



*NORTH OLDHAM*  
*BAND*



***MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK***

*(updated 3/24)*

## General Information

The NOHS Marching Band is a competitive extra-curricular activity at North Oldham High School. Members are expected to attend all rehearsals, perform at football games, march in parades, and compete at KMEA competitions on Saturdays throughout the season. The season lasts from mid July through late October.

Marching Band provides students with interest in music or dance an alternative means of performance separate from the stage. It is an educational activity where music, discipline, teamwork, and performance are made highest priority. Marching band offers students several leadership opportunities throughout their high school career and will give them a community to belong to. Students will learn self-discipline, teamwork, time management, intrinsic motivation, and leadership, as well as become better musicians.

## Staff Information

Mrs. Amanda Buchholz, "Mrs. B," Band Director

- Email: [Amanda.buchholz@oldham.kyschools.us](mailto:Amanda.buchholz@oldham.kyschools.us)
- Cell phone (to be used only when necessary): 859-512-6446

Mr. Zach Schlaug, Assistant Band Director

Ms. Maria Ortega, Color Guard

Mr. Jay Matheny, Percussion

Mr. Charles Burnette, Mr. Sam Butler & Mr. Jacob Schiess, Visual

Band Camp Staff – includes an individual staff member for flutes, clarinets, saxophones, high brass, low brass, and drum major to be determined. Instructors teach sectionals and assist in full band rehearsals.

## Forms

Interest/Communication Form due by March 15<sup>th</sup>

Commitment Forms (contract, allergy/media info, field trip form, permission to participate, drug release) due by May 17<sup>th</sup>: <https://nohsbands.weebly.com/forms.html>

Calendar: <https://nohsbands.weebly.com/calendar.html>

## Schedule

All dates are on the calendar.

**Upperclassmen Training** (juniors and seniors)

**Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> during EDGE**

- Discuss roles and responsibilities of our upperclassmen.
- Set our goals for the year and discuss what it will take from us to reach them.

**Spring Training** (all returning members and anyone interested in joining)

Various Dates in April/May from 4:25-6:30pm

- Learn the fundamentals of marching style, begin music warm-ups, first read through of music
- Introduces new members to how rehearsals run before they need to commit
- Some dates are for new members only – train them how to march

### **Pre-Camp** (guard and percussion only)

#### **Week of July 8<sup>th</sup> –Times as marked**

- Learn warm-up exercises, fundamentals, and part of the show
- This is an important “head start” for these very important sections
- ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY all winds and brass are to report to start fundamental training and prepare for the parade.
- Oldham County Days Parade Performance – Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined

### **Band Camp** (all members)

#### **Weeks of July 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-5pm**

- Learn marching and music fundamentals, begin putting our show together musically and visually.
- In these two weeks we put in 80 hours of rehearsal – this is a third of our overall rehearsal time!! It is very important that we get off to a great start. **EVERYONE SHOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY.**

### **Weekly Rehearsals, late July-October**

- Rehearsals are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
- Rehearsals before the start of school are from 6-9pm. After school rehearsals are from 4:25-6:55pm. Time is given between school and rehearsal to get help with homework, drink or snack, change into more comfortable clothing, set up equipment, etc. *Students are not to leave school grounds under any circumstances until the conclusion of rehearsal.*

### **Performances – Football Games & Competitions**

- On various Fridays we perform at home football games. We support our school athletics! This is often the only time a lot of people will see the marching band perform and we take it very seriously. *All members (including color guard and front ensemble) are required to attend regardless if we are performing at halftime or not.*
- Saturdays in September and October (and one in August) are reserved for competitions. *Do NOT schedule anything on a Saturday under any circumstances!!* We usually take one weekend off, but that weekend will not be determined until the competition schedule is released in August.

### **Fall Break – Rehearsals and Performance**

- There ARE rehearsals over fall break, and two performances. State Regionals and State Semifinals/Finals weekends are generally over fall break. It is adamant that everyone be in attendance as these events are what we work towards all year. Sunday-Wednesday are left off for any traveling you would like to do, but students must be in attendance at the rehearsals and performances over break or they put their ensemble members in a very tight spot.

*\*\*There are never rehearsals or events planned on Wednesdays or Sundays. Any doctor’s appointments, lessons, work hours, etc. should be made on Wednesday or Sunday to avoid missing rehearsal. Missing rehearsal is NOT acceptable unless you are ill.*

## Attendance

The rehearsal schedule is given out far in advance of the season. **Schedule any and all appointments around the band schedule – your teammates depend on you.** Members are expected to be dedicated to the ensemble and at all rehearsals and performances. If you miss a rehearsal, you are not only hurting yourself, but also the entire ensemble. Anything learned the day you were out will have to be revisited in detail, thus putting the entire ensemble a day behind. It takes every member of our ensemble for our show to work – don't be a hole in the show!

### **All rehearsals and performances are mandatory.**

- Doctor's appointments, lessons, work, homework, special events, etc. are not excuses to miss rehearsals!
  - o **Schedule appointments on Wednesdays and Sundays best you can.**
  - o **If you work a part-time job, make sure your boss understands that you can only work on Wednesdays and Sundays** during the season. Give them a copy of the calendar.
  - o Everyone has homework, stay on top of it and use your time wisely. If you have a lot, use the 30 minutes between school and rehearsal, or EDGE time, to get a head start.
  - o We ALL make sacrifices, including your staff. You're going to have to miss birthday parties, concerts, and other special events if they conflict with practice and/or performances. It is rude to your other band members if you choose to miss rehearsal.
- **Illness (to the point that you were not at school), is the only excuse to miss a rehearsal.**
- In the case of an emergency, please call/text and let someone know as soon as possible.
- "I know my stuff" is NEVER an excuse to miss rehearsal. No one is ever perfect. Even if you know your part well, we need you present to properly balance your part with the entire ensemble; even if you know your drill well, those around you need you at rehearsal as a reference point.

### **Poor Attendance Consequences**

Excused absence (absent from school) = no penalty

- However, *the student* is responsible for learning whatever they missed before our next rehearsal. This means getting new drill from someone and finding their spots in the parking lot, memorizing music, or learning any visual or music changes. We do spend a small amount of time in each rehearsal reviewing material from the day before, but we do not want to have to take additional time to catch someone up. If you miss, get caught up or else you're holding back the ensemble's progress!
- Being absent from school counts as an excused absence. However, please stay healthy and avoid missing school unless absolutely necessary. Not only will missing school cause you to miss rehearsal, but it also means that you will have lots of homework to catch up on.
- By state policy, students absent from school for any reason are *not allowed* to participate in rehearsals after school that day. Student must be present in at least 3 full periods of the day in order to be eligible for any after school activities.

First unexcused absence = discussion/verbal warning

Unexcused absence (besides first) = no performance that weekend

- The student is still required to attend the performance and all rehearsals leading up to it. The student will stand on the side line at attention during the performance. Failure to do so will count as a missed performance.

Unexcused missed performance = removed from the group.

**\*\*When one performer is absent, it hurts the entire ensemble! Unlike other activities that have a bench of players they can put in, every single person in our ensemble is required to have our best show possible.**

***We NEED you!***

## Rehearsal & Behavior Expectations

There are expectations in place to ensure that the ensemble is as successful as it can be possibly be. We are constantly representing our program, our school, and our community, and will maintain a positive reputation at all times. Students not abiding by these expectations could be removed from rehearsal, a performance, or from the ensemble for the sake of the entire group.

### **Be present and be on time.**

- You cannot reap the benefits of a rehearsal or rehearsal segment you miss. Don't make plans that involve leaving rehearsal early or arriving late. Arrive early enough to be IN PLACE, with all necessary equipment and materials BEFORE the rehearsal start time. Check the board for where you need to be if you're ever unsure (generally we start in fundamental block or music arc.)

### **Be prepared for rehearsal.**

- Know all your music, work, drill, etc. – practice outside of rehearsal! Success takes time, including individual time put in outside full-group rehearsal.
- Be certain equipment is always in good working order. If there's a problem, let a staff member know so they can fix it properly. Please do NOT try to fix equipment yourself!
- Be dressed for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Wear gym shoes and socks to all rehearsals, keep a jacket or sweatshirt at school in case it gets chilly or rains, and have a pair of shorts for hotter days. Weather can happen during performances and we will practice in all different weather conditions to stay prepared.

### **Be actively and intently involved in the rehearsal.**

- Just "going through the motions" during rehearsal is as bad as not being there. You must always be thinking about your rehearsal and never settling for "good enough." Someone who is constantly thinking through what they're doing and constantly critiquing themselves will surpass those that do not. ANY LESS IS AN INSULT TO YOUR PEERS, YOUR STAFF, AND YOURSELF. No one in this ensemble is ever perfect in performance – work hard and constantly push yourself further.
- Your only focus during rehearsal should be the objectives the ensemble is trying to achieve. There is to be no unnecessary talking or cell phones. Plenty of breaks will be given, generally 10 minutes every hour (more on hotter days.)

### **The proper attitude during rehearsal affects the value of that rehearsal.**

- An instruction that has to be given twice robs the group of rehearsal time and focus. Don't rob us all because you are not paying attention.
- Be cooperative. Even if you don't understand the purpose of a rehearsal activity, have confidence that your staff has your best interests in mind and execute as you are asked – do not question or talk back.
- All students should show respect for their peers, staff, and student leaders. Disrespect of any kind (even outside of rehearsal) will never make the group more successful. Creating drama, or allowing drama to affect your rehearsal, is detrimental to our season. Throughout life you will have to work with people that you don't necessarily get along with, but we all have a common goal and we need every single person to achieve it. The group does not work if we can't get along. NO DRAMA!
- Being negative in rehearsal is a sure way to lessen the effectiveness of that rehearsal. If you say things like "this will never work" or "this is stupid" there will probably be people around you that will either believe what you say, or at least be influenced by your opinion. In either case, they, like you, will be less productive.
- Offer encouragement to your peers instead of criticism. It takes a lot of pats on the back to erase the sting of a kick in the pants. Do NOT complain if someone is messing up – HELP THEM. Be a friend, not a dictator! Marchers

do not mess up on purpose – they may not realize what they’re doing or know how to fix it without your help. (If there’s an attitude issue, the staff will handle it.)

- ALWAYS assume the problem is YOU before trying to correct others. You can always make yourself better. If a student offers you advice on how to make something better, thank them and make the correction (they are only trying to help.) Remember that you cannot see yourself and things can ALWAYS be better – you are NEVER perfect.

**Students are expected to be becoming individuals at all times – both in and outside of rehearsal and performances.**

- Your behavior both on and off the field is a large part of our success or lack thereof. Students will remain respectful to students, teachers, and staff members at all times, both on the field and off. That includes students that are not members of the marching band, our school teachers, and our administrators.
- Every band works hard at their performance, even those that we may consider not as strong. They deserve our respect when taking the field. Watch all band’s performances and look at what they do great – there is something to learn from every band that performs. When a band finishes, all students will clap and show their support.

**As a performing ensemble, every single member of our band is important. To be successful, we have to work together at all times. These expectations are in place to ensure that your hours of hard work pay off. It takes EVERYONE’S full participation to put on a great show – giving any less than 110% effort is disrespectful to your teammates. Be prepared, participate fully, and be helpful at all times.**

**If a student has poor rehearsal etiquette, poor behavior, or a poor attitude, on or off the field, it could result in removal from rehearsal, removal from a performance, or complete removal from the ensemble. The band will be more successful with a hole in our show than with a bad attitude.**

## Rehearsal & Performance Information

### **Dress Code**

For rehearsals, competitions, etc. students are expected to follow school dress codes. We are representing our program, school, and community, and want to be professional.

For rehearsals where the temperature is high, tank-tops ARE acceptable. Boys and Girls will keep their bellies and chests covered – boys, this means NO CUT SLEEVE shirts!!

### **Student Drivers**

Student drivers need to make sure they do not park on our practice field. If their school parking space is on it, they need to move their cars promptly after school for rehearsal.

Student drivers are NOT allowed to leave campus until their band commitment is finished for the day. They are not to leave before rehearsal, between school and rehearsal, between rehearsal and a football game, or in between rehearsal and a competition, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. No one is allowed to leave for lunch or dinner during camp or other rehearsals. This is for the safety of our students and the organization. All students are to remain on school grounds with the band during band events and activities – once a student is at school, they remain at the school and with the band until our commitment is finished.

### **Competitions**

Students are expected to wear their show shirts at all times and sit as a group at competitions. They are expected to represent the band, school, and community with class and respect. Students are NOT allowed to leave competition grounds unless it is on a bus with the band. If a parent would prefer to take a student home with them, they may, but they must sign out with the band director first. This is for the safety of your students and the organization. They are NOT to walk off the grounds of the school the competition is being held at for any reason.

At competitions, we feed the band members at least one meal. Occasionally, we have some left over to give to parents and other family members. Due to allergy concerns, we will not feed any non-band-member minor that does not have an adult present with them. This is for their protection. (Band Members fill out allergy information before the season starts.)

## Uniforms

Uniforms are ordered with the expectation that they will be reused by ourselves or another organization. Students are expected to take care of their uniform.

**Students need a pair of khaki shorts for parade and football game performances. This is required attire.**

Your band shirt is part of your uniform. Any random shirt is NOT acceptable.

- When out of uniform at a competition, you are in your current year's band shirt. This is our "causal uniform." We are part of an ensemble and will look like one at all times – be proud of who you are!

Formal Uniform Guidelines:

- A black shirt and proper under garments MUST be worn under the uniform at all times.
- Students must wear LONG BLACK SOCKS with their uniform (no anklets)
- Absolutely no perfume, hair gel, hairspray, or deodorant is to be applied once the uniform is put on. These products have chemicals that will damage the uniform.
- Color Guard make-up is to be applied BEFORE putting on their uniforms and will be according to instructor's design. Band students should NOT wear any obvious make-up during performance.
- All hair must be secured up into the hat. Girls must tie their hair up, and boys with longer hair will need to pin up any loose ends or wear a hair net – nothing can hang out! Guard members should all wear their hair as instructed by their guard instructor. Pit percussionists should wear their hair as instructed by staff.
- NO FOOD OR DRINK (except water) when in uniform. Occasionally Mrs. B will grant permission to snack in uniform, with specific instructions and limited food options. Absolutely no condiments are to be near our uniforms at any time.
- Gauntlets should be stored with Velcro sides together to avoid pulling fabric.
- Uniforms should be hung up and put in the uniform bag as soon as they are taken off. Do not lay them on the floor. This protects them from getting wrinkled or dirty, which would require expensive dry cleaning. If uniforms are not hung up properly, students will be called back to the trailer to fix them.
- Do NOT leave dirty daily clothes in the garment bag with the uniform. Only the uniform pants, jacket, gauntlets, and gloves should be in the uniform bag overnight.
- Uniform shoes should go into the shoe bags and hung over the uniform hanger.
- When in full uniform, jackets or hats should only be removed when approved by the director. We all do, or no one does – we must be disciplined to match at all times (it's the core of our activity!) This includes percussion and guard.

The "traditional" uniforms are replaced every 10-15 years, and the band will spend upwards of \$60,000 on new uniforms. Custom tops and pants ordered specifically for shows run about \$100 per students (closer to \$200 for the color guard.)

**Please take care of these uniforms!** If there is any damage to the uniform, besides regular wear and tear, the student's family may be responsible to pay for the repairs, purchase of replacement pieces, or cleaning required.

## Parent Expectations

**Volunteering** – Parent volunteers are a constant necessity to a successful performance. Parents are used to move and set up pit equipment and props, help students get in and out of uniforms, unload and load trucks and trailers, drive vehicles, help feed students, repair uniforms and equipment, chaperone, etc.

There will be opportunities for you to sign up and help the band. We realize that parents have various schedules that may prevent them from helping in certain capacities, but there are several options and you should be able to find a role that works for you, including donating items like cups/plates. **This group cannot be successful without the amazing support of our parents. Please help in any and all ways you can!**

**Band Boosters** – Our band booster organization plans fundraisers, organizes volunteers, and supports the program in any and all ways they can. We would love for you to be a part of it! There is a band booster meeting generally once a month in the band room. Please come when you can and give your input.

**Rehearsals** - It's great to see parents at rehearsals and performances, but remember that students have a task to complete. Rehearsals may not end exactly on time, though we do our best. A lot of what we do involves muscle memory, and running a set a few more times could mean the difference between moving on and starting over at the next rehearsal. It also takes a few minutes to put away equipment and make sure that everyone is on the same page with what lies ahead. Please be flexible – it will never be more than 5-10 minutes when it occurs.

**Contest Itineraries** - Even though contests have schedules, it is hard to predict how long an award ceremony will take (if they even start on time) or how long it will take to get loaded up and out of the parking lot. We will do our best to get back by the estimated time on the itinerary, and students will be told to contact their rides when we are 15-20 minutes away from school. We will also communicate through the BAND app. Please pick them up promptly – when in doubt, arrive early. A staff member will stay with them until you arrive, but understand that it has been a long day for all of us and we would like to get home as well.

**Trust** - Trust your staff and know that every decision we make is with your student and the ensemble's best interest at heart. Each and every one of us has several years of experience and truly love what we do. Everything we do is for the students we teach and to make sure that their marching band experience is a memorable and educational one. It was one of the greatest times of our lives, and we want to give the same to your students. We are in no way required to rehearse a certain amount of hours, or to achieve a specific placement at contest, but we put in the time and strive for excellence for the students we care for. We want all the time and effort put in to result in a positive experience that has helped your student be a better musician, a better marcher, and a better person.

**Contact** - If you ever need to get in touch with Mrs. B, please do so via e-mail or the BAND app. If you have a question about the schedule, itinerary, etc. check the website, app, or Facebook page first – what you need is probably there.

## Fees

The following is a breakdown of required fees involved with the marching band. It is very important that these fees be paid on time as there are a lot of things we pay for before the season ever begins. (We've already spent thousands of dollars for this year!) You will find a detailed explanation below as to where the money is spent. **The marching band is essentially a self-funded organization; therefore, all costs associated with your band are paid for out of these fees and various fundraisers.** These fees have been broken down into a payment schedule to assist in fitting your budget. If these fees are a burden to your family, see below for information about assistance with fees. ***No one should miss out in participating just because of the fee.***

**Total Season Cost: approximately \$43,000**

**Cost Per Student: \$1072 if 40 students; You Pay: \$750**



Expense	Budget 24
Drill	4000
Music	5500
Licensing	300
Equipment/General Expenses	500
Show T-shirts for Kids	400
Hospitality	1500
Competition Registration	400
Props	6000
Bus Transportation	3000
Truck Rental/Gas	2000
Uniforms & Cleaning	1000
Staff - Band Camp Staff	4000
Staff - Percussion	4500
Staff - Visual	4500
Staff - Additional	2000
Color Guard Equipment	3300
<b>Total:</b>	<b>42900</b>

- Your director, staff, and band boosters work hard to control expenses and stay under budget wherever possible. The additional “cost per student” in the budget is covered with fundraisers such as crowd-sourcing, finding band sponsors, and trash pick-ups. Every student reaps the benefits from these fundraisers, so please do your part.

- The best level of custom drill can cost as much as \$10,000, with the highest quality custom original composition costing upwards of \$6,000. This comes to a total of \$16,000. We spend about half that for our show creation – this is a high quality show, written specifically for our ensemble, written by people I’ve known and worked with for many years. We get a great deal for the quality we receive.

- **Every dollar goes into the band**, though it may not be immediately. The budget is based off of accurate estimates, but we never know exactly how many students we will have, or exactly what some categories will come to (such as what our transportation costs will be - how far away are the contests we

attend? how many busses do we need?) Every penny goes back into the band program, purchasing new equipment (drum heads, instruments, sound equipment, etc.), new uniforms, or other items that take years to save funds for.

### Payment Schedule

May 17<sup>th</sup> – First payment of \$250 due with commitment forms

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Second payment of \$250 due

July 19<sup>th</sup> – ALL FEES PAID IN FULL (end of the first week of band camp)

### Fee Comparison – What do other schools pay?

The following schools below are some of the top organizations in our state (or, in Carmel’s case, the top in the nation.)

Note: Most of these schools have over 100 students in their marching bands (some over 200.) Though a larger group does have some additional expenses (such as another bus or more guard equipment), most things do not cost more as the group gets larger (props, staff, show music, etc.) We will continue to recruit the best we can.

I chose specifically to highlight bands that also receive very minimal financial support from their school boards (I know directors in these districts personally.)

- Carmel HS (2013), 2012 Grand National Champions - \$1300, \$250,000 total budget
- Paul Laurence Dunbar HS - \$1800
- Lafayette HS - \$1500
- Eastern HS - \$1100
- Dixie Heights HS - \$1000
- Tates Creek HS - \$625 + equipment rental fees
- Ryle HS - \$600
- Madison Central HS - \$1000

- South Oldham HS - \$600 + \$35 for their own shoes

### Discounts

Discounts are available for those who pay early and have multiple students in the ensemble. If you pay IN FULL by the end of May, you get \$50 off your total fees. This means that your fee is only \$700 as opposed to \$750!!

If you have two or more students in the marching band, you get a discount of \$50 off of EACH your student's fees (\$700 instead of \$750.) You can also get an additional \$50 off the total if you pay in full by the end of May. Total savings of \$150 (or more if you have 3 students involved)!

### Trouble Paying Your Fees?

There are options available for those who meet criteria. Contact Mrs. B for more information – there may be assistance available for you! ***No student should miss out on participating due to fees alone – we want to help make it work for you!*** (Only Mrs. B will know names of those who apply for/receive assistance.)

## JOIN THE NORTH OLDHAM HS MARCHING BAND ON BAND!

RECEIVE REMINDERS ABOUT REHEARSALS, PICTURES/VIDEO, HAND-OUTS & ITINERARIES.

MESSAGE OTHER MEMBERS AND STAFF AS NEEDED!

Go to <https://band.us/n/aea98fD1va5bl>



OR SIMPLY SCAN THIS QR CODE:



PLEASE SIGN UP WITH YOUR FULL NAME.