

NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

THE BAND HANDBOOK



DIRECTORS:

ROBERT V. POWELL, NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

CARL WYLIE, TRAVELERS REST HIGH SCHOOL

LEE SCOTT, CO-TEACHER, FURMAN UNIVERSITY

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Northwest Middle School Bands

Northwest Middle School
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Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! Returning members, new members, and parents are in for an exciting year with the Northwest Bands. This hand book will serve as an operational guide for the band program. Directors, students, and parents should refer to the hand book so we can create a successful, organized, communicative band program.

I. Directors and Staff

Robert V. Powell, Director of Bands, Northwest Middle School
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Carl Wylie, Director of Bands, Travelers Rest High School
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Lee Scott, Co-Teacher from Furman University

II. Expectations of a NWMS Band Member

Being a member of the Northwest Bands is a privilege that should not be taken lightly. This membership comes with GREAT rewards and great responsibility. Northwest Bands have a reputation for excellence in music performance as well as character and discipline. It is for these reasons that we follow a strict code of conduct.

In Rehearsal:

- Members will be quiet, attentive, and focused. Without discipline, there can be no learning.
- Members will maintain their instruments. (instruments in working order, have good reeds, oiled valves, lubed slides)
- Members will have necessary materials. (instrument, maintenance supplies, all assigned music and supplements, pencil)

- Members will attend all rehearsals

On Trips:

- Members will adhere to all Greenville County School District and Northwest Middle School rules.
- Members must display the highest respect for band parents and others serving as chaperones.
- Members will conduct themselves in the highest manner while representing our district, school, and band program. The dignity and decorum of the events we attend will be first and foremost in the minds of the staff, parents, and students.

Other Responsibilities:

- Members will commit themselves to improving their musical skills by practicing the fundamentals of their respective instrument, learning assigned music, and seeking opportunities to perform. (for family and friends, in church, for extracurricular band events)
- Members will commit themselves to encouraging their colleagues in the band by providing positive examples to younger students and mentoring younger students through positive, constructive feedback.
- Members will, at all times, in all places, maintain a positive attitude about the Northwest Bands.
- Members will conduct themselves in all situations with the knowledge that they are a part of the Northwest Bands, an honor that demands high caliber achievement and behavior. This applies to all situations in and out of the band room. (in other classes, at lunch with friends, etc.)

III. Expectations of a NWMS Band Parent

As a band parent, you are a key element in your child's success in music. Here are a few guidelines that will help you help your child.

- Encourage your child to play for you, your family, and your friends.
- Listen to your child practice and acknowledge improvement.
- View practice as band "homework". Treat it like you would any other subject.
- Make sure your child's instrument is always in good working order.

IV. Concert Etiquette

Throughout the year, the Northwest Bands will present school concerts, attend the state concert festival, and participate in other performances. Presenting a performance takes countless hours of individual practice and very hard work in rehearsal. These activities will certainly strengthen a student's musical skills. There are several other aspects to being a great musician. One of them is learning about concert etiquette. Please review these etiquette points with your child, and we hope that all parents and other audience

members will serve as great examples for the students.

- Be seated prior to the start of the program.
- If entering or leaving the concert after the program has begun, do so only during applause or when the performers are changing positions.
- Remain quiet during the performance. Talking, whispering, and noises produced by candy wrappers or paper will be distracting to others. Infants who become “unhappy” or young children who become disorderly should be removed from the concert atmosphere.
- Stay and enjoy the entire program. All the performers have devoted tremendous preparation for the concert. Even if your child has finished his or her portion of the program, please remain for the rest of the program-much can be gained by listening to other performers.
- Thunderous applause should follow each piece. The students will work very hard, the music will be enjoyable, and you will enjoy seeing and hearing your child create a great product-so show them how much you appreciate it.

V. Grading Components (District Policy)

Major Assessments 50%

- concert performances (required performance = required attendance), major playing tests, scale pass-offs, major projects

Minor Assessments 50%

- evidence of regular practice, in-class teacher observation (correct posture, correct fingerings, and music reading skills), participating with active learning, doing self study while director is working with another section of the band, minor playing tests, theory quizzes, verbal demonstration of knowledge, have instrument, folder, music, and pencil every day

VI. Discipline Procedures

Behavioral Rules:

- Speak only with permission
- Play instrument only with permission (no playing before group warm up)
- Reeds and mouthpieces should be the only things in students’ mouths. Gum, candy, etc. are not permitted in the band room. Water is the only liquid permitted in the band room.
- Touch only what you own or have been given permission by Mr. Powell to touch.

Disciplinary actions:

- One (1) verbal warning

- Change of seat and possible loss of playing privilege for that day
- After school detention (held from 3:15 to 4:15 on Fridays, parent notified) (conference recommended)
- Office referral (required parent conference)
- Dismissal from Band Program

VII. All the Extras

That which follows is a list of extra activities for band students to be involved in with a brief explanation of each one. These “extras” are what transform an average band student into a great musician.

- Private Lessons- There are several great private lesson teachers in the area for each instrument. This is the way to really get ahead. Contact Mr. Powell for more information.
- All-County, All-Region, All-State Honor Bands- These bands are auditioned bands comprised of some of the finest musicians anywhere. Students will receive more details as the auditions are approaching.
- Solo and Ensemble - This is a student favorite. Whether it is a saxophone solo or a trombone trio, students perform a piece or pieces of their choice for a judge. Ratings are received, and students might walk away with a certificate or even a medal.
- Honor Band – This is an auditioned group from Northwest Middle School. The top 45-55 musicians from all grades will come together to rehearse and then perform at the State Concert Festival for a panel of judges. This group also performs other concerts throughout the year locally and on major trips, serving as the flag ship ensemble of the Band Program.

Parent / Student Signature Page

(Please sign and return to Mr. Powell)

Student:

I have read and understand all the information in the 2010-2011 NWMS Band Handbook.
I will uphold the rules and responsibilities of being a NWMS Band member.

Student Name (printed)_____ Date_____

Student Signature_____

Parent:

I have read and understand all the information in the 2010-2011 NWMS Band Handbook.
I will help my child uphold the rules and responsibilities of being a NWMS Band member and strive to do my part in encouraging their musical development.

Parent Name (printed)_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____