



Neosho Junior High Band Handbook
Neoshoband.com
2023-2024

(417) 451-8674 Band Office
On Facebook - Neosho Wildcat Band
CALENDAR - Neoshoband.com

Mr. Duffield, Director of Bands, & Percussion Specialist—duffielddan@neoshosd.org
Mr. Brown, Assistant Director, Jazz Studies, & W.W. Specialist—browndustin@neoshosd.org
Mr. Robertson, Assistant Director, MS Band, Brass specialist—robertsonmatt@neoshosd.org
Mrs. Gorman, Assistant Director, JH Band, & W.W.Specialist gormanerica@neoshosd.org

Neosho Junior High Band Members and Parents:

I am looking forward to beginning a new year and looking forward to all the great music we will make together! Band and music in general, can be a great outlet for many students as well as a place for some to really excel in an activity. I want your student to enjoy band and realize that music making doesn't just happen in a classroom. During the pandemic many musicians shared with the world, on platforms such as youtube, what they have been working on. Videos of communities singing from their balconies demonstrated the power of music in our everyday lives and for relief in times of stress. I will strive to keep music in our lives during these rapidly changing times.

This year you can find information about all the band department at:

<https://www.neoshoband.com/>

Please take the time to read through this handbook. It details policies such as safety, discipline, the grading policy, contains our schedule for the year, and outlines several other important aspects of band. Please sign and return the last page. Make sure to mark all of the performance dates on your calendars.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is always email if that option is available to you. Otherwise, you can leave me a phone message and I'll get back to you as soon as I get a chance (usually not until after school or during my plan time the next day). I look forward to working with each of you and keeping music a vibrant part of our community and in the lives of our young people.

Sincerely,
Erica Gorman, NJH Band Director
gormanerica@neoshosd.org

Neosho Junior High Band Schedule 2023-24

(subject to change)

Tuesday & Thursday, Aug. 29 & 31 - Beginning/Exploratory Band Instrument Rental Night

Monday, October 23 - JH Band Fall Concert (Concert/Exploratory/Jazz)- 6:00 pm PAC

Monday, December 11 - Jazz Winter Concert (JH and HS Jazz Band Only) 6:00 pm PAC (tentative)

Thursday, December 14 - Concert Band Winter Concert (HS Band, JH Concert/Exploratory Band) 6:00 pm PAC

***Friday, January 12**- District Band Auditions (7th and 8th grade only) –4:00 pm Joplin HS

***Saturday, January 20**- District Band Rehearsal and Performance (7th and 8th grade only)
-All Day -Carl Junction

Friday March 1st- PSU Jazz Fest (NJH Jazz Band Only)-All Day Pittsburg Kansas

Tuesday March 5th - Neosho Music Festival Concert Band Only Neosho TBD

Thursday, March 7- JH Band Spring Concert- 6:00 pm PAC (tentative)

April TBA - Jazz Band Fundraiser Concert - 6:00 pm - (NJH Jazz Band Only)

Saturday, April 13 - Jazzam Jazz Competition - Neosho TBD (tentative)

Tuesday, April 16 – Large Group Festival at Parkview HS - All Day Springfield, MO (tentative)

Thursday, May 9 - Spring Pops NJH Band Concert & Awards Night- 6:00 pm - PAC

TBA, May - End of the year field trip - during the school day

*=optional event

All these events are REQUIRED unless otherwise stated. Make sure these dates are on your calendar!

KEEP IN A PROMINENT PLACE

All scheduling updates will be posted on the Neosho Band website:

<https://www.neoshoband.com>

DAILY EXPECTATIONS

Preparation for class

Students are expected to have the following items with them in class every day: Instrument, supplies (reeds, swabs, valve/slide oil, etc), music, method book, and pencil. Students are required to have a 1 inch black 3 ring binder with clear sheet protectors to store and organize music. Students are also expected to spend time outside of the school day preparing music for class. When individual parts are practiced and learned at home, we can more easily fit all the parts together in class and work on the music as a whole.

Practicing

Regular practice is essential for success in band. No matter your talent level, you will not achieve long term success without regular practice. Students are encouraged to try to practice at least 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Make this a part of your regular daily routine, just like homework, and you'll be amazed at the progress you can make. If you would like any additional tips on practicing (how/what to practice, etc.), please feel free to ask me! I try to make the band room available after school at least one day a week for students to get extra help or to just practice.

PERFORMANCES

Attending after School Concerts

Students must attend all required performances as a part of their grade. Not attending performances hurts your classmates, as this is truly a team event. It also is the culmination of all the hard work you have spent preparing at home and in class. And it is fun!

Please see the schedule for the year on page two of the handbook. Note that the concerts can be at different locations. The Winter and Spring Concerts will be in the NJH Gym. All concerts will be on weeknights. Make sure to mark your calendars and make it a priority to attend all performances. Invite friends and family to attend!

Concert/Performance Attire

Dress for concerts will be: Your black neosho junior high band shirt, black dress pants, black socks, and black shoes.

All: Wear dress shoes. No flip flops or shorts.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

The school has resources to help students who need concert attire. Please contact me if you need assistance.

GRADING

Daily rehearsal participation- Daily rehearsal participation points are the grade a student receives during the rehearsal process. Students receive 5 points a day for showing up prepared with their instrument, music, and pencil. Participation points will also reflect if the student is on task and actively engaged in the music making process and following proper rehearsal etiquette.

Online Assignments-- Occasionally online assignments will be posted on Canvas. These assignments will include units that help students connect music with everyday life.

Sticker Chart Playing Tests-- Music students progress at different speeds because of individual ability and because we are all playing different instruments. Because of this I will use a sticker chart to allow students to "pass off" exercises at their own pace. Class time will periodically be allotted for individuals to pass tests. Students may work ahead. These tests are on a pass or fail basis. Students are allowed three attempts per day to perform the exercise correctly. Students who pass may move on to the next exercise. There is no limit to the amount of time a student may attempt an exercise. Students are expected to use class time efficiently and attempt to pass tests. Each grading period will reflect how many tests they have completed. These are often referred to as earning stars or band-fu belts and the list of exercises to pass are found on their band-fu charts.

Playing Tests— There will be individual playing tests. Some will also affect seating assignments. Some will be over portions of the music we are working on to ensure that students are practicing as they should to prepare for class. I will make students aware of this as well as what will be expected in the playing test at least 2 days in advance. If a student is absent or does not have their horn the day of a playing test, they will take the test their first day back with no penalty to their grade. In the event of a chair test, placement within the section for those absent will be at my discretion based upon multiple factors.

Performances-- Performances are for a grade. The points for a performance are approximately equal to the amount of participation points that can be awarded that grading period. With proper communication a make-up assignment can be assigned to students who absolutely can not attend a performance.

The reason for attending a performance is not because it is for a grade. Rather, it is my hope for all my students to make attending a concert a priority because it is an unique experience and a special event. This is a special moment we have spent weeks preparing for and to miss it would be a loss for the individual and the group. Every member of the band is valuable. The experience of a live performance is not something that we can replicate with a make up assignment. It isn't possible to truly make up a performance. It is worth the extra step to communicate scheduling conflicts to your parents, directors, and coaches in order to attend. In my experience, I have found that most student activity sponsors are happy to work together to provide these experiences for our young musicians especially if we express that it is important to them.

Make-ups for missed performances: If you think there may be a conflict with any date, please contact me IMMEDIATELY. If you have another school event on one of these days, please talk to me as soon as you know about the conflict. We will work it out. If a sudden situation (family emergency, sickness) arises, please try to contact me before the performance time if circumstances allow. I understand that sometimes things happen that are beyond our control. *If you miss a concert for any reason, the expectation is that students have a parent contact me via email, phone, or letter as soon as possible or by the next school day.*

In the event of an excused absence, an alternative assignment will be given as a chance to make up the missed performance. Please know that I AM willing to work with you in the event of a conflict **if there is communication** prior to the event.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE POLICY

Be Respectful:

In between exercises keep quiet and wait for directions.

Raise your hand and wait to be called on to ask or answer questions.

Listen quietly and follow along while your peers and teacher are talking or performing.

Be Responsible:

Keep the band room tidy and the floor clear of all trash and materials.

Keep all food, drinks, and candy outside of the band room.

Keep all hands, feet, and other objects to yourself. This includes playing only your instrument.

Be Ready:

Enter the band room quietly and immediately begin setting up.

Come to class prepared with your instrument, music, pencil, and folder.

Come to class everyday having practiced what we learned the day before.

No cell phone policy

Cell phones should be on silent and stored inside student lockers during class. This is aligned with the policy in the 2023-24 student handbook. Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day.

1st offense: Conference with student and confiscate device. It will be locked in the NJH band office. He/She may pick it up at the end of class.

2nd offense: Device will be confiscated and it will be sent to the NJH office. You must pick it up at the end of the school day. Call home to parent/guardian.

3rd offense: Device will be confiscated and it will be locked in the NJH office. Parent/guardian must pick it up at the end of the school day.

Subsequent offense: Will be handled according to school policy.

Out of Assigned Area:

The band room has many practice rooms and shelves. For student safety there should be no climbing on or sitting in the storage shelving. Students are prohibited from going into the practice rooms- unless they are given permission. These areas are off limits when there is no adult present.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (7th and 8th Grade ONLY)

Large Ensemble Contest -TBA Required Event

The 7th and 8th grade bands will perform as a group for a panel of judges at a festival in the Spring. After our performance we will have a twenty-minute clinic with the judges. More information will be given at a later date for this festival. This event usually occurs during the school day.

District Honor Band *optional

District Honor Band is a great opportunity to see where you compare against other students in southwest Missouri. Students prepare 3 or 4 scales and 2 short pieces of music for a competitive audition against students from several other middle schools in the area.

If you are selected, you are one of the best players on your instrument for your age in Southwest Missouri. District Band auditions are in January. Audition music will be passed out in September and more information will be given at that time for those students interested.

Solo and Ensemble Contests*optional

Seventh and eighth grade students who express a desire to go above and beyond, or who just love to play, will have the opportunity to perform solos and small ensembles at a Music Festival in the Spring. Music for solos and small ensembles will be distributed in January after District Band Auditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Use of school instruments

We provide some larger instruments for student use, and have a limited supply of other school-owned instruments. Students will be required to check out these instruments at the band office. While normal wear and tear is expected, **students will be responsible for any damage done to the horn.** We will document the instrument rental, and a **rental fee of \$25** will be charged for the student to use the instrument for the entire year. A rental agreement is available in the band office and requires a student and parent signature. This fee will supplement the band funds available to have the school-owned instruments cleaned and repaired over the summer.

After school tutoring and practice

I regularly stay after school for students who want to stay and get in some extra help or practice. This will be from 3:30-4:30. Weekly, I will post a calendar on my office window with the days I am available to stay. Students need to sign up ahead of time if they plan to stay. Please make sure your student has a ride or some way to get home at 4:30 if they want to stay.

Trip Transportation

The bands will travel a couple times per year (competitions, and fun trips). It is imperative that each student is on his or her best behavior at all times. Food and drinks are not permitted on the bus. Students must treat everyone (whether they are chaperones, bus drivers, competition staff, or directors and students from other schools) with courtesy and respect.

For all out-of-town activities, all students must ride to the event on school buses together. Parents are more than welcome and encouraged to attend these events. Your student may ride home with you after the event if desired. In this case, I must have a note stating your intent BEFORE we leave for the event. Students may ONLY ride home with their parent or guardian unless otherwise arranged and approved through the school office and director beforehand. Parents/guardians will need to sign the student out with me before leaving the event. Otherwise, all students will ride the bus with us back to Neosho Junior High.

Wildcat Standards

In order to participate in band activities students will need to have a signed copy of the Wildcat Standards on file with the junior high office. Please review the handbook online and return your signed copy to your band director or the high school office. The document can be viewed at <https://www.neoshosd.org/> (Click the drop down box for Athletics & Activities, Resources, and then Wildcat Standards)

Purchase of supplies

Band supplies such as reeds, valve oil, sani-mist, metronomes, etc. are available for purchase from the band office. A price sheet will be on my office window when school starts. I generally have everything in stock and available for the students as needed. A music store representative visits us once a week and can usually get supplies quickly. You may also call the store and purchase supplies over the phone to be delivered to the school. The companies that visit our school are:

Springfield Ernie Williamson Music (417) 881 1373
Ernie Williamson Music (417) 624 3157

Additional information on items such as step-up instruments or private lessons, etc. is available to any interested. Please let me know if any of this applies to you and I can get you information!

Turning in Money and Forms

There will be a mailbox stationed in the band director's office for students to drop off completed forms and any money. Any money should be deposited IN AN ENVELOPE and should be addressed as shown below:

<p><i>First Name and Last Name</i></p> <p><i>\$____ (amount enclosed)</i></p> <p><i>Subject of Payment</i></p> <p><i>(ex: Band t-shirt, Blue Book, Instrument Rental)</i></p>

*Checks can be made out to "Neosho Band". Subject line please include what the payment is for.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS BY SECTION

EVERY BAND MEMBER MUST HAVE:

- 1-2” **Black** good quality 3-ring binder with window plus 25 clear sheet protectors (for 3-ring binder)
- * Junior High Band T-shirt (**\$10.00 in band office**), black dress pants, and dress shoes for concerts
- * Concert Band Tradition of Excellence Book (book 1 or book 2 depending on grade level) (**\$12.00 per book in band office**)
- * Jazz Band *Essential Elements for Jazz Ensemble* book (Jazz band only) **\$12.00 in band office**
- 2 or more Pencil(s) ALWAYS HAVE A SHARP PENCIL AT EVERY REHEARSAL!!!
- Your personal Instrument and all the accessories needed for you to perform.

FLUTES:

- Your Own personal tuning rod
- Cleaning/polishing cloth
- Your Own digital chromatic tuner/metronome.(CAN BE AN APP).

ALL REED WOODWINDS (CLARINETS AND SAXOPHONES):

- Reeds (Van Doren Traditional Blue BOX of 10, No less than a #2.5 strength , no more than #4 strength)
- Cork Grease
- Your Own personal digital chromatic tuner/metronome (CAN BE AN APP).

HIGH BRASS (TRUMPETS & FRENCH HORNS):

- Bach 5C or 3C mouthpiece (Trumpet only)
- Own personal bottle of valve oil & slide grease
- Your Own personal digital chromatic tuner/metronome (CAN BE AN APP).

LOW BRASS (BARITONES, EUPHONIUMS, TROMBONES, TUBAS):

- Own personal bottle of valve oil and slide grease
- Your Own personal digital chromatic tuner/metronome

PERCUSSION

6th Grade Percussion

Vic Firth EP1 – contains the Vic Firth SD1 General, and M5 Rubber & M14 Poly Mallets
Beaded Practice Pad – Like the Yamaha PP280 or equivalent
A digital metronome – do not need to purchase if you can download an app for practice
A Black 3 ring binder with clear window ~1.5-2” thick to hold all music and warm-ups
2 Mechanical pencils with lead and an eraser

7th Grade Percussion

Needs ALL 6th grade materials AND:
1 pair of either Vic Firth T1 General OR T3 Staccato timpani mallets
1 set (2pair) of either the Vic Firth M114 OR M164

8th Grade Percussion

Needs ALL 6th and 7th grade materials AND:
A pitch pipe
A standard drum key

If a student participates in jazz band then they will also need:

1 pair of Vic Firth 5A (wood tip) drum set sticks
1 set (2pair) of Vic Firth M23 Vibe Mallets

High School Percussion

Needs ALL 6-8 materials AND:
1 pair Vic Firth T4 Ultra Staccato timpani mallets
1 pair Vic Firth SD2 Bolero
Mallets as needed
Marching sticks/mallets per what the student plays

If a student participates in jazz band then they will also need:

1 set (2pair) of Vic Firth M31 Vibe Mallets
1 pair of Vic Firth HB Heritage Brushes
1 pair of Vic Firth SDW2 Dave Weckl or SPE Peter Erskin drum set sticks

Where to buy?

There are many good places to find these items. Some suggestions are:

Ernie Williamson in Joplin (417) 624-3157

Springfield Music (can order through the store with school delivery) (417) 881-1373

Lone Star Percussion – www.lonestarpercussion.com

Percussion Source – www.percussionsource.com

Information/signature sheet

Please return this sheet by Friday, September 1st, acknowledging that you received this information and know that the NJH handbook is available online. You may also request your own personal copy of the 2023-24 Neosho Junior High handbook by emailing the director.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Student's name _____

Parent/Guardian's name(s) _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Parent Email Address

*Please make sure this email is accurate, easy to read, and is where you would like to receive updates.

The hand book is available on the website below:

<https://www.neoshoband.com>

By signing this, I acknowledge that I have read the band handbook and looked over the schedule. I have made note of all performance dates and agree to follow the policies and procedures outlined within.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____