



Normal West High School **Band Handbook**

www.nwbands.org

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to a year of great music-making!

FOLDERS

You will be assigned a folder for the year, labeled with your name and instrument. Folders should be kept IN your locker, not on the floor of the band room or hallway. Care is of the utmost importance; if the folder is damaged while in your possession, you will be responsible for the cost of replacement. If you lose your folder, you will be responsible for the cost of the folder, music, and books (which can range from \$25 to \$50). To avoid wear and tear, students are also being issued cardboard folders that they can use to transport music home for practicing. We ask that you avoid stuffing your oversized permanent folder in a backpack.

MUSIC

Every student will be issued their own set of parts for the concert. Please write only in pencil on these parts and in the warm up books. Scale sheets, fingering charts, and other materials are also included... these are yours to keep.

LOCKERS

Each student will be issued a locker for their instrument. Due to growth within the band program, we are very tight on space. Please use your assigned locker only. We also ask that you supply a lock and keep your locker locked at all times. Your personal insurance on your instrument will NOT cover theft if your locker was unlocked. If you are playing a school-owned instrument, the lock is required. If theft occurs because of your negligence, then you will be asked to cover the cost of the instrument. (Some of the larger instruments range in cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000).

YOUR INSTRUMENT AND MUSIC ARE YOUR KEY TO THIS EXCITING WORLD – TAKE CARE OF THEM!

UNIFORMS

Male members of the ensemble will be fitted for a tuxedo (Pants and a Jacket). You will need to purchase a TUXEDO shirt and a BLACK bow tie. You will also need black shoes and socks. (No gym shoes.) If you lose or damage your tuxedo, you will be expected to replace it (\$150.00 each). Female members will be issued a long black dress. You will need to purchase black dress shoes. Please consider your appearance as part of the school's and bands' "professional" image when wearing the uniform.

GRADING

Band is a skill-based class with Standards-Based Grading. Standards can be found at nwbands.org under the INFORMATION pull down menu. Playing tests are the most common form of skill assessment, and they will be administered either during class or outside of class via electronic submission. Skills demonstrated in class on a daily basis are also considered. PERFORMANCES are used to assess a variety of performer and audience skills, and attendance at all performances is required (for the duration of the entire concert.) See the standards as listed on the band website for additional details. Excused absences from a performance include illness the day of the performance (not in school), death in the family, immediate family wedding, school sports conflict. (NOTE: Club and outside sporting events are not considered an excused absence.) In case of a school-related conflict, please notify your coach and band director as early as possible.

AUDITIONS

Students perform an audition at the end of each semester. Their final assessment grade and future part assignments/band placements are determined by the audition. Included materials are scales (as many as possible in as many octaves as possible), excerpts of music they have prepared during class, and sometimes, other etudes or technical exercises as assigned. Percussionists generally prepare assigned excerpts on mallets, snare drum, and possibly other instruments as assigned. These auditions help us to monitor a student's progress throughout the year, and they help the students develop audition and interview skills for the future.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Normal West Bands website: nwbands.org, has all of the latest dates including performances, rehearsals, and meetings. Each student is responsible for checking the calendar on a regular basis. Before major events, itineraries with specific information will be available on the web site. Second semester events will be solidified later this semester and posted on the band website.

Make note of the events that apply to you.

CW on the calendar indicates an event for Concert Winds

SB on the calendar indicates an event for Symphonic Band

SW on the calendar indicates an event for Symphonic Winds

WS on the calendar indicates an event for Wind Symphony

WE on the calendar indicates an event for Wind Ensemble

PRIVATE LESSONS

We encourage all instrumentalists to study privately with a specialist on their instruments. It is proven that a student will progress at a quicker pace with the help of a private instructor. In a large group setting, you may not always receive the instrument-specific information and individual attention needed that is possible in a private lesson. Private instruction is a way to work on YOUR individual musical and technical needs. If you would like to study privately, contact information for private teachers is posted at nwbands.org. Ms. Preston and Mr. Budzinski would also be happy to make a recommendation.



The BAND App

Band information is now available in a new app called BAND. In addition to receiving announcements through your choice of SMS, email, and push notifications, the app features other functions such as our event calendar and the ability to share photo albums. This will completely replace the service that we are currently using for text messaging, so please sign up now! Scan the QR code or visit <https://band.us/n/a8a9113bw2QeZ> to sign up.



If you have questions regarding any of the above information or need to contact Ms. Preston or Mr. Budzinski, the best way is by email at prestols@unit5.org or budzinsr@unit5.org. You may also leave a voice message on the band office phones at 336-6253 (Preston) and 336-6254 (Budzinski). We will respond as soon as possible, but please be patient, as our daily schedules include travel and teaching in other buildings in addition to NCWHS.

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK OUT THE BAND WEBSITE: www.nwbands.org
IT CONTAINS THE CALENDAR, INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING, TRIPS,
ITINERARIES, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...
Also, be sure to follow @normalwestbands on Instagram!**