

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL BAND

2019-2020 Handbook

Shawn M. Pfanstiel, Director of Bands



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Northwest High School Band Program! I am excited to begin our journey through this marching season, and our music-making throughout the school year. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and I am anxious to begin. Remember, any time you have a concern or question, please contact me. My office is always open, and you may contact me either by email or phone as listed below. I will be happy to help you in any way that I can!

Again, welcome back, or welcome to the band. I look forward to our exciting season!

Shawn M. Pfanstiel,
Director of Bands, Northwest Public Schools

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INTRODUCTION

It is my privilege to welcome you as a member of the Northwest High School Music Program. It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy the time you put into our ensembles, and that you will cherish the memories and the skills you gain here for a lifetime. This ensemble will require hard work from each member. It is essential that each member offer to the group his or her best effort at all times: for every rehearsal, for every performance, and for every competition. Each member of the program is vital to its success; in music there is no “second team”. For example, in marching band, if even one member wanders out of formation, all eyes from the audience move immediately to that person, drawing attention away from the ensemble as a whole. Therefore, individual contribution and preparation is vital to our program’s success. Please offer your personal best, at every opportunity and there we will reach our full potential in creating music together. With focused hard work and individuals at their best, I have no doubts that we will have great musical results!

This handbook has been prepared to help you understand the policies and expectations that you will be asked to follow in the Northwest Band. Read over this information, and if you have questions, don’t hesitate to ask. After you have read and understood the handbook, please share with your parents and sign the attached form to return to me, so that I can be sure that you both have read the book. *By signing the form, you allow me to hold you accountable for the policies in the handbook, **including the schedule attached at the end.*** Also, please note that school policy will apply at any and every band event, and school policy will take precedence over this handbook, should there be any conflicting policies.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Northwest Band utilizes a Leadership Team to assist the director in many of the important tasks of running a successful marching band. The following have been selected to be members of the leadership team for 2019-2020.

Drum Major

- Cydra Bruns
- Melissa Chihuahua-Lazalde
- Brennan Semm

Music Librarian

- Maryn McNally
- Hudson Pfenning
- Reagan Kropatsch

Uniform Manager

- Lexy Walton
- Reagan Kropatsch

Public Relations

- Meghan Pennell
- Hailey Mahan

Recruitment/Retention Board

- John Campbell
- Carter Fogle
- Avery Goc
- Meghan Pennell
- Katie Weaver

Hospitality Chair

- Avery Goc

Band Manager

- Angel Aparicio-Mendoza
- Joshua Colburn
- Carter Fogle

Marching Captain

- John Campbell

- Landon Zentz
- Violeta Ruiz

Flute Section Leader

- Desiree Smith

Clarinet Section Leader

- Michaela Folkers

Alto/Tenor Sax Section Leader

- Katie Weaver (1st)
- Bryan Suriano (2nd)

Trumpet/French Horn Section Leader

- Landon Zentz
- Lexy Walton

Trombone/Baritone/Tuba/Bari. Sax. Section Leader

- Truett Nelson
- Durrant Miller

Percussion

- Captain: Blake Byerly
- Front Ensemble: Hudson Pfenning
- Snare: Jack Cline
- Tenor: Blake Byerly
- Bass: Noah Anderson
- Percussion Equipment Manager: Sean Schneider

Color Guard Captain (Specific roles TBD)

- Cadey Carmin
- Jerianna Hostetler
- Hailey Mahan

EXPECTATIONS

What can you expect from your teacher?

Students may expect the teacher to be well-prepared for rehearsals, knowledgeable about the field of music, specifically the band medium, and can expect him to be organized in his lessons and rehearsal planning. Students may also expect the teacher to remain pleasant in his words and actions, and to act professionally in all settings dealing with the Northwest band program.

What can your teacher expect from you?

In return, the teacher can expect students to be well-prepared for rehearsals. This includes (but is not limited to) having practiced difficult sections of the music, keeping track of the printed music issued them, and keeping instruments in good working order. Students are also asked to keep a pleasant attitude to their teacher and to their fellow students, so that rehearsals are as productive as possible. Students are asked to present themselves professionally at all times, displaying pride in the band. Above all, students are asked to give their best effort, all of the time.

GRADING PROCEDURE

- **Performance Attendance**
 - This portion of your grade will consist of two separate parts:
 - **Concerts, contests, and other formal performances will be worth 100 points, and will sometimes be counted multiple times in the gradebook (5 x 100, etc.).**
 - In the *rare* event that you *must* miss a concert or contest (severe illness, death in the family, etc.), an alternate assignment will be discussed with the instructor. Usually, this will be a 3-4 page formal writing assignment discussing the current repertoire.
 - **Other events, such as pep band, football games, and other such performances will each be worth 10-25 pts.**
 - When students must miss this sort of performance for any reason (other than excused), students will be given a zero for that performance. To regain these points, students can schedule a 30 minute time slot with Mr. Pfanstiel to work on the current repertoire (marching or concert).
 - Note: it is understood that some students will miss some pep band due to other activities (cheerleading/athletics/other activities). These absences are considered “excused,” however, please inform the director of your absence prior to your departure, so that alternate plans can be made.
- **Performance Ability (generally 25-100 points)**
 - Occasionally, recordings or other methods will be used to assess students’ abilities to play assigned material. Students may retake any playing assessment as many times as the student wishes, up to a 2-week deadline (as per Northwest policy) following the due date. Students are also encouraged to ask the director for individual help before the assessment’s due date.
 - During marching band, this will consist of playing the show music memorized. This is to emphasize the need for *all* students to play *all* notes correctly. If you are absent the day of the assessment, it becomes *your* responsibility to arrange a time with the director to make up the assessment.
 - During concert season, it is likely that several playing tests will be completed and turned in using Chromebooks. The music/material for the assessment will be assigned well before the due date, and will be available via Google Classroom.
- **Academic Work (generally 10-25 points)**
 - Academic work in band may consist of worksheets, Google Classroom assignments, etc., given over the literature being played by the ensemble, general music theory, and other pertinent musical knowledge. Performance evaluations will also be used, so that band members can evaluate themselves and the band following significant performances.
 - I hope to use Google Classroom/Chromebooks as much as possible for these assignments.
 - Any academic assignments turned in after the due date will result in a 10% deduction. Assignments turned in later than 2 weeks past the due date may not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY

The band will follow Northwest High School’s attendance policy for regular class periods. After 3 tardies each semester, you will be required to serve a detention for each additional tardy. In addition, the band performs extensively outside of the school day. Attendance is mandatory for every member of the band for all required performances, as each member is a vital contribution to the group’s success. *A schedule is provided for you at the end of this handbook; please plan ahead and ask those dates off of work!!* Also, remember that being late is not an option. It is your responsibility to be on time for every rehearsal and performance (this means thinking ahead, and arriving early). Do not allow the group to wait on you!!

FOOTBALL GAMES

The band performs at all home football games. Specific instructions for each game will be provided the week before the game, but generally call time is 90 minutes prior to kickoff, in order to get into uniforms, warm up properly, and the like. Football games are an important part of the band's performance schedule, as they present an opportunity for the band to perform the field show in front of an audience, as well as increase excitement through music at the game.

MARCHING CONTESTS/OTHER TRAVELING

The director will publish the itinerary for every event at least one week prior to the event. In most cases, you will likely need to pack a lunch or bring money to eat at a restaurant. Remember, you are an important part of this group; **do not be late!** In addition, if you need to ride home with your parents (instead of on the buses), a signed form will be required *before you leave the event*. (This is a change from past years.)

- Students will **only** be able to leave with parents or guardians, not friends, other relatives, etc.

PEP BAND

The pep band selects certain volleyball and basketball games to play (consult the schedule for this year's list of pep band games). Depending on the success of the teams, we will plan to go to some or all district and state tournament games for football, volleyball, and basketball (usually we play the district final, and all of the state tournament). All members are expected to perform. Consult the schedule for times and dates and plan ahead! Again, work is not an excused absence; this is a part of your grade. Generally, pep band absences may be made up by a 30-minute practice session outside of school.

CONCERTS

Concerts are an irreplaceable part of the band's schedule. Only in rare instances can alternate assignments be done to make up this significant portion of your grade. Concert dress will usually be black dress clothes (but may be uniforms). The director will announce the call time well in advance, so that the band will have ample time to warm up prior to the performance.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms for marching band will be assigned to you. The full uniform is to be worn at assigned times, but you will NEVER wear any kind of "half-uniform." (In other words, the uniform is either on or off.) The uniform identifies you as a member of our band program, our school, and our community; therefore, it is very important that you are of your best behavior in uniform. Under your uniform (color guard exempted), it is expected that you wear your 2019 band t-shirt, athletic shorts (any kind/color), and black socks. In cold weather, you may also wear clothing underneath your band t-shirt. If you have any uniform questions, ask a uniform parent or the director. Uniforms were brand new in 2013 (and 2016); let's take care of them well so they last well into the future!

MUSIC BOOSTERS

Parents are *strongly encouraged* to become active with the Northwest Music Boosters. This group provides financial and other support to the band, including providing meals, bottled water, etc., to the band

throughout the year. Please contact a member of its executive board, or see Mr. Pfanstiel for details. One important way to help with music boosters is to work at the concessions during Northwest athletic contests. This is a very important source of income for the Music Boosters and the band and choir programs they support. Recent purchases made possible by Music Boosters recently include a new percussion cabinet, a new professional tenor saxophone (\$3,000), a new sousaphone (\$6,500), 5 timpani (\$15,000), and most recently, upgrades to the sound and lighting systems in the auditorium.

CHARMS

The band uses the “Charms” system for band management. This system is capable of tracking such things as contact information, fees and payments, music library, instrument inventory, calendars, attendance, and much more. Please log in to the system as soon as possible and update your information, and if you change addresses, phone numbers, etc., update the system at that time. **Please note that financial accounts will kept with Charms (such as fees listed below).**

FEES

So that the band can function properly, it is necessary that we collect certain fees for participation in band. Below are listed any possible fees. Some fees are required of all members; other fees are required only of certain members, as the circumstances dictate. *A list of specific fees will be emailed in the first couple of weeks of the school year...please wait until then to remit payment.*

Northwest Activity Fee.....	\$20	Gloves.....	\$3.10
New Shoes.....	\$31.95	Sch. Inst. Rental.....	\$85/year (subj. to change)

CALENDAR

An up-to-date band calendar is always available at the band’s website: ginwband.weebly.com then click downloads, then schedules (or click the Google Calendar tab!). Any changes in the schedule will also be announced using as many means as possible (band social media, etc.). I will also have everything on a Google Calendar – email me or look for the link at the above website if you’d like the Google calendar link.

COMMUNICATION

We will be using the Charms service to communicate using texting. The service allows the director to send messages via text or email. Please update changing phone numbers, etc., in Charms to ensure that you receive messages. Follow us on Twitter: @ginwband or Facebook (Grand Island Northwest Band).

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

As a member of the Northwest High School Band, I have read and understand the information and policies set forth in the Northwest High School Band handbook, and agree to follow all rules and procedures as presented therein, including the provided calendar.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

As a supportive parent of a member of the Northwest High School Band, I have read and understand the information set forth in the Northwest High School Band handbook, and agree to support my student in his or her efforts in the Northwest High School Band and the band as a whole.

Parent Signature

Date

Please return the above agreement to Mr. Pfanstiel by **Friday, August 16, 2019**, so that you may receive full credit for this assignment.

Thanks in advance for your support and cooperation.

Shawn M. Pfanstiel,
Director of Bands, Northwest Public Schools

NORTHWEST INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2019-2020 CALENDAR

rev. 8/15/19

This schedule is subject to change...when events change, advanced notice will be given whenever possible.

Date	Call Time	Event Time	Event	Location
Thursday, August 15	--	8:10 a.m.	First Day of School	Northwest High School
Monday, August 19	6:45 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	Early Morning Rehearsals Begin	Northwest Band Room
Thursday, Aug. 22	TBA	6:00 p.m.	Music Jubilee Night/Drill Down	Northwest High School
Saturday, Aug. 24	10:45 am	12:00 p.m.	State Fair Parade	Grand Island, Fonner Park
Friday, Sept. 6	5:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Football vs. McCook	Viking Field
Tuesday, Sept. 10	TBA	8:00 a.m.	Marching Band Tour	NW Schools, Grand Island
Friday, Sept. 13	5:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Football vs. Scottsbluff	Viking Field
Tuesday, Sept. 24	6:45 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Volleyball vs. Aurora	Northwest Gym
Friday, Sept. 27	5:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Football vs. Seward	Viking Field
Saturday, Sept. 28	TBA	TBA	Columbus Marching Festival	Columbus, Nebr.
Monday, Sept. 30	6:15 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Volleyball vs. Columbus	Northwest Gym
Saturday, Oct. 5	TBA	TBA	Harvest of Harmony	Grand Island, Nebr.
Tuesday, Oct. 15	6:15 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Volleyball vs. Holdrege	Northwest Gym
Friday, Oct. 18	5:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Football vs. Crete	Viking Field
Saturday, Oct. 19	TBA	TBA	Lincoln Public Schools Marching Festival	Seacrest Field, Lincoln
Saturday, Oct. 26	TBA	TBA	NSBA State Marching Festival	Kearney High School
Friday, Nov. 1	TBA	TBA	FB Playoffs, Round 1	TBA
Saturday, Nov. 2	TBA	TBA	Volleyball District Final	TBA
Thur.-Sat., Nov. 7-9	TBA	TBA	State Volleyball	Lincoln, Nebr.
Friday, Nov. 8	TBA	TBA	FB Playoffs, Quarterfinals	TBA
Friday, Nov. 15	TBA	TBA	FB Playoffs, Semifinals	TBA
Thur.-Sat., Nov. 21-23		All day	NMEA All-State*	Lincoln, Nebr.
Monday, Nov. 25	TBA	TBA	FB Playoffs, State Championship	Memorial Stadium, Lincoln
Friday, Dec. 6	6:00 p.m.	6:00/7:30	G/B Basketball vs. Waverly	Northwest Gym
Sunday, Dec. 8	2:15 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Concert	Northwest High School
Friday, Dec. 13	6:00 p.m.	6:00/7:30	G/B Basketball vs. Crete	Northwest Gym
<i>Dec. 26-Jan. 2</i>			<i>California Trip</i>	<i>San Diego and Anaheim, Cal.</i>
Tuesday, Jan. 14	6:00 p.m.	6:00/7:30	G/B Basketball vs. St. Cecilia	Northwest Gym
Friday, Jan. 17	6:00 p.m.	6:00/7:30	G/B Basketball vs. Adams Central	Northwest Gym
Saturday, Jan. 25	2:00 p.m.	2:00/3:45	G/B Basketball vs. Schuyler Central	Northwest Gym
Friday, Feb. 14	6:00 p.m.	5:45/7:30	G/B Basketball vs. Beatrice	Northwest Gym
Monday, Jan. 20	7:45 a.m.	All day	All-City Honor Band*	Northwest High School
Wednesday, Feb. 5	TBA	All day	Northwest Honor Band (6-8 grade)	Northwest High School
Sunday, Feb. 9	2:15 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Concert	Northwest High School
Saturday, Feb. 22	TBA	7:00 p.m.	Girls' Basketball District Final	TBA
Saturday, Feb. 29	TBA	7:00 p.m.	Boys' Basketball District Final	TBA
Thu.-Sat., Mar. 5-7	TBA	TBA	Girls' State Basketball Tournament	Lincoln, Nebr.
Thur.-Sat., Mar. 12-14	TBA	TBA	Boys' State Basketball Tournament	Lincoln, Nebr.
Monday, Mar. 23	TBA	All day	Conference Honor Band*	Northwest High School
Monday, Mar. 30	TBA	TBA	Northwest Music Festival	Northwest High School
Wednesday, Apr. 1	TBA	TBA	NSBA State Concert Band Festival	UNO, Omaha, Nebr.
Sunday, May 3	2:15 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Band Concert	Northwest High School
Sunday, May 17	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	Commencement	Northwest High School

* (for those successfully auditioning)