

# **NORTHWEST WHITFIELD BAND HANDBOOK**



*Blazing Blue*

**2023 – 2024**



## **Welcome:**

Welcome to the Northwest High School Band Program. Some of the best times, life-long friends, and fondest memories will be made here. This band has a storied past built upon the successes of those that came before you. It is now in YOUR hands to continue this tradition of excellence and raise the bar for those that follow in your footsteps. You must reflect on the past while focusing on the present to succeed in the future.

First and foremost, your attitude will contribute to the success or downfall of this organization. Attitudes are contagious; both good and bad. You will not have fun or enjoy yourself 100% of the time. However, it is important for you to understand that sacrifice is necessary to accomplish great things. If you keep your focus on the bigger picture while pushing through those difficult times, they will be well worth it. No matter the situation or the goal that you are trying to obtain, it is important to remember the old adage “No pain, no gain”. It is up to you to understand that EVERYTHING we do is to make you better.... regardless of whether you like it or not.

The purpose of this manual is to inform you of the rules and procedures of the various organizations within the band program. Please keep this manual handy to refer to. All band members and parents are urged to read the entire manual carefully prior to beginning band activities. We also require that you sign the agreement form and return it to the band director's office in order to avoid conflicts with the policies and rules stated herein.

It is a requirement of the membership that you keep your parents or guardians informed concerning the band activities, schedules, and responsibilities. The easiest way to do this is to attend the monthly meetings of the Band Booster Club. The meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (except December, January and June). We encourage all parents to be an active member of the Band Booster Club. We also have the ability to send out group text messages to alert you to short term announcements.

While we know that no manual can be all inclusive, we ask you to look here first for the information you need; if you do not find it here, we will be glad to discuss questions you might have about the band program and its procedures. You may always reach me via email at [nathaniel.vanoy@wcsga.net](mailto:nathaniel.vanoy@wcsga.net) or call me at 706-516-2200.

Nathaniel Vanoy  
Band Director  
Northwest Whitfield High School

Assistant Directors:  
Christina Bryant – New Hope Middle School  
Nick Walker – Westside Middle School

## Fees and Payments

The fees for the 2023 – 2024 marching season are as follows:

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Marching Band Fees</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>WOODWIND AND BRASS</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$325</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>PERCUSSIONIST</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$375</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>COLORGUARD</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$500</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>8<sup>th</sup> GRADE APPRENTICES</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$150</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Marching Band Fees</b>		<b>WOODWIND AND BRASS</b>	<b>\$325</b>	<b>PERCUSSIONIST</b>	<b>\$375</b>	<b>COLORGUARD</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> GRADE APPRENTICES</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<p><b>ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN MARCHING FEES*:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BAND / GUARD SHOES - \$40</b></li> <li>● <b>BAND GLOVES - \$5</b></li> </ul>
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**COMMITMENT FEE:**

A \$100 Commitment fee is due 3/31 for Guard and \$50 for Band, Perc and Apprentices 5/19

**MULTIPLE STUDENT DISCOUNT:**

Families with multiple siblings in the same household that are participating in the Northwest Marching Band will receive a 25% discount of fees for each additional student. Limited to band fees only

<p><b>WOODWINDS AND BRASS Fees/shoes/gloves \$370</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>MAY 19, 2023</td> <td>\$50</td> <td>Commitment Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 11, 2023</td> <td>\$95</td> <td>Payment 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 8, 2023</td> <td>\$75</td> <td>Payment 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September 12, 2023</td> <td>\$75</td> <td>Payment 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>October 11, 2023</td> <td>\$75</td> <td>Payment 4</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>PER Fees/shoes \$415 Guard Fees/Shoes\$ 540</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>MAY 19, 2023 Perc</td> <td>\$50</td> <td>Guard \$100</td> <td>Commitment Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 12, 2023 Perc</td> <td>\$100</td> <td>Guard \$120</td> <td>Payment 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug 9, 2023 Perc</td> <td>\$100</td> <td>Guard \$120</td> <td>Payment 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep 13, 2023 Perc</td> <td>\$100</td> <td>Guard \$ 120</td> <td>Payment 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 11, 2023 Perc</td> <td>\$65</td> <td>Guard \$80</td> <td>Payment 4</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>8<sup>th</sup> GRADE APPRENTICES - Fees/shoes/gloves\$195</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>MAY 19, 2023</td> <td>\$50</td> <td>Commitment Fee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 12, 2023</td> <td>\$75</td> <td>Payment 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug 9, 2023</td> <td>\$70</td> <td>Payment 2</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BY OCTOBER 31ST</b></p> <p>Cash/check payments can be placed in the black drop box found in the band room. Online payments can be made via the <a href="http://www.northwestwhitfield.org">www.northwestwhitfield.org</a></p>	MAY 19, 2023	\$50	Commitment Fee	July 11, 2023	\$95	Payment 1	August 8, 2023	\$75	Payment 2	September 12, 2023	\$75	Payment 3	October 11, 2023	\$75	Payment 4	MAY 19, 2023 Perc	\$50	Guard \$100	Commitment Fee	July 12, 2023 Perc	\$100	Guard \$120	Payment 1	Aug 9, 2023 Perc	\$100	Guard \$120	Payment 2	Sep 13, 2023 Perc	\$100	Guard \$ 120	Payment 3	Oct. 11, 2023 Perc	\$65	Guard \$80	Payment 4	MAY 19, 2023	\$50	Commitment Fee	July 12, 2023	\$75	Payment 1	Aug 9, 2023	\$70	Payment 2	<p><b>Band Fees must be paid in full before any payments will be credited toward any trips or activities. I understand that if I experience financial hardship I will reach out to Mr. Vanoy and/or the booster treasurer as soon as possible.</b></p> <p><b>PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT</b> A 10% discount will be given if band fees are paid in full by the end of band camp on 8/4/2023.</p> <p><b><u>\$25 WORK CREDIT</u></b> Parents are expected to work Two events, (work concession stand at games, concession stand cleanup pre season, chaperone, pull trailer) \$25 work credit will be credited to students account for each event worked up to \$50.</p> <p><b>CANCELLATIONS</b> - The Commitment Fee is non-refundable. Please see the Refund and Cancellation section in the Parent / Student Financial Agreement for more details.</p> <p>*All students are required to wear the approved band or guard shoes.</p>
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**Please know that we absolutely will not allow finances to keep ANY student from participating in the band programs so long as they are in good standing in the program. Please contact Mr. Vanoy or the booster treasurer to discuss alternative payment plans and options. All communication is kept strictly confidential**

By signing this form, you are agreeing to participate in the Northwest Whitfield High School Marching Band. You understand this is a co-curricular activity outside of the public-school funded programs and your monetary support is necessary for the success of the program. In addition to participation, you are agreeing to pay the fees associated with this activity, which are outlined above, and fully understand the Northwest Whitfield High School Band Booster Association Refund and Withdrawal policy. All Band Fees must be paid in full before any payments will be credited toward any trips or activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature	Print Name	Date
Student Signature	Print Name	Date

# Northwest Whitfield High School Marching Band Registration Information

*Please print clearly and fill out all areas completely*

First Name _____	M.I. _____	Last Name _____
E-Mail Address _____	Birthdate _____	
Home Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 2024 <input type="checkbox"/> 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> 2026 <input type="checkbox"/> 2027 <input type="checkbox"/> 2028	
City, State, Zip _____	Graduation Year _____	
Home Phone _____	Student Cell Phone _____	
Woodwind & Brass / Percussion / Colorguard (Circle One)		
Tee Shirt Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL		
Shorts Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL		

Mother's Name _____	Father's Name _____
E-Mail Address _____	E-Mail Address _____
Home Address _____	Home Address _____
City, State, Zip _____	City, State, Zip _____
Home Phone _____	Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____	Cell Phone _____
Preferred Contact Method – (Email or Cell Phone) _____	Preferred Contact Method – (Email or Cell Phone) _____

We may use multiple forms of communication to contact you regarding information updates, student account information, and reminders. **Please be sure to circle your preferred contact method so we can reach out to you.**

# STUDENT MEDICAL PROFILE SHEET

Student Name (Please Print)

Name:		
Address:		
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
Allergies:		
Prescription Medications:		
Medical Conditions:		
Medications:		
Parent's / Guardian's Name:		
Contact Number:		
Insurance Company	Policy Number	Group Number

EMERGENCY CONTACT 1	EMERGENCY CONTACT 2
Name:	Name:
Relationship:	Relationship:
Phone:	Phone:
Address	Address

Do you give permission for your child to take necessary over the counter medicines with adult supervision?

**YES OR NO**

If no...please list what medicines CANNOT be administered to your child (write "DO NOT ADMINISTER" if you wish to not have your child be administered any OTC medicines by directors, staff, or chaperones. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IF I CANNOT BE REACHED AT THE ABOVE EMERGENCY NUMBERS, I AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT NEEDED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE SIGNED)

# Student & Parent Contract

## STUDENT

I have read the band handbook and understand all rules and regulations pertaining to the Whitfield County Board of Education and Northwest Whitfield High School Band Program. All rules and regulations apply while at Northwest Whitfield High Band functions as well as in the band room and on practice fields. I further agree to make necessary arrangements so that I will be able to attend all functions as scheduled.

I understand that I must remain scholastically eligible if I wish to participate in instrumental music activities - some of which involve missing school. In case of school or family emergency, I may be excused with both parental and Mr. Vanoy's approval.

I have received a schedule of events for the 2023-2024 school year. All festivals and concerts will receive grades. I understand that this is a performance class - one of the objectives being to perform for the public. If there is some sort of conflict, I am to contact the band director (IN WRITING) far enough in advance for him to change seating positions and make special arrangements to cover my part. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the director prior to the performance.

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Student Signature and Print

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Date

## PARENT

My child has read the band manual and understands all rules and regulations pertaining to the Whitfield County Board of Education and Northwest Whitfield High School Band Program. I also understand that it is my responsibility to cooperate and communicate with my child to ensure adequate transportation is arranged to and from rehearsals and events. I have received a schedule and calendar to ensure that my child will be present at all required rehearsals and events.

I understand and agree that my child must abide by all rules, regulations, and policies set forth by Whitfield County Schools, Northwest Whitfield High School, and the Northwest Whitfield High School Band, and that all infractions of the above will be dealt with according to state, district, or school-level policies. Should my child's behavior jeopardize the health, safety, and/or welfare of other band students, I understand that he/she will be sent home immediately. I accept full responsibility for all costs associated with my child's misbehavior and subsequent damage to property and personal injury. **I also understand my student will be required to follow all rules and guidelines outlined in the Member Handbook.**

**Regarding fees, I understand this is a co-curricular activity outside of the public-school funded programs and my monetary support is necessary for the success of the program. In addition to participation, I am agreeing to pay the fees associated with this activity, which are outlined on the fees and payment schedule page. I also fully understand the Northwest Whitfield High School Band Booster Association Refund and Withdrawal policy. All Band Fees must be paid in full before any payments will be credited toward any trips or activities. I understand that if I experience financial hardship I will reach out to Mr. Vanoy and/or the booster treasurer as soon as possible.**

I will not hold the band directors, staff members, chaperones, or the Northwest Whitfield High School Band responsible for any costs associated with the treatment of my child.

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Parent Signature and Print

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Date

**WHITFIELD COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PROGRAM**  
**TRAVEL PERMISSION SLIP/LIABILITY RELEASE**

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to go on planned trips associated with his/her participation as a member of the Northwest Whitfield High School Band program during the 2023-2024 school year.

I understand that these trips will be under supervision of an employee of the Whitfield County Public Schools. By execution of this permission slip, the undersigned acknowledges that the proposed trips will be so supervised but may occur at indoor/outdoor locations other than on property owned by Whitfield County Schools and may expose participants to a non- school environment and personnel beyond the control of Whitfield County Public Schools. The undersigned further acknowledges that these trips may involve motor vehicle travel away from school premises and that the method of transportation is within the discretion of Whitfield County Schools.

Undersigned hereby releases individually and as a parent and natural guardian of his/her participating child, the Whitfield County Schools, Whitfield County Board of Education and any and all employees of same from liability for death, personal injury and/or property damage that may be sustained by the above referenced student while involved in this travel related activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is extremely important for parents and students. The NWHS Band Program makes every effort to communicate every event and send reminders out as often as possible. The PRIMARY methods of communication are through items sent home with the students AND the Remind texting service. Most reminders are sent out only via text service. It is very important that your family is signed up to receive text alerts. Facebook is used for general promotion of the band program. Specifics are very rarely sent out on our Facebook for the students' safety.

**Google Classroom code:** 7qivz5g

**Website:** [www.northwestwhitfieldband.org](http://www.northwestwhitfieldband.org)

## **View calendar tab**

**Remind Classes:**

- 2024 text @blazing24 to 81010
- 2025 text @blazing25 to 81010
- 2026 text @blazing26 to 81010
- 2027 text @blazing27 to 81010
- 2028 text @blazing28 to 81010
- Colorguard text @nhsguard1 to 81010
- Percussion text @nhsdrumers to 81010

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All band students need to understand their role in the promotion of good will and integrity within the school as a whole. Band students are expected to set the standard for our school with the utmost respect and dignity. Students are expected to show proper regard for all school and county board policies. Band students are to be of good report in all of their classes and promote a good climate and respect for learning. Any consistent conduct unbecoming of a band student will result in removal of the student from the program. Any involvement with alcohol or drugs will result in **immediate removal** from the band program.

## **MARCHING BAND**

"The Sound of the Blazing Blue" is the largest and most visible performing ensemble of the Northwest Whitfield High School Instrumental Music Program. The Blazing Blue Marching Band attends and performs at all football games, competes in area marching band festivals, performs in parades, and different area civic events. The following rules should be read by all members about general conduct, attendance, and bus regulations.

The "Blazing Blue" serves as the foundation for all ensembles at Northwest Whitfield High School. It is the culmination of all that has been learned to this point in your musical careers. It provides a HUGE opportunity to showcase your talents and entertain MANY people in the process. The goal of the marching band is to entertain all audience members through a high level of musicianship, showmanship, and character.

This ensemble requires a large commitment. We will practice several weeks during the summer, practice nearly every day after school, perform at all football games, 2-3 Saturday Contests, and various civic opportunities. Please see the schedule below for specific dates and times.

All marching band members are expected to be enrolled in the appropriate concert band or guard class during the school day. These are year long commitments. This is to ensure continued musical achievement, improvement, and development. Students are ALWAYS expected to show up the next day better musicians than they were the day before. Exceptions may be made only in rare circumstances.

Lastly, all students enrolled in band classes are expected to participate with the marching band. The only exceptions that will be made are for those students that are actively participating in fall sports and activities (i.e. football, softball, volleyball, cross country). Other exceptions may be made but must be approved by Mr. Vanoy and an administrator if needed.

### **Apprentice/Colorguard Alternate Program**

For students that require additional development before being fully incorporated into the Blazing Blue's field show, they will be considered an "apprentice". Apprentice status is determined through a combination of playing evaluation, marching evaluation, and/or teacher recommendation. Students chosen as apprentices receive the full privileges of band membership and are allowed to travel to all away games and participate in playing their instrument in the stands and pre-game.

Apprentice responsibilities:

- Know/memorize the show music for their instrument. Apprentices will pass off to section leaders.
- Assist with loading, unloading, and moving equipment for rehearsals and performances.
- Be available to run simple errands.
- Perform in pre-game music and in the stands.

If at any point, a non-apprentice performer is unable to continue with the marching band, an apprentice may be put in their place. They will be required to learn the drill of the absent student and will be allowed to perform in the field show once mastery of the drill spot is achieved.

## **2023 Marching Band Audition/Rehearsal Schedule**

The schedule for spring and summer rehearsals are listed below. Please plan to attend all required camps and rehearsals. See attendance policy for more information.

### **Band Camp:**

May 23,25	Full Band	4:00 am - 5:30 pm
July 17-21	Full Band	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
July 24-28	Full Band	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
July 31	Full Band	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Aug 1,3,4,7	Full Band	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### **After school rehearsals:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	Full Band	3:45 pm - 6:00 pm
Wednesday	Full Band	3:45 pm- 5:30 pm

### **Friday: Game Day**

Students are expected to report to the band room immediately after school in preparation for the game.

### **Football Schedule**

8/4 Scrimmage	9/15 Darlington	10/20 @ Heritage
8/18 Pepperell	9/22 Practice	10/27 Central
8/25 Coahulla	9/29 Sonoraville	11/3 @ Cedartown
9/1 @ Ringgold	10/6 @ Southeast	11/17 Playoff
9/8 North murray	10/13 Practice	11/24 Playoff

### **Parades etc. TBA**

**Competitions Sep 23th, 29th Oct. 14th Possible Oct 21st & 28th**

## **Attendance and Rehearsal Participation**

Consistent attendance AND participation at all rehearsals and performances is crucial to success as a band. It is YOUR responsibility to arrange your schedule so that you may be present at all required and scheduled events. We make it a point to be very up-front and clear about times and dates so that you may plan around marching band. The dates above were announced and sent home in January. If at all possible, please attempt to schedule non-emergency appointments (i.e. dental, orthodontic, medical checkups, etc.) around marching band practices and performances. An attendance policy is located below that could affect your ability to continue to perform with the marching band

## **Required Rehearsals Beginning in July Through First Day of School:**

Missing pre-school year camps creates confusion and causes delays in the process of learning the marching show and music. Please plan family vacations, appointments, and trips around the scheduled times above.

Missing more than 10% of the required rehearsals prior to the school year start date will result in a loss of position. In the meantime, an apprentice may be placed in your spot to shadow. You will have one week to reclaim your position on the field. This will be determined by the Director, Assistant Directors, and instructors.

Missing more than 25% of the required rehearsals prior to the school year start date will result in permanent loss of drill spot on the field. This position will be filled with an apprentice that is within compliance.

## **Required Rehearsals Beginning the First Day of School:**

### **2 Missed Unexcused Rehearsals During a Show Week:**

Members will not be able to participate during the field show on Friday night or Saturday (if contest week) and will not be allowed to travel with the band. Excuses must be in writing (hard copy or email) from a parent/guardian explaining the excuse. Validity of the excuse will be at the discretion of Mr. Vanoy and a school administrator if needed. Exceptions to special circumstances may be made.

### **Missed Thursday Rehearsal During a Show Week:**

**Thursday rehearsals are the most important rehearsal of the week.** It serves a comprehensive review of all improvements made during the week of rehearsals. If a member misses a Thursday rehearsal, he/she will not be able to participate during the field show on Friday night or Saturday (if contest week) and may not be allowed to travel with the band depending on circumstances. Exceptions to special circumstances may be made.

### **Time for Time**

Students will not be allowed to march until missed time is made up. Time may be made up after normal rehearsals with a section leader and/or the band captain.

**MOST CONFLICTS CAN BE AVOIDED AND/OR WORKED OUT WITH COMMUNICATION.** Notifying Mr. Vanoy as soon as a potential conflict is realized will provide a greater opportunity for compromise!

### **Excessive Missed Rehearsals:**

After 3 unexcused missed rehearsals, a band member will be placed on probation and an apprentice will be assigned to shadow the member's drill spot during rehearsal. Upon the 4th unexcused absence, the member will lose their drill spot and future membership in the marching band will be discussed.

## **Missed Performances**

Any missed performance for any reason may result in the student's possession being filed by an alternate. If a student misses two regularly scheduled performances (including those missed because of attendance infractions listed above), their membership in the marching band will be put on written notice. Upon the third, they will be dismissed from the marching band and their position on the field will be filled with an apprentice. Missed competitions even if it is the first absence will result in removal from the ensemble. This will only affect marching band and not affect the student's participation in band class. Illness, family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances (at discretion of Mr. Vanoy and a school administrator if needed), will be considered as exceptions to this. To be considered for excusal, the reason for absence must be presented to Mr. Vanoy in writing (hard copy or email).

## **Physicals:**

In general, a physical is NOT required to participate in the marching band. However, there are certain circumstances in which we will require a physical to be submitted for continued participation with the marching band.

1. If a health situation occurs with an unknown cause during practice, a game, and/or other performance that requires medical attention from EMS, trained staff, or close supervision by chaperones, a physical will be requested.
2. If a student "sits-out" five times or more during practices, rehearsal, and/or warm-ups, a physical will be requested.

Student health and safety is of the utmost importance. Marching band requires a certain amount of athleticism and conditioning. Adequate breaks with available water will be given during rehearsals. We encourage students that feel light-headed, dizzy, short of breath, or overheated to sit down somewhere and send another student to immediately alert a director, staff member, or chaperone. It is IMPERATIVE that any known health issues be listed on the "Student Medical Profile Sheet" as well as interventions needed to remedy them if they happen to arise.

Tips to help keep "sit-outs" from happening from weakness and/or light-headedness:

1. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, every day and stay away from carbonated and/or sugary drinks. It is now required that each student have a 2qt. insulated water bottle to drink from.
2. Limit caffeine intake. Caffeine is a diuretic and accelerates dehydration.
3. Eat wholesome, healthy foods and limit intake of refined sugars and processed foods.
4. Eat a good breakfast and limit intake of sugary cereals and sugary toaster products.
5. Exercise regularly. Walking 30 minutes a day (or the equivalent) is adequate.
6. Get outside some during the summer and acclimate yourself to the heat.
7. Practice deep-breathing exercises. Improper and shallow breathing can lead to light-headedness.
8. Take daily prescribed or necessary over the counter medication at the same time every day and do not miss doses.

## **Lettering Policy**

Students may letter at the end of their first year if they meet this requirement AND earn enough points on the awards sheet located at the end of this handbook. All wind and percussion students will be eligible to letter at the end of their second year of meeting criteria below. Completion of additional years will earn the student a bar to have placed on their letter.

Consistency and continuity are very important to any performance organization and we encourage everyone to participate in every musical organization possible offered through the instrumental music program. All wind and percussion members of the Blazing Blue must be registered for a class and participate in both the marching band and another concert organization in order to be eligible for a letter.

Lettering requirements for wind/percussion players are:

- Participate in the Blazing Blue Marching Band and one additional concert ensemble (Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band).
- 90% attendance to all scheduled rehearsals; with no unexcused absences.
- 100% attendance for all performances. An unexcused absence automatically eliminates a student from an end of the year letter.

Color Guard members are eligible for letters upon completion of their second year of membership and the following criteria are met. There is no option to letter at the end of the first year.

- 95% attendance to all scheduled rehearsals; with no unexcused absences.
- 100% attendance for all performances. An unexcused absence automatically eliminates a student from an end of the year letter.

Emergency medical or family situations are of course taken into consideration, but it is the responsibility of each student/parent to notify the director (not the section leader, best friend, etc.) of such a situation. The director reserves the right to use his discretion under any circumstances.

## **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

ALL Whitfield County Board of Education Discipline Codes will be strictly enforced!!!

1. Be respectful to others and their property.
2. Enter the band room quietly and set up quickly.
3. BE ON TIME for all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Class begins when the director steps up on the podium. You are late if you are not prepared!
4. Do what is right even when others are not. Lead by example.
5. Keep the band room, practice fields, and any other areas occupied or passed through by any band member clean and neat.
6. Never pick up or play anyone else's instrument or equipment. Only percussionists are to touch the percussion equipment.

7. No playing out of turn! This means an instrument will not be played unless given specific instructions by the director.
8. Come to class prepared: instrument in working order, music, accessories, pencil and method books.
9. No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band room at any time.
10. There is more than enough time for socializing in our programs. Save conversations for before or after rehearsal, bus rides, etc. Do not talk during rehearsals or when any director is addressing you.
11. Study music quietly when the director is assisting other students. Quietly go through fingerings, in rhythm, for the exercise being addressed in class
12. Do not enter Mr. Vanoy's office without his permission.
13. All part assignments are made according to the practical chromatic range of the player. Seating within the ensemble is determined by the musical part.
14. Musical part assignment is based on ability, attitude, and regular individual practice.
15. Absolutely NO public displays of affection while in uniform (kissing, hand holding, etc.).
16. Bad language will not be tolerated. This is especially true while in uniform.
17. Mature behavior and self-discipline is expected in all classes, rehearsals, performances, and events.

### **Discipline:**

All school and county board policies and rules will be in place while participating with the band. This means that while representing the band, the rules will follow you wherever we go, regardless of location. Any infractions will be dealt with according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Poor band-related discipline issues will result in the student in question joining the assigned section in unloading equipment trucks and cleanup of the band room upon return from an away game. Students assigned clean up duty will be required to stay until Mr. Vanoy or a designated adult deems the trailer is unloaded and the band room is back in order. Students with repeated discipline infractions will also be subject to being moved to Bus 1 on away trips.

### **Non-Band Students**

The following items are in place in order to protect the band students, their equipment and their belongings:

1. Any students not currently enrolled or participating in the band are not allowed in the band room without Mr. Vanoy's permission.
2. Non-band students including former band members are not allowed in the band set-up in the stands at football games at any time (including 3rd quarter).
3. Non-band students may not ride on or enter any bus that is reserved for the band.

## **MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS**

Marching band uniforms are provided for your use by the Northwest Whitfield High School Band Booster Club. A cleaning fee is charged annually to cover the expense of two dry cleanings throughout the marching band season which are included into the students' band fees. Each member is responsible for purchasing the following items: marching band shoes (\$35), black socks and black gloves (\$5), Guard uniforms, equipment & accessories TBA. These items are separate from the band fees. **NO SHOES OR GLOVES ARE TO BE KEPT IN THE UNIFORM BAG; THESE ITEMS ARE TO GO HOME WITH YOU AFTER EACH GAME OR EVENT.**

**NO JEWELRY OF ANY SORT** will be worn with the band uniform pursuant Georgia High School Association safety regulations. Regular uniform inspections will be held by section leaders prior to performances to check for clean uniforms, black socks, and polished black band shoes. Section leaders and officers will be inspected by Mr. Vanoy.

Hair must be contained within the shako (hat). No hair should touch the collar of the uniform. Front ensemble and colorguard students must have natural hair colors. Gentle highlights are appropriate. See Mr. Vanoy with any questions.

Alternate uniforms of the current year's band shirt and issued shorts may be used depending on weather conditions. Only tennis shoes will be allowed if the alternate uniform is used (no open-toed shoes).

**The marching band uniform is the symbol of pride and dignity. Treat it with the utmost respect at all times. Not wearing uniforms appropriately will be dealt with swiftly. This includes following protocol set by Mr. Vanoy or an assistant director depending on conditions. For instance, the band may not remove their coats unless instructed by Mr. Vanoy or an assistant director. When in doubt, you should be in FULL UNIFORM (all uniform parts on and zipped). Do not assume otherwise. Wearing shakos (hats) or plumes inappropriately will also not be tolerated. This is non-negotiable.**

**Remember that there will be ABSOLUTELY NO public display of affection and ABSOLUTELY NO foul language when you are representing the band. This means in full or partial uniform, member shirts, or section shirts. This will not be tolerated.**

## **FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES**

### HOME GAMES

1. Students will report to the band room at 3:45 for rehearsal
2. Students will eat dinner together and remain in the designated area until dismissed. Students will not wander through campus unattended or return to the band room until instructed to do so.
3. When entering the stands, you will find your place and remain AT ATTENTION.
4. Band members will sit in their seats, **always pay attention and be ready to play (NO CELL PHONES)**. No one will be permitted to move from their designated seat in the band block.



5. Eating is not permitted during the first half and fourth quarter. **Do not bring food into the band section at any time. This includes having someone bring you food.**
6. No one except band members may sit inside the band block. Friends and family may sit in the section of bleachers adjacent to the band. Section leaders are responsible for enforcing this policy and reporting infractions to Mr. Vanoy
7. We will begin playing at the buzzer announcing the end of the third quarter. Anyone not present at this time will be considered late. Exceptions may be made for running clocks (one team is up by 30 points), or long concession lines. **Socializing and waiting until the end of the 3rd quarter to get food is not an excuse.**
8. All members will sit with the band until the whole band is dismissed. No exceptions.
9. No one will be permitted to leave early from any game.
- 10. NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN THE BAND SECTION, water is the only exception.**

#### AWAY GAMES

All regulations for home games will be in force for away games with the following modifications and additions.

1. All band members will ride to and from away events on the band buses. All equipment will be unloaded and put away; buses will be cleaned before students are released to go home.
2. All members will ride the buses according to the bus list. Band members will sign up for buses before the first trip. Changes from one bus to another will not be permitted after the bus list has been made.
3. Students are to respectfully adhere to all chaperone and bus drivers' requests.
4. Sound equipment is permitted only with headphones.  
*Please note that the band/school is not responsible for any personal belongings that are lost or stolen.*
5. The standard health form, completed by each member and signed by a parent or guardian, must be on file with the band director before you are allowed to travel with the band.

#### **BUS BEHAVIOR**

All Whitfield County Discipline Codes will be in effect on the bus. Excessive noise will not be tolerated. It is distracting to the driver and a threat to your safety. Please follow all requests from drivers and chaperones. Buses must be cleaned by the students after every trip. No wrappers, bottles, or paper should be left on the floors. Failure to do so will result in a warning. The second time any bus is left dirty will result in one trip with students assigned to buses by Mr. Vanoy. The third time will result in assigned buses for the rest of the season. Boys will sit with boys and girls will sit with girls. It is up to the chaperone to determine seating.

## Concert Bands and Ensembles

The concert bands at Northwest Whitfield High School serve as the primary training ground for increasing musical proficiency and maturity. These bands are where the greatest musical improvement will take place. **All members of the marching band are required to be in the appropriate instrumental ensemble.** All students that are enrolled in any band course are required to attend all concerts and rehearsals. If a student misses a performance an alternate assignment will be assigned

Membership in the concert bands is open to any student at Northwest High School provided that the student has been involved with the middle school band programs and has been recommended by the middle school band directors. Assignment to a particular band is made by the band director prior to registration for the following semester. Each person will be assigned to one of the following bands

WIND ENSEMBLE: This band is made up of the most advanced musicians at Northwest Whitfield High School. This band is the most advanced performing group at Northwest. The Wind ensemble performs at the Georgia Music Educators State Concert Band Festival as well as community sponsored events. Placement is determined by Mr. Vanoy

SYMPHONIC BAND: This band is composed of developing musicians. This band's main focus is development of skills necessary to play at the highest level. The Concert Band performs at the Georgia Music Educators State Concert Band Festival as well as school concerts. Placement is determined by Mr. Vanoy

JAZZ BAND: This band is composed of advanced level musicians who are interested in jazz.. Instrumentation is limited to trumpets, trombones, saxophones, percussion, guitar, bass guitar, and piano. The jazz band performs school and community events.

PERCUSSION: This group is composed of all of our percussionists within the band program as a whole. These students will accompany the concert bands as well as percussion ensembles and spring productions.

### GRADING FOR ENSEMBLE CLASSES

- Daily Participation Grade/ Performances/ Written Work (80%) Test (20%)

### CLASS MATERIALS

Students are expected to have all materials in class each day for their participation grade.

1. Band Instrument
2. Band Folder (Music & Method Books)

3. Pencil (NO PENS) – Keep in your folder.

4. Instrument specific Supplies

Flute: Tuning Rod (specific to your make & model), cotton cleaning swab or bandana.

Oboe: 3 reeds at all times (Martin Lesher medium-soft) reed case, 35mm film canister (for reed soaking), weighted silk swab, cork grease.

Bassoon: 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium soft), reed case, 35mm film canister for reed soaking, weighted silk swabs (for boot joint and wing joint), bocal brush, cork grease.

All Clarinets: 4 reeds at all times (Vandoren V-12), Hite mouthpiece & Rovner ligature. Weighted silk swab & cork grease.

All Saxophones: 4 reeds at all times (Vandoren) Hite mouthpiece & Rovner ligature, neck strap, weighted silk swab, cork grease.

Trumpet: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth, mouthpiece.

Horn: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece.

Trombone: Slide lubricant (superslick), tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning rod, cleaning cloth, mouthpiece.

Euphonium & Tuba: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush.

Euphonium Mouthpiece 61/2 AL

Tuba Bach 18

Percussion: 8 inch practice pad, stick bag with the following: Vic Firth SD1 general concert snare sticks, Vic firth M1 yarn mallets, Vic Firth T1 general timpani mallets.

### RECOMMENDED MATERIALS FOR HOME PRACTICE

The following materials will make home practice much more enjoyable and productive. Metronome, Electric tuner, Wire music stand.

### PERCUSSIONISTS

The band program owns thousands of dollars worth of percussion equipment. The students may use this equipment with certain restrictions:

1. Students are responsible for putting away all percussion equipment at the end of each rehearsal. This will be used in the grading process.

2. Students found not caring for the equipment or found damaging equipment will be required to pay for the replacement of that equipment.

## SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School Instrument Guidelines:

1. Each student is expected to keep the instrument issued to them to use in good playing condition and clean at all times. Students are responsible for repairs that result from mishandling and abuse.
2. Abuse or mishandling of the instrument will be cause for the instrument to be taken away from the student. This includes dropping the instrument in class.
3. Students who have been issued a school owned instrument are expected to turn in practice records.
4. The instrument is not to be played or borrowed by friends, family, or fellow band members.
5. The student shall turn in the instrument whenever requested by the director.
6. STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE INSTRUMENT OUT REGARDING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INSTRUMENT

All students are required to complete a check out form signed by a parent. This is a contract that says that all repairs acquired throughout the year will be taken care of by the student's family and if the instrument is lost or damaged beyond repair, the student will be required to pay the value designated on the form to replace the instrument.

## Ensemble class scheduling

Ensemble classes are offered each fall and spring semester. It is vitally important that your continuous membership in the ensemble both semesters be of the highest priority. The only way to develop your individual performance ability and the performance ability of the band is to be actively involved each semester. Students should be striving to improve their abilities. Band is not a seasonal activity. It is a year round activity. All scheduling conflicts must be channeled through Mr. Vanoy, or student's counselor.

## HONOR BAND OPPORTUNITIES

Our students are eligible to audition for all Georgia Music Educators Association honor band events as well as state sponsored events. All Northwest Whitfield High School band students are strongly encouraged to audition for every event. Northwest is very fortunate to have many students who have been selected for these various honor bands and have benefited themselves greatly as well as the band. Listed below are some of the different opportunities:

## Governor's Honors Program

Students from the entire state of Georgia audition for placement in these honor groups in every field, including music. Students from the tenth and eleventh grade are chosen for the selection process. The first regional audition is in the second week of October. The final audition and selection process is in February. Results are given the week after spring break. If selected, student participation includes a six week course offering in music at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, GA with housing, meals and instruction provided by the State of Georgia.

### District 7 Concert (9-10) & Symphonic (11-12) Honor Bands

Students from the district 7 region of the Georgia Music Educators Association audition for placement in the honor band. The region is from the Carrollton Area up the Western half of Georgia to the Tennessee state line. This honor band is composed of the finest musicians in our district. The audition requirements are the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> level of the All State Band audition. The requirements for this audition can be located on the internet at [gmea.org](http://gmea.org).

### All State Concert Band & Orchestra (9-10) All State Symphonic Band & Orchestra (11-12)

Students from the entire state of Georgia audition for placement in these honor groups. This is considered the pinnacle of any high school musician in the state of Georgia. The students that are selected for this ensemble are often heavily recruited by college music departments throughout the United States. The audition requirements (scale and prepared pieces) are located on the internet at [gmea.org](http://gmea.org)

## **THE BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION**

The parents and friends of the band members of Northwest Whitfield High School have for many years maintained the Band Booster Club (a non-profit corporation). The members of the Booster Club have consistently supported the music groups of the instrumental music department and have rendered valuable financial aid and parental backing to all the instrumental organizations. The success of the Instrumental Music Department at Northwest Whitfield High is due, in large part, to the active participation of the Band Booster Club. The band booster club meetings are the second Tuesday of each month (except December, January and June) @ 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The following parents will be serving as officers for the 2023-2024 school year:

## **Band Booster Club Officers**

CO-Presidents	Amy Owen, Michell Gray	Treasure	Dennis Climer
Vice President	Michelle Moore	Secretary	Deedra Walker
2nd VP (Concessions)	Jessica Brewer	Chaperone Committee	Virginia Hamilton
		Hospitality Committee	Jamie Gonzales

The objectives of the band booster organization are:

1. To arouse, stimulate, and maintain an enthusiastic interest in all phases of the instrumental music department at Northwest Whitfield High School.
2. To cooperate with those in charge of the instrumental music department and the Whitfield County Board of Education to the end that this department be brought to and kept at the highest possible degree of efficiency.
3. To develop a closer relationship between parents and the school, fostering the musical interest and education of the children, and stimulating the knowledge, performance, and appreciation of finer music.
4. To assist in the purchase of band uniforms, instruments, and other equipment not regularly provided by the Whitfield County Board of Education budget.
5. To augment or encourage educational trips, festivals, and concerts that are approved or sanctioned by the school.
6. To aid in chaperoning football games.
7. To work in the concession stand during football season.
8. To oversee all fund-raising projects.

We have a very active and supportive band booster organization that sponsors these projects. The Band Booster Club meets the Second Tuesday night of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium (except for December & July).

## **FUNDRAISING POLICY**

All students and parents participating in the band program are encouraged to participate in all fund-raising events. These monies are used to benefit the band program as a whole for specific purposes. The purpose of any fund-raising project is to **raise funds for a specific objective**. All monies raised will go for that specific objective only. All fund-raising activities are sponsored by the Whitfield County Board of Education and the Northwest Whitfield Band Booster Organization. Any monies that are raised through the fund-raising event belong to the booster organization. **NO MONIES WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS OTHER THAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF THAT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE.**

## First Year Blazing Blue Member Letter Award (Winds and Percussion)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
50	All-State Band	
25	District Honor Band	_____
15	Audition for District Honor Band	_____
10	Audition for All-State Band-Second Round	_____
5 each	Marching Festival – Superior(Band for winds, Drumline for perc.)	_____
10 each	Best in Class(Band for winds, Drumline for perc.)	_____
15	Band Trip (if one is taken)	_____
15	Participate in Concert Festival (LGPE)	_____
5 each	One hour private lesson	_____
25	Play all 12 GMEA scales from memory(percussion on mallets)	_____
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		_____

**50 POINTS ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AN AWARD (BAND LETTER).**

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is **true and accurate.**

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Director's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_