ones are organized and balance their life well. The others' usually have to accept the consequences.

Simply put, if you're not there we can't teach you. If you don't learn your part, you don't contribute to the group and, this is simply not fair to the group.

## **Grading System For Considered Absence**

We publish our scheduled events well in advance so the following will be our accepted method for grading students who are absent from events.

With written notification approved:

1. 1 month or more before event, student will be exempt from the grade for event.
2. 4-3 weeks before event student will receive grade of 80% for event.
3. 3-2 weeks before event student will receive grade of 70% for event.
4. 2-1 weeks before event student will receive grade of 60% for the event
5. Less than 1 week before event, student will receive grade of 50% for the event.
6. No pre-approved written notification will result in a "0" grade for the event.

## **Regarding Jobs**

Job work schedule will NOT be considered an excused absence from band events. We understand that in this day and age many students need to hold down part time jobs. We also understand that these employers are getting a great deal by hiring part time student employees. They know this and are usually very cooperative about working student schedules for them to participate in school activities however; students must keep track of their school event schedule and communicate to their employer in advance. If you're a student involved in student activities, you will be held accountable to the group for attendance and participation in the activity events. If you're going to be a fulltime working class citizen, then congratulations and good luck. Sometimes hard choices have to be made.

## **Honor Bands and Solo/Ensemble Participation**

- Extra activities such as honor bands and solo/ensemble contest are highly encouraged for all students
- Your grade will not be affected by these events but if you enter you will be expected to follow through and participate to the best of your ability.
- There are small entry fees involved for many of these extra events which will be the student's responsibility. Amounts and deadlines will be announced as they approach.

## **Financial Responsibilities**

1. All band students may need to purchase a band shirt to wear for different occasions throughout the year. Information regarding shirts will be sent home during the first few weeks of school. Depending on the style and quality of the shirt, the price may vary. We will try to keep cost low as possible.
2. Some school instruments are available for rent from the school. Students renting these instruments will be provided a form to be signed by their parent or guardian before the instrument is issued. Each student will be responsible for damage to the instrument while they have it checked out.
3. Percussion students will be required to provide their own personal stick/mallet bag. A list of required percussion supplies for each grade level will be issued at the start of school.
4. Students who do not rent from the school must provide their own instrument and keep it in good playing condition. Affordable rental / purchase plans are available at area music stores.
5. Besides an instrument, students should also need to purchase:
  - the prescribed method book for their class level.
  - a flip folder and lyre for marching (grades 7-12)
  - necessary accessories to maintain and care for your instrument
6. Students must be responsible for music issued to them. (A replacement fee will be charged for lost music)
7. Extra trips or activities may have some cost involved.

\*We want all of our students to have the opportunity to participate in band. If your family has any financial situations which are keeping your child from obtaining and maintaining supplies for band, please let us know. We will do all we can to help you. We do not want a financial issue to prevent a student from participating in band.

Please check our band web site [www.nobleps.com/schools/hs/org/band](http://www.nobleps.com/schools/hs/org/band) for additional information and scheduling from our program.