

# North Royalton HS

# Band Handbook

*Policies, Procedures, and Protocol*

*A resource for students and parents*

Mr. David Vitale, Director of Bands

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## INTRODUCTION

This handbook is a comprehensive guide to the North Royalton High School Band Program. Whether you are parent of a new band member, a student currently in the band program, or even a parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, we hope that this helps answer some questions, alleviate any anxiety you may have about joining the high school band, and help serve as a general reference guide for all band policies. With a band program of hundreds of students, students and parents alike should read and review this information, so that those involved understand the responsibilities, expectations, and procedures of the band program.

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## BAND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Welcome to the North Royalton High School Band Program. The NRHS Band has been a longstanding “Tradition of Excellence” and is one of the largest and most active organizations in the high school. The NRHS Marching Band has performed at Disneyworld, Disneyland, The Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, The Cleveland Indians Parade, The Indianapolis 500 Parade, the BCS Championship in New Orleans, and consistently receives Superior Ratings at the OMEA State Finals. We are proud to be one of the few band programs in the state of Ohio that has four concert bands that participate in OMEA Large Group Adjudicated Events, and the Wind Ensemble has performed at the OMEA State Convention, The Akron Ohio Band Director’s Conference, the Bowling Green State University Reading Clinic, Severance Hall, and Cleveland State, to name a few. We are proud of all of the activities that are part of our Band Program, which include the Marching Band, our four concert bands, Jazz Band I, Jazz Lab II, Solo & Ensemble Contest, Pit Orchestra, and Graduation Band.

As we begin a new year, we are looking forward to many successful performances from all of our bands. We hope that students work hard and apply themselves and through diligence, passion, punctuality, discipline, teamwork, leadership, determination and sincere effort. It is the goal of the band program, that through this sincere effort and hard work, students will not only advance their musical skills, but

also gain a greater appreciation for music, learn to work as a team, and are able to reach their full potential.

## PERFORMANCES & THE BAND CALENDAR

In May, students are given a band calendar, which lists every required performance that students need to attend. It is the effort of the administration and band staff to give these dates to the students and parents as soon as possible, giving them a year to plan ahead. It is the philosophy of the band program that each student is a vital contributing member, and therefore, attendance is mandatory at all events for all band members. There are some events that are listed twice on the calendar, and this is an effort to keep the student's schedule "clear" for both of these dates since the exact performance is not yet known. Examples of this are for Marching Band OMEA State Finals, OMEA District Contest, and OMEA State Contest.

It is the goal of the administration and the band staff, that by giving the students and parents the list of performances this far in advance, that medical/orthodontist appointments, ACT/SAT Testing, vacations, etc. can be planned around the rehearsals and performances so there is not a conflict. If there is a large conflict that has been scheduled for the student/family upon receiving the band calendar (Wedding, Golden Anniversary, or other major family events) please send in a note during the summer so the directors can document the conflict **before the year begins**.

## COURSE PRE-REQUISITES AND PRE-REQUISITE SKILL LEVEL

All students looking to join the NRHS band must already be proficient on their instrument and should have participated in the NRMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade band program, or for those students that move into the school district, participated at another junior high band program. Students should be able to perform repertoire at a "Grade 3" level as specified by the American Band Music Grading System. This is to ensure that all entering freshman, new students, and students that move into the band program, regardless of their junior high experience, possess the necessary skills to be successful in the NRHS band program. Students that move into the school district will need to perform an audition for the band staff to demonstrate that they meet the prerequisite skill level for the course. The band program is the largest class in the high school, and there is a wide range of ability levels and skill levels within the band. It is the band staff's goal to help students develop these skills and work on repertoire and have students apply these skills in context in performance settings. The staff does not teach "how to play" the instrument per say, or instrument fundamentals. Instead the staff deals with developing these skills and applying them to repertoire and performance situations – much in the same way that a math teacher counts on students to have the necessary prerequisite knowledge and skills as a foundation, on which the current instruction can build.

## FORMS, FEES, AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

There are many forms that are distributed and collected in the summer to ensure that the year can start smoothly.

Band Registration Summary Sheet	(Submitted Online)
Emergency Medical Form	(Submitted Online through the school)
Band Handbook Review and Code of Conduct Form	(Submitted Online)
Band Booster Volunteer Sign-Up Form	(Submitted Online)

**Fees for all band members:**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Online Payment:</u>	<u>Collected</u>
Uniform Rental Fee	Submitted Online	March
Band Class Course Fee	Submitted Online	March
NRHS Activity Fee	Submitted Online	March

**Fees for Some Band Members:**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Online Payment:</u>	<u>Collected</u>
Instrument Rental Fee	Submitted Online	March - (all using school instruments)
Additional Band Front Fee	Submitted Online	May

**It should be noted that there are NO REFUNDS of any fees collected for ANY reason. (ex. Injury; extended illness, student removed for disciplinary reasons, etc.)**

*Some of the items not covered by the above fees that students still need to supply include: Flip-folder, Lyre, combination lock, Band Gloves, Tuxedo Shirt (Available from the Band), Black Concert Dress Shoes, Black Dress Socks, Dark Nylons (for women), sticks/mallets, stick/mallet bags; The members of the band front also will need to purchase additional items including, but not limited to: Color Guard Gloves, hairpieces, rifles, "Body-Tights," Make-up, other show accessories*

**GENTLY USED ITEMS**

For those families with financial need we have set up a program where (to alleviate the initial cost of joining the band) we might have some pre-owned band uniform parts that are available on a "first-come," "first-served," basis. Graduating seniors that have donated their gently used, Band T-Shirt, Band Shoes, Band Polo Shirts, and Tuxedo Shirts will be kept by the Uniform Committee in the uniform room, and those families that might need assistance are welcome to contact the Uniform Committee to see if there are items available in a particular size. There is no guaranteeing any particular size or quantity of the items available – it is strictly what has been donated by previous graduates.

**There are no "reduced" fees** for the Band Class Course Fee, the NRHS Activity Fee, the Uniform Rental Fee, Instrument Rental Fee, or the Royaleire Participation Fee.

**BAND GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS**

The North Royalton High School Band has a long history of excellence. The band proudly represents our school and community to the state and the nation. When band members are both in and out of

uniform, they are constantly viewed as ambassadors of our school and representatives of our band and community. All school rules are in effect for all rehearsals, performances, bus trips, and overnight trips. The fact that the band has taken overnight trips in the past is because of the exemplary behavior displayed by the students of this outstanding band program so far.

**Smoking, consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substances or being under the influence of these, stealing, and direct insubordination are strictly forbidden at all times in accordance with school board policy. Violation of these while with the band or at band events will result in dismissal from band and disciplinary action by an administrator.**

Use of profanity is not allowed at any time. Violation of this will result in **severe** disciplinary action by the directors and/or the administrators.

It is the expectation of the band staff that all members follow the following four points:

1. Try your best and give 100% effort
2. Show Respect
3. Be Prepared
4. Be On Time

## **RESPECT AND BEHAVIOR**

Students need to respect and follow directions from all directors, staff members, and advisors. Students should respect each other, respect the band equipment and facilities, and respect each other's property. Students should also respect and be courteous to all Band Booster volunteers, including but not limited to, the Pit Crew, The Uniform Committee, and the Truck Crew. **Remember: The words "please" and "thank you" go a long way.** Band members should always be respectful of other bands not only at band competitions but also on Friday night Football games. Listen and watch and be a respectful audience always. Remember, they have worked hard for their performance and deserve an attentive and quiet audience for their performance, just as you want a receptive audience for your performance.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals and performances. The summer rehearsal calendar, Band Camp calendar, and year-long calendar is distributed to students in May of the previous year so that students can plan ahead and attend all rehearsals and performances. It is the philosophy of the band program that each student is a vital contributing member, and therefore, attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and events for all band members. Additionally, band is a unique activity which is a dynamic state of synergy, where the product of the group is greater than the sum of its parts. To this end, the band department adopted its mandatory attendance policy for all rehearsals as well as performances. It is impossible to perfect spacing on the marching band field, as well as refine musical concepts like balance, blend and tuning without every member in attendance. A band is only as strong as its weakest members. Attendance at band rehearsal is extremely vital to the band's success. The

only excuses for missing rehearsals are family emergency, an important family event with advance **written notice at the beginning of the year**, personal illness, or extenuating circumstances approved by the administration. Any unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will result in one or more of the following:

1. Deduction in grade.
2. Loss of performance opportunities.
3. Removal from leadership responsibilities.
4. Dismissal from band.

### **PROCEDURE FOR MISSING A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE DUE TO ILLNESS**

If a student is ill and will not be able to be at a rehearsal or performance, a note signed by a parent must be submitted to Mr. Vitale. Those students attending school while feeling “under the weather,” are expected to perform with the band that evening/weekend. Wednesday 6-9PM Rehearsal is our CLASS time, and therefore students that are healthy enough to be in school during periods 1-10 are expected to be at after school rehearsal that day as well.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Students with a potential conflict should notify Mr. Vitale as soon as the potential conflict arises in writing. Those with large family events (weddings, family reunions) that conflict with a band performance date should notify Mr. Vitale in writing in June.

**It should be understood that any written note with a parent signature does not make any absence “excused.”** Decisions on whether an absence is excused or unexcused will be based on the circumstances surrounding the absence, and the discretion of the administration. It should also be understood that **notes submitted without a clear description of the circumstances surrounding the absence might be returned to the student/parent with request for clarification**, as the administration will need more information to determine if the absence will be marked excused or unexcused.

It is important to note that the NRHS Band Program is founded on the ideals that all members are valuable and important contributing members to the program and that program’s success is based on the idea that all members are important to the performance and rehearsal process. It is for this reason that attendance at all performances and rehearsals are mandatory. It is impossible for a student to truly “make up” this lost time absent from rehearsal, and a student’s absence impacts every other student in the class negatively, and the ensemble loses an opportunity to work on concepts involving the entire group.

### **JUNE SUMMER SESSIONS**

There are only a few rehearsals in June, but these are mandatory and essential for a good start to a successful marching band season. Music will be distributed, freshman will receive their Mentor, and the band will begin working on music for the marching band season. Because the class rosters, attendance lists, and contest show lists are being finalized in the month of June, it is important that all



members are at the June rehearsals and if members cannot be at the June sessions, a note/email should be sent to Mr. Vitale so that music can be set aside for them.

## **SUMMER SESSIONS FOR PERCUSSION & BAND FRONT**

The Royalairens have added responsibilities during the summer months. Once the membership and auditions lists are posted in June, they immediately begin rehearsing. The Royalairens will rehearse regularly throughout June, July, and August. The specific rehearsal schedule will be drawn up by the groups' respective advisors. These summer rehearsals for the Band Front are mandatory and students should consult the handbook to see approved excused absences, however scheduled family vacations are an approved and valid excused absence for the June and July Band Front practice sessions, provided the advisor is notified in advance.

## **THE MENTOR SYSTEM**

While it might be a little intimidating joining the high school band, there has been a carefully designed, "Mentor System" to help the transition process for new members. Each freshman band member is assigned an upperclassmen (typically in the same section) as their mentor. This will be their "big brother" or "big sister" throughout their first year in band. Right away in the June Summer Sessions, mentors will sit next to their freshman, help them learn the warm-ups, help them throughout the summer with the music, help them read drill charts and coordinate sheets, help them understand the band camp calendar, help them understand when they have to be at sectionals/rehearsals, and check up on them to make sure they are checking off their music. Phone numbers for the freshman and their respective mentors will be exchanged during a Leadership Workshop in June – so that freshman will be able to contact their mentor with any questions they might have throughout the summer and entire year.

What is the report time on Friday? Where can I purchase a flip folder? Where can I get my music checked off? These are all excellent questions that should be directed to your mentor. The mentor should be the first call that a student makes if they have a question about something.

## **BAND CAMP**

Band camp is a very important part of the marching band season. It is during this time that the tone is set for the entire year and the ensemble begins laying the foundation for the fall performances. The term "Band Camp" at North Royalton refers to the daily rehearsals in the month of August. There is no actual overnight trip or traveling to a different location – all rehearsals are at the high school. The schedule for Band Camp will be issued to the students in June when they get their calendar events for the year. Attendance at all Band Camp rehearsals is mandatory. It is absolutely imperative that all students are at all rehearsals because we will be learning a large amount of material in a short amount of time. Additionally there are performances, and sometimes even football games that take place before the school year even starts. Students should consult the handbook to see acceptable excused absences. Only illness – large family events, etc. are excused. If a student has a preplanned family

vacation that falls during August, the student should inform Mr. Vitale in writing in June of the conflict. It is also the responsibility of the student to get caught up with all taught material that was missed. It is important to note, it is the policy of the band department that **every 5 missed rehearsals in the month of August results in one performance that a student will sit out.** This policy is for **ANY** missed rehearsals for **ANY** reason – even illness – or approved vacation. The main reasons for this policy are to promote a high level of attendance throughout band camp, so that the rehearsals are productive and can address issues such as spacing, drill, tuning, blend, balance, etc., and most importantly, for the safety and well being of the student. There is a large amount of material and drill that is taught daily and with five missed rehearsals, a student might be in a position where they don't fully know/remember their drill, and could compromise their safety and the safety of others on the field. We as a staff are not going to put students in a performance situation where they are not going to be successful because they are not prepared.

It is important that students eat breakfast daily during band camp. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and it allows students to focus throughout the day. This will also prevent students from becoming lightheaded or passing out in the morning sessions. Band camp consists of long hours and it is the student's responsibility to be prepared to rehearse for these long hours. This also includes drinking ample amounts of water before coming outside to rehearse. Water intake is important at the beginning of the day (before starting any outdoor rehearsal), during meal breaks, and any other rehearsal breaks throughout the day. Students should avoid high sugar drinks and carbonated drinks when rehearsing outside. The best possible thing for them to drink is plain water. It is not enough to drink water during rehearsal - in fact, if you are thirsty during rehearsal then that is a good indication you are already dehydrated. It is important for band members to NOT use thirst as an indicator of how much water they need to drink.

- **Keep ahead of the curve:** Make sure you are adequately hydrated before rehearsal. The best way to do this is to consume about 20 ounces of fluid two to three hours before rehearsal, and another 10 ounces of water or a sports drink 10 to 20 minutes before rehearsal.
- **Rehydrate** during all meal breaks and rehearsal breaks. Make it convenient and visible. Use a water bottle that is easily accessible during practice. Clear water bottles marked with increments provide visual reminders on how much you should drink so that you are not just satisfying an initial thirst.
- **Water or sports drink?:** While a sports drink contains carbohydrates to replenish glycogen stores and electrolytes to speed rehydration, ANY fluid, including water, will do.
- **Beware the hazy, hot and humid days:** Pay special attention to practice on hot, humid days. Very high relative humidity limits your body's ability to sweat, which means your core temperature will increase more rapidly due to the inability to dissipate heat.

Students should wear sunscreen whenever coming outside for rehearsal and hats are encouraged for those with fair skin. It may seem cloudy or overcast but students can still become burnt. Before coming to band rehearsal students should check the weather forecast and see what the UV Index is for that particular day, dress accordingly, and apply sunscreen that morning and reapply as necessary.

UV Index	Level	Burning Time without Protection	Wear at least
11+	Extreme	LESS than 10 minutes	SPF 40
8-10	Very High	15 minutes	SPF 40
6-7	High	25 minutes	SPF 25
3-5	Moderate	40 minutes	SPF 15
1-2	Low	60 minutes	SPF 8

Additionally students should be dressed appropriately for band camp. **This means tennis shoes with socks. No other form of footwear is acceptable, no flip-flops, sandals, boots, high-tops, moccasins, Crocs or “Ugg” Boots.** No baggy jeans or pants that would impede proper marching technique. While Band Camp takes place in August and can be quite hot, it is still a school activity and the school dress code is in effect. Girls and Band Front members may not practice in sports bras as shirts, and boys may not practice shirtless. It is recommended that students wear breathable cotton shirts that allow students to remain cool, and not become sunburned at the same time.

Students that carry heavy instruments while marching are encouraged to condition throughout the summer to prepare for the physical demands of marching and playing the instrument. Stretching before wearing/carrying the instrument is essential, and all Band Front should always stretch, warm-up, and cool down following the guidelines of their advisors.

## HAZING

North Royalton High School abides by the State of Ohio’s Hazing Law set forth in Section 2307.44 of the Ohio Revised Code. Section 2903.31 reads as follows:

- (A) As used in this section, “hazing” means doing any act or coercing another including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.
- (B) No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another.
- (C) No administrator, employee, or faculty member of any primary, secondary, or post-secondary school or of any other educational institution, public or private, shall recklessly permit the hazing of any person.

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive and/or hazardous. The following are some examples of hazing: Requiring new members/rookies to perform duties not assigned to other members; Name calling; Threats or implied threats; Asking new members to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire; Stunt or skit nights with degrading, crude, or humiliating acts; Expecting new members/rookies to perform personal service to other members such as carrying books, errands, cooking, cleaning etc. Hazing is not about harmless traditions or silly antics—hazing is about abuse of power and violation of human dignity. Hazing is a form of abuse and victimization.

It is because of strict Ohio law that North Royalton High School and the band program scrutinizes all activities organized by students to make sure that no welcoming/initiation/freshman activities are considered hazing. According to point 22 in the NRHS Student Hand book, “No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage or engage in hazing.” All Section Leaders and Right Guides will attend a workshop in June where they will be instructed on the strict hazing laws in Ohio, and informed that the below activities need to be approved by Mr. Vitale:

- Any summer welcoming parties
- Any summer section bonding activities
- Any section T-shirt or article of clothing that is made
- Any spirit activities throughout the summer or band camp
- Section Breakfasts or Dinners

To promote camaraderie, unity, teamwork, and a sense of belonging, it is encouraged that sections get to know the new freshman and new members, and do activities together throughout the summer and band camp. It is a general guideline that activities **should apply to the entire section** and do not isolate, or treat freshman (new members) differently. And as a general rule, no member should be forced to participate in a tradition or activity that makes them feel uncomfortable even if the entire section is doing it.

## DISCIPLINE & REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

It requires a great amount of discipline and self-control for students to participate in a band program. Students should follow all directions the first time given and follow these rules to ensure that rehearsal time is maximized and all members get the most out of rehearsal.

- A. Follow all directions the first time given
- B. Be on time
- C. Be prepared for all rehearsals – this means knowing your music/drill; having prepared materials/equipment with you
- D. NO GUM-CHEWING during rehearsals or performances by any member of the band, Winds, Percussion, or Band Front. This is not only unprofessional, but it is a health hazard!
- E. Students should show respect for their peers and directors by refraining from talking during rehearsals.
- F. PDA – In accordance with school policy, public displays of affection will not be permitted in the music area or during any rehearsal, performance, or travel situation.
- G. The care of music/folders/drill charts are the responsibility of the student to which they are assigned. If music is lost, it is the student’s responsibility to speak with the director to determine whether the part can be replaced or will need to be paid for.
- H. Be dressed appropriate for marching rehearsals – and plan to go out EVERY day – this means appropriate footwear, coats, and layers in colder weather
- H. The NRHS Code of Conduct is in effect at all band rehearsals, performances, trips and activities

## SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS, INSTRUMENT LOCKERS, & EQUIPMENT

Students using any school owned instruments will pay an instrument rental fee at the beginning of the school year. This fee covers a **MERE FRACTION** of the cost of basic maintenance, upkeep, and repair

on these instruments. Students should treat these instruments and equipment with respect. Students are expected to maintain their instrument(s) in proper working condition at all times. This includes having all necessary supplies including reeds, valve oil, swabs, grease, etc. When stored in the locker room, all instruments must be in a case and secured **with a lock** – this includes all percussion equipment. Failure to secure school instruments in its case/proper locker can result in disciplinary action, a fee, loss of performance opportunities, and/or loss of points towards their grade.

If a school instrument is damaged as a result of negligence or intentional misconduct, the student will be held financially responsible. This can be VERY expensive. To prevent this, students are encouraged to keep corks and slides greased regularly, and make sure all valves are oiled regularly. Regular cleaning of woodwind instruments will prevent the pads from corroding and extend the life of the instruments. Students should also use care when transporting/moving instruments to prevent any dents or scratches in the instruments.

For woodwinds, Clarinet and Saxophone Players should be using a Reed Strength of a 3.0 or higher and acceptable brands are Hemke, Vandoren, or Mitchell Lurie Reeds. Any other brands or strengths are not acceptable and not permitted. Students and parents are encouraged to shop around for deals on reeds and to buy in bulk to help defray the cost of reeds. It is the responsibility of the student to have a good functioning reed for every rehearsal and performance, and as a reminder: reeds have a finite life and as reeds are exposed to harsh weather conditions especially in the fall, this will significantly impact their lifespan, so students are encouraged to have several reeds in rotation, so they have several back-up options for any given rehearsal or performance.

Brass players need to have their own valve oil and slide grease. These are basic essentials to help the instrument function properly.

Every Wind Ensemble member is required to have their own tuner (not a smartphone app) and Wind Ensemble Trumpets are required to own their own straight mutes.

Lockers will be issued to students using their own personal instruments. Instruments too large to fit in the hall locker will be given an instrument locker. This locker is to house the student's instrument and music only. No other items should be in the instrument locker – and absolutely no food is to be in the instrument locker. Any food found in an instrument locker at any time will be thrown away by a member of the Band Staff. Please note – students should lock books, purses, phones, and valuables in their hall locker during rehearsals, football games, or performances. Anything not locked up is not safe during unsupervised times and just because an item is in the band hallway or in the band room does not mean it's secured. Please be proactive to prevent theft of items – and keep everything in a secured, locked location.

## UNIFORM & INSTRUMENT RETRIEVAL POLICIES

After every football game, contest, concert, or away trip, **the first thing** the student should do after disembarking the bus is to take their instrument off the equipment truck and put it away - not run and change out of uniform. Any unclaimed instruments left when the pit crew is done unloading the truck will be confiscated by the directors. Students will be issued two detentions for neglect of school property, blatant disregard for the safety and security of their instrument, and by having the Pit Crew take responsibility for the student's equipment.

Additionally, students are responsible for taking all parts of their uniform home after each performance. At no time are students allowed to store uniform parts at school, in the band room, the sound rooms, or their band locker. Any unclaimed uniform parts, including but not limited to, hats, shoes, raincoats that are left anywhere at school will be confiscated by the directors. Students will be issued two detentions for neglect of school property, blatant disregard of their uniform, and by having the band staff take responsibility for the student's uniform.

## TARDINESS POLICIES

***"To be early, is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late is to be in trouble..."***

There is a large responsibility placed on the student's shoulders to be at all rehearsals/performances/practices not only on time, but arrive early enough to account for variables that might cause them to be late. Students should be at the right place at the right time for all band activities with the proper equipment, attire, and attitude. The start times refer to the time that rehearsals begin – not when students are rolling in the parking lot. When students are on lunch/dinner breaks or are returning to a rehearsal and performances, students should plan ahead to arrive early and plan for possible traffic, weather, parking, etc.

For rehearsals during school, students should report to the band room by the time the bell rings, and students will be given an additional two minutes to get their instruments/music/materials out (change shoes) and be seated in the proper rehearsal room (or in attendance block) on the field. If you are not in your seat (on the field) at the first downbeat (whistle), you are tardy. Band Front changing clothes for rehearsal are expected to move quickly, and be out on the field ready to go by the first whistle.

Tardiness at a rehearsal or performance may result in one or more of the following: suspension from a particular activity, loss of third quarter privileges, the student not participating in a performance, a student kept late from rehearsal, loss of participation points toward their grade, loss of a permanent spot in the competition show, and/or other consequences.

## MONDAY REHEARSALS & CONCERT BAND SECTIONALS

When the band period was changed to the end of the day, it was the decision of the administration and band staff to compensate for this lost time by making one rehearsal a week (Mondays during marching band) an extended rehearsal which begins at the start of the band period 1:25PM, and go

until 3:15PM. **This is not optional. All students are required to stay until 3:15 on Mondays as part of the course requirement.** Student athletes will report to their athletic practices as soon as they are dismissed from band. The administration has talked with coaches informing them of this part of the course requirement, and coaches understand that athletes in both band and a sport will be reporting late to practice on Mondays. Students participating in sports where coaches/advisors are not aware of this policy, or penalizing student athletes for arriving late on Mondays should tell Mr. Vitale and the principal immediately.

Once marching band is over, and the concert band season begins the sectionals for the concert ensembles are scheduled at the discretion of the individual director. A sectional schedule will be drawn up by the director and students will be informed in advance of when their particular section will be meeting. Students need to understand that attendance at sectionals are mandatory and are part of the course requirement.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, the Wind Ensemble Sectionals will be permanently as follows:

- Every Tuesday- Wind Ensemble Woodwind Sectional
- Every Wednesday – Wind Ensemble Percussion Sectional
- Every Thursday – Wind Ensemble Brass Sectional

For the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Freshman Band, there will be certain days scheduled in advance where students have sectionals, and this is at the discretion of the director.

## PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Percussionists have the privilege of using percussion instruments supplied by the band, however sticks/mallets/implements are not supplied by the band, and it is the responsibility of the student to furnish these. This means all sticks/mallets/implements acquired over the course of the middle school band years should be held on to, because they are required to have these in the high school program. Additionally, if any student has lost or damaged a pair or multiple pairs of sticks/mallets they should use the summer as an opportunity to replace these. Every high school percussionist is required to own:

- Personal Stick Bag
- Concert Snare Sticks
- Yarn Mallets
- Hard Rubber Mallets
- Hard Plastic Mallets
- Brass Mallets
- Triangle Beater
- Timpani Mallets



Each percussionist is also required to purchase **one set** of sticks/mallets/cymbal gloves **each marching band season** and the type and brand will be announced by the percussion advisors. These marching mallets will probably last only one season due to the wear and tear and exposure to the elements, and should be replaced annually.

Students are advised to put their name on all equipment, and every stick/mallet, and lock up their equipment in a band instrument locker. The band department does not assume responsibility for any lost/stolen/damaged mallets – students should secure these in their band locker.

If a percussionist joins the band program from a parochial school, or moves in, **they still need to acquire** the required sticks/mallets listed above. Students should check the band board at the end of the year to see if any senior is selling their mallets to incoming freshman/new students.

No sticks/mallets/music should be left in the back of any of the rehearsal rooms at any time. Percussionists should put away and lock up all percussion instruments at the end of EVERY rehearsal, and at that time, students should take their mallet bag and music, and lock it in their band locker – so there are NO PERCUSSION supplies or instruments in the back of any of the rehearsal rooms at any time. This is for the safety, security, and maintenance of the percussion instruments as well as the student's equipment.

### **GUM, FLIP-FLOPS, MOBILE PHONES**

The band department in conjunction with the NRHS administration has a strict, no gum, no flip-flop, and no mobile phone policy. No “warnings” will be given for any of these infractions. A blanket reminder statement will be given at the beginning of band camp at the start of the year to remind students that none of those items are acceptable at any time during band rehearsals / practices / performances. Gum is not permitted for any member: woodwind/brass/percussion/band front. This is not only unprofessional, but it is also a health hazard!

No flip-flops, sandals (with or without heel straps), boots, crocs, moccasins, or high tops are permitted at any time for marching band rehearsals. The only acceptable footwear are tennis shoes with socks. Students should be prepared to go outside every day of band camp and throughout the marching band season, and never “guess” if there might be an indoor rehearsal. Students should be prepared with proper footwear and ready to march every day.

According the NRHS Student Handbook, “Mobile phones, iPods, and MP3 players, and other such devices have proved to be disruptive to the educational process. Such items, if brought to school, **must be put away during class. Students are not permitted to have them in classrooms, which for band, includes not only our band room, but also our rehearsal field.** Communication items such as mobile phones, etc. are to be kept out of sight and “silenced” as to not disrupt instruction. These items may be confiscated if found by an adult. Disciplinary action may be taken. North Royalton High School cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen electronic devices.” While some band rehearsals meet outside the school day (Monday afternoon; Wednesday evening; Friday/Saturdays) school policies and



rules are still in effect for all band rehearsals, and therefore, no mobile phones should ever be out at band rehearsals, including band camp rehearsals. Students may wish to take mobile phones on bus trips, away games, and competitions, however students assume all responsibility for these items, and NRHS cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen items.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS

Wednesday night rehearsals are part of the course requirement for band during the marching band season. There will be 10 Wednesday night rehearsals, one for every football game. (If the football team advances to the playoffs, there will be additional Wednesday night rehearsals, one for each game). Wednesday night rehearsals will be from 6-9PM. This rehearsal will be not only for working on new music/drill; it is used for reviewing, refining, and perfecting the performance for Friday night. If a student is not at a Wednesday night rehearsal, they are not eligible to perform on Friday night. Freshman and new band members should work on their time-management skills on Wednesdays to ensure their homework and studies get completed. "I have a lot of homework," or, "I have a lot of tests," is not a valid excuse to miss band rehearsal. Parents should encourage their students to plan ahead and develop planning and time-management skills for Wednesdays.

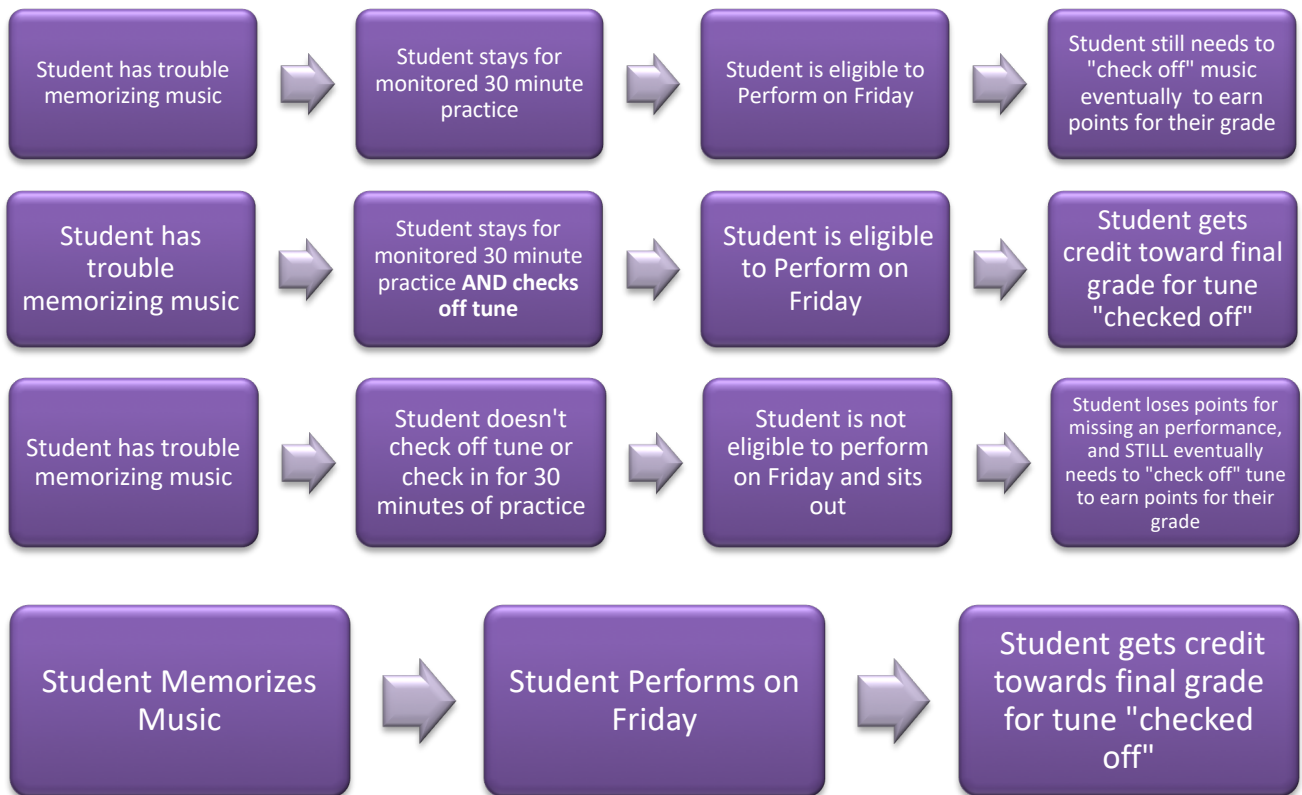
### MUSIC MEMORIZATION REQUIREMENT

Band members' first quarter grade is based on many factors, but the biggest of which is their music memorization. Students are required to memorize: 3 Pregame Tunes, 4 Football Tunes, and 5 Contest Tunes. When students feel they have successfully memorized the music, they can attempt to "check off" the music by demonstrating they have mastered the music by performing it for a director without using the music. If they successfully perform the piece memorized at a satisfactory level, they will have that tune "checked off." Field Commanders may assist with "checking off" students and Section Leaders may also check off members of their section once they have checked off all their tunes themselves. No other student is authorized to "check off" anyone.

Students can "check off" tunes as quick as they like. In fact, many students like to get ahead and check off several tunes at one time during band camp. Each week leading up to the first contest of the season, there will be a new tune requirement added to the music memorization requirement. Students should NOT fall behind with their memorizing, because new tunes are added weekly. In order to be eligible to march and perform on Friday, students must have the tune of the week (and all previous weeks' tunes) memorized, which means the music memorization requirement is completed for that particular week. Failure to memorize and "check off" the required tune by **Thursday at 3:00PM** will result in the individual sitting out during that Friday night performance. This individual still needs to attend rehearsal, dress in full uniform, and travel with the band to the game. The only difference is the individual will be watching the band perform from the end zone rather than performing. Additionally, the individual's grade will be affected for failing to meet the music memorization requirement for that particular week.

The band staff understands that some students are able to memorize music faster than others, and this skill might come easier for some than others. For this reason the band has a policy that allows

individuals to SHOW the band staff that they are trying to memorize their music and that they are working towards this goal. Students may sign in after school for a half-hour monitored practice session on **Monday – and this is mandatory for any student who is not up to date with their assignment completion.** It is during this time, students will work on memorizing their music. Then, upon the conclusion of the 30 minute monitored practice session, the student is now re-eligible to perform on Friday night. However, it should be noted that the 30 minute monitored practice session only allows a student to perform on Friday night, and does not contribute points toward their final grade. They still ultimately need to learn, master, memorize, and check-off the music to earn music points toward their final grade. The flow chart below shows these scenarios:



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are many student leaders within the band, each with their own roles and responsibilities. Field Commander auditions take place during the band final exam. Band Front captain auditions take place at the Royale auditions in May. Right guides and Section Leaders are selected by the band staff in June and those individuals are notified in advance of the Leadership Clinic that takes place in June. The Band Council and Band Officers are elected on a day selected by the directors at the end of the school year. The duties and responsibilities of the Band Officers, Field Commanders, Captains, and Section Leaders begin immediately in June, and for these student leaders, have many summer responsibilities before the band even meets in August. **The primary responsibility of all officers is to LEAD BY EXAMPLE.**

### President

- Senior band member
- Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band
- Act as a liaison between the members and the director in all matters pertaining to the internal organization and activity of the band
- Prepare the rehearsal rooms and field for rehearsals
- Assists the directors with paperwork / clerical work

#### **Vice-President**

- Junior band member
- Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band
- Assists the President when necessary
- Assumes the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence
- Prepares the rehearsal rooms and field for rehearsals
- Assists the directors with paperwork / clerical work

#### **Secretary**

- Senior, Junior, or Sophomore band member
- Responsible for maintaining or aiding Field Commanders with attendance records.
- Responsible for band correspondence.
- Responsible for writing “thank you” notes on behalf of the band
- Prepares the rehearsal rooms and field for rehearsals
- Assists the directors with paperwork / clerical work

#### **Treasurer**

- Senior, Junior, or Sophomore band member
- With guidance from the Directors, keeps records of incoming and outgoing accounts
- Help with the collection of funds from students
- Prepares the rehearsal rooms and field for rehearsals
- Assists the directors with paperwork / clerical work

#### **Sophomore Representative**

- Sophomore band member
- Representative of the sophomore band class
- Assists with music distribution / Paperwork collection from the band
- Assists Band Council with all activities
- Sets chairs and stands preparing the room before rehearsals
- Assists the directors with paperwork / clerical work

#### **Field Commanders**

- Serves as the field leader during Marching Band rehearsals and performances and assumes leadership in the absence of the Directors.
- Directs all field rehearsals and performances of the marching band

- Sets standards in attendance, punctuality, attitude, musicianship, and loyalty that the members of the band can and should try to follow.
- Act as a liaison between band members and the directors
- Responsible for keeping the student leadership (Section Leaders; Right Guides; Captains) working together as a team
- Oversee bleachers during football games; follow the football game watching for injured players, touchdowns, etc.
- Assist directors with keeping attendance of all rehearsals and performances
- Copy, collate, and distribute all parts to the music
- Inspect section leader uniforms prior to full band uniform inspections.
- Assist directors with checking off music
- Show patience, consideration, and understanding in dealings with the band while not compromising standards
- Assist the directors and staff in administrative and organizational tasks
- Exhibit and demand discipline within the band

### **Section Leaders**

- A Section Leader is the musical leader of his/her instrumental section
- Responsible for correspondence with squad leaders/section members
- Responsible for uniform inspection for their section
- Assists with taking attendance for their section
- Assists with paperwork collection and music/drill/info distribution to the section
- Are required to attend any meetings over the duration of the marching season to discuss charts, review films, and ensure maintenance of proper execution by all members.
- Conduct a summer sectional with your section and help freshman with learning music
- Check up on members in the section to be sure ALL members are meeting their weekly music memorization requirements

### **Right Guides / Squad Leaders**

- Responsible for squad members during rehearsals and performances.
- Responsible for uniform inspection of squad prior to performance
- Assist freshman and new band members with the reading of drill charts and coordinate sheets
- Are required to attend any meetings over the duration of the marching season to discuss charts, review films, and ensure maintenance of proper execution by all members.
- Appointments will be made by the Directors.
- Section Leaders also serve as squad leaders

### **Band Front Captains**

- Will be appointed by the group Advisors and Directors.
- Are responsible for music/drill/charts/paper distribution to band front, and also assist in collection of paperwork from band front
- Responsible for keeping all members of the band front informed of information and schedules all year long, including those band front that are not in the band after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

- Responsible for making sure all members know routines at a satisfactory level, including assisting those that need extra help
- Responsible for not only uniform inspection for all members, but also inspecting that all band front are adhering to the proper hair and make-up uniform guidelines set by the advisors

## ALTERNATES

Every member of the NRHS Marching Band is a valuable member. Every member gets a uniform, is in the yearbook picture, performs in all parades, marches in each pregame show, and has a full time spot in the “Football Show.” However not every member is guaranteed a full-time spot in the “Contest Show” nor are students guaranteed an opportunity to perform the Contest Show. The Contest show has very sophisticated music and drill, and some students are not always able to meet these demands – especially younger students. To achieve a balanced instrumentation and to promote a high level of performance excellence, the North Royalton High School Marching Band has students who serve as alternates for the “Contest Show,” which has much more challenging music and marching demands. Alternates are determined by several factors, including, but not limited to, students’ musical ability from the previous year, students’ tape tests/playing tests from the previous year, and the students’ current playing ability, current marching ability, attitude, ability to synthesize new material quickly, and ability to demonstrate superior marching while performing the music. When the list of Contest Show positions is posted, alternates will be designated along with the member they are to “shadow.” All alternates are full members of the marching band. They are expected to participate in all practices and rehearsals. Alternates will not receive their own drill spot on the field for the “Contest Show.” Instead, they are assigned a spot to share with another band member. When an alternate is acting as a “Shadow” the student will be marching behind another student, learning the spot, getting acclimated with the drill, and building their skills to possibly work their way into the show. The band staff will decide which of the two students will march in a specific spot for the Contest Show on a week-to-week basis, based on several factors, including, but not limited to: students’ music check off record, current musical skills, attendance record, marching ability, work ethic, ability to perform the music at a superior level, ability to march at a superior level while performing the music. In the event of injury, illness, or athletic conflict an alternate will either temporarily or permanently replace that member that they were “shadowing” for those performances. The Band Staff also may march neither of the two individuals if neither individual is able to execute the position at a superior level. Just like on the football team, or soccer team, where not every individual makes it on the field for certain games or certain plays – the same is true for band – which is like a Varsity Sport. Everyone is still in uniform, everyone is still present and part of the team, but for this point in time with a performance with very high demands, only the individuals that can meet the demands of the Contest show will get an opportunity to perform the contest show. This will be decided every week, and for each performance of the Contest Show. These decisions are made by the Band Staff with the best interest of the entire band in mind. Please understand, the Shadow/Alternate process is a teaching and learning tool that is designed to help students learn, help them build their skills, and help keep them working towards that goal of eventually getting on the field. Students that are not performing for a particular performance will remain with the band and typically are in the front - off to the side during the performance. The

list of which individuals that will perform and those that will not perform, will be posted immediately before each performance, because often times the rehearsal immediately before the performance will be a deciding factor when the Band Staff is making observations about students' ability levels and skill levels at that point in time.

Additionally, if there is a member of the Band Front or Percussion Section that has not mastered the required material/music/routines to a satisfactory level, the group's advisors and/or the Band Directors can and will ask said individuals to march the portion of the show they have mastered, then move to the sidelines and stand at attention for the portion they have not mastered.

## IN THE STANDS

**Good bands look organized at all times!!** Your conduct in the band stands during football games is important to the impression we leave with the general public. Poor discipline presents a negative impression and good discipline presents a positive impression. You must always strive for good discipline. A part of that discipline is showing school spirit and supporting the football team.

**Be alert!!** Events happen quickly at football games. Watch the directors and be prepared to play the Fight Song after each touchdown or field goal. Do **NOT** play your instrument unless the whole band is playing.

No one except band members are to sit with the band. No friends, siblings, boyfriends, girlfriends, or alumni are permitted in the band section at both home and away games. Band members are to sit with their section in the designated spots instructed by the directors. Students should remain seated in the stands and are not allowed to walk around the End-zone during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.

Do not bring food/water/Gatorade into the games or up to the band stands. You may get refreshments during the third quarter, but you must eat away from the band stand. Do not march up to the game with water or Gatorade; do not put food/drink in the uniforms, raincoats, raincoat pockets or the hat. **Any student found with food or drink will be made to throw away the items at the student's expense.** Students are encouraged to drink water before they march up with the band, water will be available by the boosters at warmer home games. Students may purchase snacks during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter only. There will be no eating in the band stands during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. **Any student found eating/drinking during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be made to throw away the items at the student's expense - except** water provided by the boosters during the warmer home games.

Students are reminded that while at a football game/competition, they can wear as many layers as they wish UNDER their uniforms, however they are NOT permitted to put on hoodies, blankets, letterman's jackets on OVER the uniform. Students may put on the Band Raincoat for warmth if they wish. Additionally, baseball caps or any other non-uniform hats are not to be worn by band members at any time when in uniform, this includes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of a football game.

Keep good care of your instrument. This will prevent it from being damaged. Do not leave it propped up in any way, and when students leave during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, it is the students' responsibility to lay it in a secure, safe spot so that it doesn't get damaged. Students should stay in their uniforms at ALL times. Never place any part of your uniform or instrument on the ground. Students are never allowed to take off their jackets in warmer weather; they should drink water to stay cool and hydrated. In colder weather, students may wear as many layers as they like UNDER the uniform, but nothing may be worn on top of the uniform. Hoodies, blankets, scarves, etc. are not part of the uniform and should not be worn when in uniform with the band. Percussionists (that do not wear gloves when performing,) are permitted to wear the black band gloves in colder weather when they are not performing to stay warm.

When you are at football games or band contests you are a representative of the band, our school, and our community. Profanity of any kind is not allowed in uniform and public displays of affection (PDA) of any kind are not allowed in uniform. Students who violate this policy may lose 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Privileges and/or other punishments from the band staff. Students are never allowed to leave the band stands (except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter). Students are encouraged to use the restroom right before we march up to the stadium/load the busses.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER PRIVILEGES

**The Socializing/Snacks in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of a football game is a privilege that is earned by band members. Violation of any of the rules, tardiness/punctuality, attendance, could result in the loss of a portion or all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges for a particular game(s).**

Students must stand at attention and watch the visiting band's performance in its entirety. Be polite and a respectful audience, the same way students would want an audience to be polite and respectful for their own performance. Once the visiting band has concluded its performance, Mr. Vitale will call the band to attention, and then dismiss the band for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. **Any student who leaves before dismissal risks losing their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges in the future.** Before students depart from the band section, they should make sure their instrument/raincoat is safe and secured. **Students are responsible for their instrument at all times!**

**Students should finish all food and drink during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, and NO food or drink is to be brought back to the band stands at any time. Students who bring back food or drink will be asked to throw away the items at the student's expense.** Students may not leave the stadium, and must stay in full uniform at all times. Public displays of affection (PDA) are not permitted at any time (including 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter). Students who violate this policy may lose 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Privileges and/or other punishments from the band staff.

**All students should be back with the band in the band stands, with their instruments, ready to play the Fight Song when the clock on the scoreboard says 0:00. NO EXCUSES!** Students should plan ahead. Students who wish to wait in line for concessions and wait in line for the restroom should plan



accordingly. Since we are a larger band, there will probably be lines for both. Plan ahead – “there was a long line” is not an excuse to be late to be back with the band when the clock says 0:00. Any student who is not with the band, with their instrument, playing the Fight Song when the clock says 0:00 will lose their 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter privileges for the next game (or other punishments from the Band Staff if it is the last game). Students should watch the scoreboard periodically because depending on game play, the clock could run quickly or slowly. Remember:

**“To be early, is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late is to be in trouble...”**

**Violation of any of the band rules will result in loss of a portion or all of third quarter privileges.**

## **MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS**

Band uniforms (both concert attire and marching uniforms) represent a very large expenditure of band funds. The NRHS Band Boosters have set the uniform use and cleaning fees at \$40/year for each uniform to help offset the costs of normal maintenance, replacement, and periodic cleaning of the uniform parts. This amount does not begin to cover the full cost of these items, so uniform use regulations have been established to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on these garments. We need for these uniforms to last for many years. You are responsible for maintaining your uniform in pristine condition. Any replacement or repair costs incurred through loss of parts, excessive damage, or other negligence WILL BE BILLED TO YOU. All uniforms are inspected before they are distributed to students and all uniforms are inspected when returned at the end of marching band season.

***You must wear your entire uniform properly to perform (or to be in the yearbook picture.)*** Prior to each performance, the Field Commanders and Section Leaders will perform a uniform inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include band T-Shirt underneath the jacket, black socks, and cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations - possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items - in order to perform. Missing items may be rented from the Band Boosters for a fee. All band members must *remain in full uniform* (with the exception of plumes) with jacket and shakos on unless told otherwise by a director or Field Commander. This includes while in transit to events.

Hair may not be dyed to an unnatural color. No jewelry is to be worn other than post earrings. This applies to males and females. No facial piercings or gauging piercings are permitted. These must be removed prior to dressing in full uniform. Covering the piercing with a bandage or make-up is not acceptable. All non-regulation piercings must be fully removed or the student will not be permitted to march/perform with the band, and their grade will be affected accordingly. Hair that is long enough must be worn up inside the shako. This applies to both males and females. No hair may extend outside the hat or touch the top of the back of the band uniform.

Plumes will be placed on shakos just before performance time and removed immediately thereafter. **Plumes are to be handled gently, they are very expensive.**



There are two pairs of pants that are issued with each uniform. One has an embroidered “NR” on the top, and one does not. The non-NR pants are machine washable, and it is the students’ responsibility to have them washed, cleaned, and ironed for each football game performance. Students should never wear the “NR” pants for a football game performance, unless instructed by a director. Failure to have the correct pants will result in a student not passing Uniform Inspection.

The “NR” pants are meant for competition use only. They are designed with a heavier fabric and a tapered ankle for a more uniform leg line. Students should keep these on the hanger until use on competition days. It is the effort of the Band Boosters and the Band Staff to supply students with two pairs of pants so that weekends where there is a Friday night football game and a Saturday competition, students can have a clean pair of pants for each performance, and will not require students (or parents) to do laundry late on Friday night.

It is absolutely essential that the uniforms be hung correctly to ensure that they remain in pristine condition. Please keep track of your uniform hanger as it is made to maintain the uniform’s shape. **Do not use a plain hanger on your uniform.**



**Plume** – handle delicately, push all the way into the hat

**Shako (hat)** – The brim of the hat should be worn at eye level – NOT back on the head like a baseball cap – all hair should be tucked inside the hat

**Hair** – neatly groomed, no unnatural dyed colors are permitted; hair cannot touch the top of the jacket

**Jewelry** – only one pair of post earrings are permitted; **no** dangling earrings, hoop earrings, facial piercings, gauge piercings, or multiple (cartilage) piercings are permitted. This applies to females and males.

**T-Shirt** – Students must wear at least a short sleeved T-shirt at all times under the uniform to absorb perspiration and help alleviate excess wear on the inside of the uniform. Sleeveless shirts or tank tops are not acceptable.

**Jacket** – Should be zipped all the way to the top; multiple layers may be worn under the jacket in colder weather, but should not result in a “bulky” appearance; “Under Armor,” long underwear, or other thin layers that keep warmth in are recommended

**Pants** – The Bib pants are meant to be worn high. The suspenders should pull the pants up so that the top of the pants are at “mid-chest” height or up to the sternum. Suspenders are to be worn at ALL times. This prevents students from walking on the bottom of the pants. Students should wear the “NR” Pants for competitions only, and the “non-NR” for football games. Multiple layers may be worn under the pants in colder weather, but should not result in a “bulky” appearance; “Under Armor,” long underwear, or other thin layers that keep warmth in are recommended

**Gauntlets** – Gauntlets are worn for competitions (and certain football games) only and are sized for students based on their jacket size – students should remember what size gauntlet they are to wear. Gauntlets are issued immediately before and collected immediately after performances. When Gauntlets are worn correctly, when a student puts their arms up in playing position, the buttons should be visible from the stands

**Gloves**- Gloves must be worn for all performances; all Clarinet players and Flute players with open-holed flutes must cut the tips of the fingers off so that the gloves do not impair the student’s ability to play their instrument; Percussionists do not wear gloves

**Socks**-All students must wear dress black socks or mid-calf socks. Athletic socks, soccer socks, or ankle socks are not acceptable. When a student is marching with a large step size, and the pant leg rides up, a student’s leg cannot be exposed.

**Shoes**- It is the responsibility of the student to keep the marching band shoes cleaned and polished. Dried mud can be cleaned off with a brush, and black shoe polish can help keep shoes looking their best. The first few times new marching shoes are worn, students should be careful so that scuff marks are not left on the school floor.

The band uniforms are made of polyester fabric. **No student should ever attempt to machine-wash their own uniform jacket.** Only the collar-liners and “non-NR” pants should be machine-washed by the students. When cleaning is required, the uniforms will be washed as a group to maintain their consistent appearance. If you think that your uniform needs cleaning or repair, please contact the Band Booster Uniform Chairperson. If mud gets on the raincoat, wait for the mud to dry, and then brush off with a dry brush. Never put the raincoat in a washer or drier.

After heavy rain, all the pieces of the uniforms should be laid out/hung up to air dry. DO NOT keep the uniforms zipped in the uniform bag. Mold, odor, and discoloration will result and students will be fined accordingly. When you get home, remember to hang up your uniform and do not leave it in the trunk of your car or zipped in the uniform bag.

## BUS TRIPS & AWAY GAMES

The band takes many bus trips throughout the year, and to ensure things run smoothly, all members of the band must adhere to the following rules and guidelines:

Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out of the performance. Double check that you have all required items and uniform parts. Only flutes and clarinets are small enough to load on the bus. All other instruments must be loaded on the truck. Load your instrument first on the truck before you get your personal belongings and uniform for the bus. Each student should hand their instrument to the truck loading crew themselves and do not have a friend do it for them. Remember to say “please,” and “thank you” with the pit crew and truck crew. They are volunteers giving up their time to help.

When you are dismissed by a director to load your instrument, get your uniform, etc, no student is to leave the school premises for any reason. No student is to go home if they forgot something; no student is to go get fast food, etc. This is a liability issue, a supervision issue, and an insubordination issue. **Any student who leaves the school premises during this loading time will be reported to the administration for disciplinary action.**

The uniform is to be worn on the bus the entire time. Jackets may be hung up on the form-fitting hanger while traveling on the bus, but the rest of the uniform must be worn. No student is to come off the bus after a game wearing street clothes. Any student who changes on the bus will lose 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges in addition to additional punishments from the band staff as they see fit. As a band, we do everything the same way. This means we look the same way – always – and no individual receives special treatment. No person may change out of uniform until back at school – no matter the weather conditions or humidity.

While traveling on the bus, school and bus rules apply – no profanity on the bus. Band front should not use hairspray while on the bus as a courtesy to those around them. Additionally, the bus aisles and emergency exit must remain clear at all times.

All students will ride to and from band events on the bus. Students may ride home with a parent ONLY if a written, signed note from the parent is given to the director by Thursday at 2:30. Notes turned in on Friday, Emails from parents, messages left on Mr. Vitale’s voicemail, and in person requests are not acceptable. Please don’t put Mr. Vitale or the band staff in a compromising position by asking them to honor these types of requests. The band staff is responsible for a large number of students and must know their whereabouts at all times.

## FIRST QUARTER GRADING & POWER SCHOOL

The first quarter grade is determined by the student's ability to learn the music, memorize the music, and perform the music from memory (getting the tunes "checked off") (See Music Memorization Requirement – pg. 14). Each student's first quarter grade is determined by the student getting their assignments turned in. Additionally, students need to get their assignments turned in by the appropriate due date if they want to earn an "A" for the first quarter. The Senior deadline, Junior deadline, Sophomore deadline, and Freshman deadline are all different dates. Students are encouraged to work and get a few tunes checked off each week working up to the deadline. Students can still turn in assignments after the deadline, however the highest grade they would be eligible to earn would be a "B." Please note – especially parents of freshman – unlike in middle school, points are not awarded for having their materials, being at rehearsals, being at performances, remembering their uniform – these are very basic expectations that are expected of all band members. At the high school level, grades are based on students turning in their assignments. Please note, that students missing rehearsals or performances will result in the student's grade being lowered.

## THE NRHS CONCERT BANDS

North Royalton High School has four concert bands, which begin at the conclusion of marching band in November. Auditions determine which students are placed in the bands. All freshmen participate in Freshman Band, and their midterm score determines their chair order within the band. For all 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, the midterm exam determines their band placement and chair placement within each band.

<b>Wind Ensemble –</b>	Performs in Class AA or A-performs grade 4.5-6 music –	Directed by Mr. Vitale
<b>Symphonic Band –</b>	Performs in Class B – performs grades 3.5-4 music –	Directed by Mr. Burdick
<b>Concert Band –</b>	Performs in Class C – performs grades 3 music -	Directed by Mr. Nary
<b>Freshman Band –</b>	Performs in Class C – performs grades 3 music -	Directed by Mr. Vitale

## CONCERT BAND UNIFORMS

The appearance of a performing group has a significant impact on the audience's perception of that group. Thus, the following concert dress requirements have been established:

### All Ladies

Black band dress

Black dressy, shoes

Black hose

Band Pearls and Earrings (for Wind Ensemble Ladies Only)

### All Men

Tuxedo (distributed by the Band Boosters)

Black dress shoes – NOT the black marching band shoes  
Black dress socks - NOT crew socks, soccer socks, athletic socks or ankle socks  
Tuxedo shirt (available for purchase from the Band Boosters)  
Purple cummerbund (distributed by the Band Boosters)  
Purple bow-tie (distributed by the Band Boosters)  
Tuxedo Studs (available for purchase from the Band Boosters)

Concert Band uniforms should be treated with respect, and follow the care and maintenance paper that accompanies the uniform given out by the Band Boosters. Tuxedo shirts should be washed and ironed by the student regularly and should be worn with a WHITE undershirt. All students should have 4 studs worn in the tuxedo shirt, bow tie, and the gentlemen will have a cummerbund and tuxedo jacket.

**After the final concert in the spring, each student is required to have his or her garment professionally dry-cleaned. The garment should then be returned to the band room in the dry-cleaner bag with the receipt attached along with hanger(s) and garment bag issued at the end of the year.** The tuxedo shirt, studs, or pearls are the property of the student and should not be returned.

## 2<sup>ND</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER GRADING & POWER SCHOOL

Throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, the grades and Power School will be maintained and updated by the director who directs the student's particular band. Factors that influence the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade include, but are not limited to, are tape test grades and Smart Music assignments. Please note, that students missing rehearsals or performances will result in the student's grade being lowered.

For both Tape Tests, and Smart Music assignments, students are to record themselves performing various passages of music. Students are encouraged to practice these passages before actually recording them and submitting them to a director for a grade. Any student having another person perform their test, recording another person in any way, using computer software to edit their performance, or having another student record themselves and submitting it as another student's is considered plagiarism, academic dishonesty, and cheating. **The North Royalton High School takes a strong position that cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable practices by students.** Emphasizing the need for students to submit original work or properly acknowledged work of others is a responsibility of the school. Students found cheating or plagiarizing will be penalized and disciplinary action may be taken. **If any of the above infractions occurs, both students involved will receive zero credit on the assignment and parents and/or guardians will be notified. Students will also be referred to an administrator for further disciplinary action.**

## BAND MIDTERM

Every member in the band must take the Band Midterm Exam. There are two portions to the midterm, the playing portion, and the written portion. The playing portion of the midterm exam will take place in November and the written portion will take place during the midterm exam period in January.

### **Playing Portion**

All students will receive the audition music at the same time so each student will have the same time to prepare (usually one week). The playing portion can consist of scales or scale-like patterns in a variety of keys, a solo or etude, a portion of the marching band contest show, and a Sight reading selection – which the student will not prepare in advance, this portion will allow students to demonstrate their ability to sight-read.

Students will sign up for a time-slot to perform their audition. Sign-ups will be by seniority, and each student will get one time slot after school to report to perform. To be as fair as possible, the auditions will be blind, and the directors scoring the playing will not know which student is performing at the time of the audition. Students with complications or scheduling issues with their performance time should talk to a band director OTHER THAN the one that is scoring the audition. The band staff makes every effort to make the audition as blind and fair as possible.

Students should perform at the time they signed up to audition. Switching times, switching players, other players performing besides the one listed on the time slot will be viewed as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, and cheating. **The North Royalton High School takes a strong position that cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable practices by students.** Emphasizing the need for students to submit original work or properly acknowledged work of others is a responsibility of the school. Students found cheating or plagiarizing will be penalized and disciplinary action may be taken.

**If any of the above infractions occurs, both students involved will receive zero credit on the midterm and parents and/or guardians will be notified. Students will also be referred to an administrator for further disciplinary action.**

The band staff makes every effort to score each audition as fairly as possible. This is the one time of the year where students are evaluated on a performance where they have one opportunity (no retests) and they are evaluated on the performance only – not effort, preparation, attitude, etc. For some students, this is a bitter pill to swallow because they might believe their performance skills are higher than they really are. Being able to prepare independently, perform under pressure, and perform as a soloist in front of others are all skills that develop over time and through practice.

As a result of the auditions, students will receive a band assignment, a chair assignment, and a score. It is quite possible that many students could receive an “A” on the playing portion of the midterm but due to instrumentation and limits for each ensemble, there is a limit to the number of certain instruments in the ensembles. Within each band, exact chair placement is factored not only by the raw score on the audition, but also on previous experience and previous grades on tape tests/playing tests.

In addition to their band/chair assignment, each student will get the packet back from their playing audition with a score on it, and comments from the directors. Students (and parents) need to understand that with three different directors scoring the auditions, the way each director scores will not be identical, however every instrument in the same section performs for the same person, which makes it as fair as possible. The three directors will meet and decide appropriate cut off points for

what point total equates to what letter grade based on the audition results. The decision of the band staff is final.

### Written Portion

The written portion of the band midterm was added to supplement the playing portion of the midterm to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of musical skills and terminology in a written exam format, which for some, might be easier than a performance exam. The written exam will cover key signatures, time signatures, dynamics, terminology, and counting skills, in a “Scan Tron” test. A written study guide will be issued to students in advance of the written exam so that students can prepare. The written exam grade will be averaged together with the performance portion to become their Midterm exam grade. Those students that do not do well on the performance portion in November are encouraged to study well for the written portion in January so that it helps bring their overall average up. Additionally, those students that maintain high GPA’s but do not do well on the performance portion of the midterm exam should understand that it is a small factor in their overall grade and transcripts that go to colleges only show the final grade earned for a particular class. The scenario below shows the percentage breakdown of how an example of a final grade is averaged:

1 <sup>st</sup> Q	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	Playing	Written	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	4 <sup>th</sup> Q	Final Exam	FINAL GRADE
20%	20%	5%	5%	20%	20%	10%	
A	C	C	A	B	B	B	B

If a student receives a high grade on the playing portion of the midterm, they may choose to not take the written portion and then the entire portion of the midterm grade will be based on their performance score. Students who choose this route must still report to the midterm exam, where they will be in rehearsal with their director during the exam period. **EVERY STUDENT MUST REPORT FOR THE MIDTERM EXAM.** Students will either take the written exam or be in rehearsal during the exam period. Any student who does not attend for the written or rehearsal part of the exam will be viewed as cutting, and according to school policy, no opportunity will be given to make these points up, and as a result, the student will fail the midterm exam.

### SMARTMUSIC

Smartmusic is a music practice and assessment tool that we use in our band program. Smartmusic provides students a tool to practice along with, to hear their parts alone and in context of the full ensemble, it allows them to practice with a tuner and metronome, it allows them to slow down the music of challenging passages, and gradually speed the music up to the original tempo as they gain proficiency at the particular passage of music.

Smartmusic also provides students a way for them to submit their tape test assignments through a secured network connection, to be evaluated by a director. One type of Smartmusic assignment might require students to play a passage of music along with the “full band recording” so they can be evaluated in a “full band setting.” One type of Smartmusic assignment might require students to record



themselves playing a passage along with a metronome to ensure they can play the correct rhythms with a steady tempo.

We have five soundrooms at the high school. Students are welcome to utilize these facilities, before school, during study halls, or after school to work on and submit their assignments. Students can also in the comfort of their own home, work on the music as well as submit their band assignments.

## FACILITIES

Our band room is our home for the school year. Our rehearsal rooms, locker area, practice rooms, and storage rooms are a very high traffic area, and hundreds students use these rooms daily. Keep it clean and orderly. Trashcans are provided for your use. Instruments and music folders are to be kept only in the instrument storage area located in the band room. Inappropriate behaviors include activities such as playing percussion (or other) instruments without permission, careless treatment of room or equipment, use of room for reasons other than practice or music rehearsal. Common sense should take care of these issues. There is to be absolutely no food, drink, or gum in the band room.

Music stands and all school property are to be treated with respect, and there should be no writing, carving, or vandalism of any kind to school property or to any student's property. Damage to school instruments or vandalism may result in band room study hall being shut down, students responsible for vandalism being fined, and/or students responsible for vandalism cleaning the entire band room in addition to punishment by NRHS administration.

It is recommended that students secure all belongings, purses, or wallets by locking them in their hall locker or band locker while in rehearsal. Belongings that are not locked are not considered safe, and the school and band staff will not be held responsible for theft or damage of personal belongings during class, rehearsals, competitions, or bus trips.

## CVCC, TRI-C, & DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

We are fortunate to have many opportunities available to students here at North Royalton High School. We are very proud of the athletics, activities, bands, choirs, and courses that students may choose from to complete their high school career. Over the years, we have seen programs expand at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center and Cuyahoga Community College as well as the initiation of Distance Learning Courses.

With the growing number of educational options available to students, there are a growing number of decisions that students are face with regarding scheduling of courses and classes each year. In order for students to enroll in and participate fully in band, students must be able to fit band into their schedule 10<sup>th</sup> period and attend the required evening rehearsals during the first quarter. Band is a full year course and there is not an option to audit the course or to split the course by semester.



This ultimately presents students with some difficult decisions when scheduling options such as CVCC, Tri-C, and/or Distance Learning courses. Options should be discussed as a family and decisions made carefully on an individual basis. Students need to make decisions that allow the opportunities that best prepare them for their future. We value all members of our band and feel that each student is an important and contributing member of the larger group. Each member counts on the next to make the band an integral part of our school culture. Thus, it is a **school policy** that a student must be able to attend class daily and the evening rehearsals to be a member of our North Royalton High School Band. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

While participation in large and small ensembles is an integral part of musical development and promotes camaraderie and mutual effort, class instruction is, by necessity, very general. As band directors, we generally do not have the time to give individuals specialized one-on-one attention to teach students to play a specific instrument; rather, our focus is to work on developing the skills necessary for performing in a larger ensemble. Those students who truly wish to excel musically are strongly encouraged to study privately with an instructor outside of school. In private lessons a professional player on your instrument will spend time with you individually, to develop your strengths as a musician. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of musicians who earn spots in the Wind Ensemble, placement in All-State Bands, and **college scholarships** study with great private teachers.

If your child is currently playing in an ensemble but has never studied his or her particular instrument with a specialist, we hope you will consider private lessons. Not only can private lessons help act as a personal tutor to help students advance their musical skills, but it is also a personal coach that is able to custom tailor lessons to the abilities, strengths and weaknesses of a student in a one-on-one setting. Private lessons offer an instructor a way for a student to learn the mechanics of the instrument.

Shop wisely when in the market for a private teacher. Be sure you find someone who is truly a professional on your instrument, and who you feel comfortable with. Often a recommendation from a friend who has a private teacher that he or she is happy with is a good way to begin. Most of the major music stores in the area have full faculties of private teachers. Many private teachers also teach out of their homes. Private lessons are something we hope all band members consider.

In a private lesson situation, instructors have the opportunity, as teachers, to work individually and directly with a student, at their own rate of progress, with the process of learning. Private teachers act as a guide to the process of self-discovery through music. Regular and thoughtful practice is another essential part of musical study. It is best to set up a practice routine and then to follow it as strictly as possible. For example, a half hour session every weeknight just before dinner could be an easy way to develop a routine. Once you establish a routine, try not to break it. Discuss with the teacher how much practice time your child needs. Generally it's a good idea to set a ballpark estimate of practice time, but bear in mind that, ultimately, productivity is more important than minutes.

## INSTRUMENT UPGRADES

Just as participants in any other specialized activity move up to better equipment in order to improve their performance, musicians are constantly striving to find mouthpieces, reeds, and instruments that enable them to progress towards their full potential. For many students, the first two years of high school is the time to consider investing in a better quality instrument. The beginner model that you started on in fifth grade was fine then, but you have undoubtedly outgrown the limitations imposed by your mass-produced student-line instrument and mouthpiece. You will never be able to perform any better than the quality of the equipment you use. Race car drivers do not drive economy cars, marathon runners do not wear generic shoes, and top-notch musicians do not play the instrument that they rented when they started “way-back-when”. The more advanced models of instruments do cost more, of course, but it is a worthwhile investment. If the cost of a professional level instrument is too much at this point, at least invest a few dollars in a better mouthpiece and/or reed.

## SOLO & ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATED EVENT

OMEA Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Event is a venue to allow students to work independently or in small groups to prepare music and perform in front of an adjudicator. Students gain valuable performance opportunities, as well as comments and a rating from a professional in the field of music. Students will select a piece from the OMEA required repertoire list and prepare it, rehearse with an accompanist, and perform it in front of an adjudicator. Students who wish to work in small groups may form their own ensembles and select a piece of music for an ensemble and work as a group. Students should check with Mr. Vitale for the specific forms and fees that are required to be submitted for this event. Specific times can rarely be requested and the exact schedule for the day of Solo & Ensemble will not be sent until the week of the event. All students are highly encouraged to attend this event and it helps with the development of the student as a musician and as a performer as well.

## JAZZ BANDS

NRHS has two Jazz Ensembles, Jazz Band I and Jazz Lab Band II. Both are auditioned groups. Auditions will take place at the conclusion of marching band season, and will meet November through the end of the school year. A variety of jazz styles will be explored including but not limited to, ragtime, swing, big band, blues, fusion, rock, and modern jazz. Improvisational techniques and other performance skills of jazz and jazz rock are taught and explored in these courses. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. Current enrollment in Band Level I, II, III or IV is required of all except keyboard or guitar players. The rehearsal schedule for the Jazz Bands is as follows:

<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Jazz Band I 2:30-3:30PM</b>		<b>Jazz Lab II 6:00-7:00PM</b>		<b>Jazz Lab II 2:30-3:30PM</b>
		<b>Jazz Lab I</b>		

		<b>7:00-8:00PM</b>		
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**BAND BOOSTERS**

The Band Boosters is a tremendous organization that is vital to the operation of the NRHS band activity. The boosters provide funding for the activities, support at performances, and uniform coordination/distributions/collection. They coordinate recording of concerts, provide scholarships for individuals, and help with the maintenance and purchasing of instruments and uniforms. They also help with the pit crew, and help as the truck crew loading and unloading instruments. These are just a FEW of the invaluable services that the Boosters provide. All band parents and families are encouraged to join the Band Booster organization and attend Band Booster meetings in the High School Media Center. At these meetings you will find out the most up-to-date information regarding the band. It is because of the enthusiastic support of this booster organization that band activity is what it is today. Even if your time is very limited, there are numerous ways in which you can help to make the North Royalton Band Program even better! Your talents and abilities are greatly needed and appreciated.

There are many projects and fundraisers that the boosters sponsor throughout the year. All parents of band members are required to participate in at least two projects throughout the year. There is a detailed list of different ways parents can participate and help in their own way in the packet that is distributed with the forms and fees in May. Whether or not parents choose to pay the membership fee and join the boosters as an active member is up to them, but all parents need to participate in at least two projects. It is through the participation of ALL parents in the many activities of the boosters that it is possible for this group to provide its dedicated service to the band activities.

**THE BAND WEBSITE, GOOGLE CLASSROOM & E-MAIL**

The band website is a resource for students and parents. [www.northroyaltonhighschoolband.com](http://www.northroyaltonhighschoolband.com) It is not a substitute for listening to directors and listening to instructions. Instead it is something to supplement instructions and information given by Mr. Vitale and the directors. Students should listen to instructions during class, consult the Google Classroom for information, consult their Mentor, consult Power School, and also consult the Band Website when looking for the answer to a question or for information. Parents that still have an unanswered question may E-mail Mr. Vitale and he will respond at his earliest convenience. Students with an unanswered question after consulting the above resources should TALK to Mr. Vitale in person. Additionally, Google Classroom is the main home base for information, important reminders, performance Itinerary and Infosheets, etc. Students should be sure to consult and check Google Classroom DAILY.

**OVERNIGHT BAND TRIPS**

It is due to the maturity, trustworthiness, and responsible nature of previous classes of band students that allow the band to occasionally take overnight band trips. It is up to the sole discretion of the

directors and administration and approval by the school board, if and when an overnight band trip will take place. All school rules are also in effect during band trips that span over multiple days. Proper school dress policy is enforced, students should show respect to all directors, chaperones, advisors, bus drivers, and tour guides on the trips, and all directions and instructions should be followed. Students are reminded that they are constantly an ambassador of our band, our school, and our community. They should be courteous and respectful at all times including overnight band trips. **Smoking, consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substances or being under the influence of these, stealing, and direct insubordination are strictly forbidden at all times in accordance with school board policy. Violation of these while with the band, at band events, or on band overnight trips, will result in dismissal from band and disciplinary action by an administrator.**

All students' baggage, carry-on bags, and any other luggage are subject to random searches at any time by a director or chaperone. Additionally, students' rooms may be inspected and/or searched at any time without the students' knowledge. Students caught with inappropriate substances/materials or caught trying to hide, or bring inappropriate substances/materials will be sent home immediately at the student's and/or their parents' expense.

Boys and Girls will not only be housed in separate rooms, there will be separate floors/wings designated for each gender. At no point is a boy to **EVER** be on the girls' floor, and a no point is a girl **EVER** to be on a guy's floor. There will be designated staircases/elevators to use and supervised community areas such as the hotel pool area and lobby where both genders may socialize together. Violation of this is grounds for dismissal from the trip, and the student will be sent home immediately at the student's and/or their parents' expense.

There is a strict "lights-out" policy on band trips. The trips are designed with many activities during the day and it is important for students to sleep (or try to sleep) during the "lights-out" hours. During "lights-out" hours, the lights in the room must be off, there can be no noise (TV's, music, and lights must be off) and there can be no talking. During restricted hours students cannot leave their room FOR ANY REASON. If there is an emergency, they will have the number of a room chaperone to contact. If any student door is even open during "restricted" hours, this will be viewed as an act of insubordination, and a student will be sent home immediately at the student's expense.

More specific rules and policies for band trips will be outlined in the trip packet distributed to students/parents.

## AP MUSIC THEORY

It is highly recommended that all band students looking to explore music and understand the mechanics of music enroll in Music Theory. The study of how music is constructed assists greatly in a student's understanding and appreciation of it. This course is taught annually; it meets for a full year, and is a full credit. Students study "the grammar of music" including scales, chords, intervals, harmony, melody, rhythm, part-writing, and both written and aural analysis. In addition, a significant portion of

the course is devoted to the development of aural skills through dictation examples, error-detection exercises, and sight-singing. Students will get to compose and arrange their own music, and also earn AP credit in this course

## HONORS CONCEPTS IN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

This is a course reserved for advanced seniors and section leaders in our high school Band Program who want to push themselves to the next level. Through this course, students can help mentor and tutor those freshman that need extra assistance and can benefit from having a solid leader on their instrument during Freshman Band Class. The course meets during the same period as Freshman Band during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the year. Selection for this group is based on audition and only available to seniors in the Wind Ensemble.

## BAND LEVEL 3 & 4 HONORS CREDIT

Honors Credit is available for students that want to push themselves to the next level. Prerequisites: Completion of Band Levels I and II (so it is only available to Juniors and Seniors that have already participated in the NRHS Band Program for 2 or 3 years); Student must audition into the top instrumental ensemble (The Wind Ensemble), student must study privately on their principal instrument; Student must complete an Honors Level Performance and complete a reflection paper – details are below. Note: Students will not be able to “schedule” Band Level III or IV Honors when scheduling their classes in the winter. They may choose to “opt. in” to the program after auditions have been completed.

### Timeline for Honors Level Credit

It is the responsibility of the student to complete all components of the Honors Level Criteria by each deadline.

**Last Day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter** – Student must complete the Honors Band Interest Form (available in the Google Classroom for the Band) indicating to the director that the student is interested in pursuing the Honors Level option for the course.. This form is available on the Band Website under “Forms and PDF’s”

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** – Students must be enrolled in private lessons by this date. Students must be enrolled in private lessons from November 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Students may begin Private Lessons before this date, but lessons must begin no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> to receive Honors Credit.

**Thanksgiving Break** – Students who have filled out the “Honors Band Interest Form” **AND** have auditioned into the Wind Ensemble will be officially enrolled in Honors Level Band 3 or 4 on their schedule and their transcript. *Note: Once a student is enrolled in the Honors Level Band they will not*

*be able to withdraw or downgrade to the regular Band Course, and will be enrolled for the entire year at the Honors Level.*

**Winter** – Students must complete an “Honors Level Performance” – details of acceptable “Honors Level Performances” are listed on the next page. **Evidence:** Student must submit the Performance Program listing their name as a participant, or submit the OMEA Solo & Ensemble Adjudicator Comment Sheet listing their name as a participant – and complete a “reflection paper” reflecting on their experience in this performance. Student will have until the last day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter to submit this.

**Last Day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter** – Student must complete the “Private Lesson Verification Form.” Here the student and parent will complete the form, verifying that weekly, 30 minute lessons were taken from an instructor on their principal instrument throughout the duration of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**. Directors reserve the right to contact the private lesson instructor to verify this information.

**Last Day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter** – Student must complete a “Reflection Paper” reflecting on their experience in the Honors Level Performance and must be “shared” with the director through Google or Google Classroom. (Criteria for the Paper is listed below.). Additionally, the student must complete the “Private Lesson Verification Form.” Here the student and parent will complete the form, verifying that weekly, 30 minute lessons were taken from an instructor on their principal instrument throughout the duration of the **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**. Directors reserve the right to contact the private lesson instructor to verify this information.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Students must be enrolled in private lessons through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Students may continue lessons after May 1<sup>st</sup>, however lessons must continue through May 1<sup>st</sup> to get Honors Credit.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Student must complete the “Private Lesson Verification Form.” Here the student and parent will complete the form, verifying that weekly, 30 minute lessons were taken from an instructor on their principal instrument throughout the duration of the **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**. Directors reserve the right to contact the private lesson instructor to verify this information.

#### **Private Lesson Details and Requirements to be Eligible for Honors Band Credit**

- Lessons are recommended to continue year round, but must be scheduled from November 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> to earn Honors Credit.
- Private Lesson Teacher Must be an adult (at least 18 years of age)
- Private Lesson Teacher must not be a family member or related
- Private Lessons must be a weekly lesson of at least 30 minutes
- Private Lessons must in an “in-person” setting and not via Zoom or virtual format
- There are many fine teachers in the area – it is the student’s responsibility to coordinate lessons and scheduling
- Students must complete and submit the “Private Lesson Verification Form” at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter as evidence for completion of the Private Lessons Component

### Components that Need to Be Fulfilled to Earn Honors Credit

<b>Audition Component</b>	<p>Individual will perform an audition and achieve a score placing them in the top Instrumental Ensemble – the “Wind Ensemble.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Auditions take place in October.</p>

<b>Honors Level Component</b>	
<b>Option 1 – Private Lessons and Solo &amp; Ensemble Event Option</b>	<p>Students will study privately on their primary band instrument, and be enrolled in weekly, 30-minute lessons with a professional teacher. <i>(Students must begin their lessons by November 1st. A verification sheet must be completed and submitted to verify this.)</i></p> <p>Additionally, the student will participate in the OMEA Solo &amp; Ensemble Adjudicated Event in January/February as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble on their primary band instrument and write a reflection paper.</p>
<b>Option 2 – Private Lessons and Honors Ensemble Option</b>	<p>Students will study privately on their primary band instrument, and be enrolled in weekly, 30-minute lessons with a professional teacher. <i>(Students must begin their lessons by November 1st. A verification sheet must be completed and submitted by the end of the quarter to verify this.)</i></p> <p>Student will audition and participate in an Honors Level Ensemble such as: Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony Group I, II or III, OSU Honors Band, OU Honors Band, Akron Honors Band, or the OMEA All-State Band. Student will fulfill all audition and membership requirements and participate in all rehearsals and performances. Student will write a reflection paper based on their experience.</p>

#### Honors Performance Reflection Paper Criteria

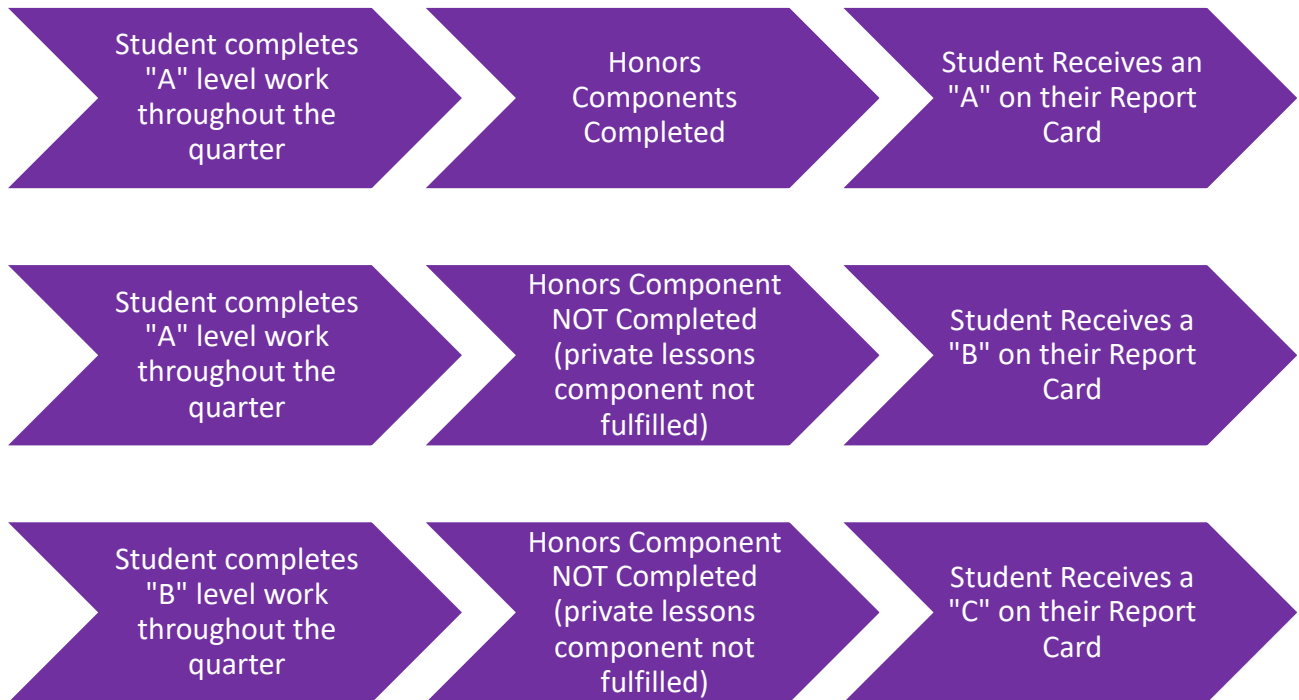
- Paper must be shared with director in Google Drive or Google Classroom by the last day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.
- Paper should be at least 2 pages, double spaced

- Paper should be written in paragraph form (no bullet points) with proper grammar and should reflect honors level thought and reflection
- Student should reflect on all aspects of the Honors Level Performance, including, but not limited to: the preparation before-hand, the rehearsals, the rehearsal style and technique of the conductor, the other members in the ensemble, and the performance itself.
- Student should compare/contrast this experience with their experience in the NRHS Wind Ensemble and elaborate on similarities and differences

**Note on Officially Registering for the Honors Band Credit:**

Once a student has completed and submitted the “Honors Level Band Interest Form” AND auditioned into the Wind Ensemble – the student will be placed into “Honors Level Band” officially on their schedule and transcript. Once enrolled – a student cannot withdraw or downgrade to the regular Band Credit. The Private Lesson Component must be completed and verified at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. The Honors Performance and Reflection Paper must be completed by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. This means that if a student doesn’t fulfill **any or all** of the Honors Components each quarter, their grade will be **lowered one letter grade**.

For example:





## BAND AWARDS

**Freshman Certificate of Achievement** – Awarded to all first year band members upon concluding their first year in the North Royalton High School Band

**Sophomore Pin**– Awarded to all second year band members in the NRHS Band Program; it is a pin of the instrument they play - the “Jazz” pin if they are in a Jazz Band - and/or dance/flag pin when applicable.

**Varsity Letter (Junior Award)** – Awarded to all third year band members in the NRHS Band Program

**Senior Plaque** - All graduating seniors who have participated in the band program throughout their entire high school career will receive a personalized plaque with a list of some of their band accomplishments chosen by the student. For Band Front members, a senior plaque will be given if they have participated for four years.

**Field Commander Distinguished Service Award**– A plaque will be given to a graduating senior field commander honoring their service to the band program as Field Commander

**John Philip Sousa Award** - This national award is presented to the graduating senior whose peers deem to represent the best in musicianship and dedication to the band.

**Louis Armstrong Award** - This award is presented to the most outstanding jazz musician as voted by the members of the jazz ensembles.

**Semper Fidelis Marine Corps Band Award** – This award is presented to a senior for their achievement in musical excellence

**Band Boosters Scholarship**– The band boosters will select and distribute a set number of scholarships to graduating seniors meeting qualifications as set in the Band Booster Bylaws. Some of the criteria include: applicants must be a 4 year band member, an essay must be written by scholarship applicants, and applicants maintain an A-B average in band throughout their band career.

## BAND FINAL EXAM

Details for the band final exam will be given shortly prior to exam week. Every band member is responsible for being at the final exam period, with the exception of graduating seniors. All forms and fees for the upcoming year are to be completely filled out and all fees submitted by this Final Exam period. If a member is not continuing in band the following year, all paperwork must still be filled out, with the word “retired” written across each page.

Additionally, students need to be present to perform the Star Spangled Banner and Alma Mater for the conducting audition for Field Commander candidates. Students not only will act as the performers, but also will watch, evaluate, and vote for the field commander candidates.

At the conclusion of the Band Final Exam, all locks must be removed from all lockers, all school instruments must be turned back in, all band lockers cleaned out, and all lost-and-found items claimed, before the remaining items are disposed. All school instruments should be lined up so they can be inspected by the band staff. All slides should be greased, and all valves oiled so no parts freeze up until their next use. Any damage to school instruments that are turned in will be assessed and students responsible for damages will be fined accordingly.

## **GRADUATION BAND**

Graduation Band begins rehearsing in May and consists of all graduating seniors, and remaining vacancies are filled with consideration given to siblings of graduating seniors, band and chair placement, and interested volunteers. The number of performers taken is limited due to the limitations of the number of performers that can fit in the physical space of the pit in the performance hall. The band will rehearse throughout May and perform at the commencement ceremony at the end of the year.

## **BAND FRONT TRY-OUTS**

Band Front Try-Outs will take place in May. Royalaires will have 2-3 clinics followed by a formal audition. It is mandatory that candidates attend all clinics and then the formal rehearsal so that the advisors can see the growth and personal improvement of the candidates over the 2-3 clinic time period. The clinics and auditions are always staggered so that students can participate and audition for both auxiliary groups if they wish.

All Royalaire candidates will learn and review basic concepts on a flag. No previous experience is required to audition. The advisors will go over all basics and fundamentals of spinning during the audition clinics.

Band Front applicants will need to submit the "Permission to Audition Form" and will also need to get three confidential teacher recommendations that need to be turned into Mr. Vitale before the formal audition. After the advisors watch and see the development of applicants during the clinic process, the advisors and band staff see the applicants in a formal audition, and all recommendations are received, then the advisors and band staff will deliberate and the final list for both groups will be posted by a date given by Mr. Vitale. Applicants are invited to check the band board daily for the results and should refrain from contacting the advisors inquiring as to when the lists will be posted.

Students and parents of applicants should understand that the Royalaire Color Guard is an intense precision based, corps-style marching auxiliary unit, and it is a highly physical activity that is considered to be a "Sport of the Arts." Like any other sport, there are practices every day and practices throughout the summer. A summer schedule will be distributed by the advisors.

The Band Front lists will not be posted until the official band registration forms have been collected and Field Commander Auditions have taken place. There are not a set number of Royalaire spots; each

year the numbers change depending on the auditions and the candidates. Audition results are at the discretion of the advisors and band staff, and all decisions are final. While some individuals may have had a strong audition they may not be up to the level they need to be at to be a part of the group. It is encouraged that individuals that do not make the groups continue to develop their skills and audition again next year if possible. We believe that the audition process is very beneficial for students to experience as performers, and hopefully students will use this as a learning experience for the future.

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS FOR NEW STUDENTS/PARENTS

**Adjudicated Events** – the name for OMEA sanctioned Competitive Events where a judge/judging panel evaluates a performance and awards a rating/score

**Alternate** – A student who does not have a full-time performance spot in the competition show

**Battery** – Drum Line members who march on the field

**Band Front** – A name for all the marching band auxiliary collectively (Royalaires)

**Band Mailbox**–The white metal box to the right of the band room door as you enter the band room from the hallway, where forms, notes, payments/checks can be turned in a labeled envelope

**Bando**– term referring to members in the band

**Bibs/Bib Pants** – name referring to the type of uniform pants used during marching band. They should be worn with suspenders and should be worn up to the mid-chest

**Charts** – term referring to papers students are responsible for having at all rehearsals with either pictures of the formations or coordinates for their positions on the marching band field

**Color Guard** – another name for the Royalaire flag team who add visual impact and color to the musical performance in a challenging activity that combines equipment work using flags, rifles, and sabres, with dancing and marching.

**Coordinates** – term referring to the drill papers in the contest show students are responsible for having at all rehearsals with coordinates for their positions on the marching band field for every set

**Dots** – Specific points in a drill set on the marching field

**Drill** – term referring to the marching formations on the field

**Drum Line** – All percussion members in the marching band, including both the Battery and the Pit

**Field Commanders** – Student leaders who assist the band staff throughout the year, who conduct the marching band during rehearsals and performances, and who assist with general rehearsals

**Flip folder** – Used to hold music in front of the band members while they march allowing students to read the music while learning the drill

**Front Ensemble** – another term for the Pit, composed of mallet and auxiliary percussion instruments on the front sideline during performances and do not march on the field.

**Gauntlets**– part of the marching band uniform that wraps around the wrist cuffs of the jacket during competitions

**Google Classroom** – Online message board where daily announcements are sent electronically to students. Students should check this on a daily basis and students are encouraged to put this app on their phone – so they can get daily alerts, updates, and important information sent from the directors.

**Hashes**– Marks dividing the width of the football field into thirds

**Lyre** – holds the flip folder on the instrument during marching band

**Mellophone** – bell-front marching version of the French horn

**“Parade Eights”** – Term referring to the formation used in parades and entering and exiting performances, which are 8 band members across

**Pit** – another term for the Front Ensemble composed of mallet and auxiliary percussion instruments on the front sideline during performances and do not march on the field.

**Plume** – The large, very expensive feather worn on the top of the shako (uniform hat)

**Quads** – A marching percussion instrument with four drums worn on a harness for the player to wear while they march (Quints are a set of quads with a fifth drum in the center)

**Rifle** – One of the pieces of equipment utilized by the color guard that is spun

**Right Guides**–(Squad Leaders) - Student leaders who are responsible for assisting the squad learn the football show as well as other leadership responsibilities for the squad; their position is on the end (the right) of the squad

**Royalaires** – the name of the North Royalton High School Marching Band color guard (flag) team

**Sabre** – One of the pieces of equipment utilized by the color guard that is spun

**Sectional** – A type of rehearsal for band members who play the same instrument or groups of instruments, that allows students to work on music/drill specific for that type of instrument or group of instruments

**Section Leaders** – Members of student leadership that assist the band staff by helping with reminders, distribution of materials, collection of materials, music check-off (once eligible), and other responsibilities

**Set** – the formations in a marching band performance that make up the drill

**Shadow**–The term for a student who is an alternate that is learning a spot in the competition show by marching directly behind another student in the show

**Silks** – The term referring to the flags and the members of the color guard who spin a flag

**Sousaphone** – marching version of the tuba

**Squad** – group of four students that march together to create certain marching formations

**Studs** - small, metal objects used to fasten the front of tuxedo shirts in lieu of buttons. They often have inlays of pearl, onyx or similar materials. The concert band uniform should always be worn with four studs on the front of the shirt; studs should not be used as cufflinks

**Tenors**– another name for the Quad or Quint drums