



Neosho Junior High Band Handbook

Neoshoband.com

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

Mr. Fetzer, JH Director, & Brass Specialist fetzerbenjamin@neoshosd.org
Mr. Duffield, Director of Bands, & Percussion Specialist—duffielddan@neoshosd.org
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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.

You can find information about all the music department organizations at <https://www.neoshoband.com/>. You will be able to access the Neosho Band Calendar as well as other helpful resources. The calendar includes concert dates. Please notify me well in advance of any scheduling conflicts.

Please take the time to read through this handbook. It details policies such as safety, discipline and grading policy, contains our schedule for the year, and outlines several other important aspects of the Neosho Wildcat Bands. 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 message on ParentSquare and I'll get back to you as soon as I get a chance. I look forward to working with each of you and keeping music a vibrant part of our community.

Sincerely,
Ben Fetzer, NJH Band Director
fetzerbenjamin@neoshosd.org

Neosho Junior High Band Schedule 2026-27

(subject to change)

Thursday, October 15- Fall Jazz Concert - 6:00 pm - NHS PAC(Performing Arts Center)

(NJH Jazz Band Only)

Tuesday, October 27- JH ExtravaBANDza Concert - 6:00 pm NJH Gym

***Tuesday, November 17-** District Band Auditions (7th and 8th grade only) —4:00 pm Joplin HS

Tuesday, December 15- JH Winter Band Concert - 6:00 pm NHS PAC

Thursday, December 17- JH Winter Jazz Band Concert - 6:00pm - NHS PAC (NJH Jazz Band Only)

***Saturday, January 15-** JH District Band Rehearsal and Performance - 8:00am-6:00pm - NHS PAC

***Friday/Saturday, February 12/13-** MSSU Honor Band - TBA - MSSU

Tuesday, March 2- Neosho Espressivo - All Day - NHS PAC (NJH Jazz Band Only)

Friday, March 5- PSU Jazz Fest - All Day - PSU

Tuesday, March 9- Music in our Schools Month Concert- 6:00 pm - NHS PAC

Sunday, April 25th- Jazz Social - TBA (NJH Jazz Band Only)

TBA, April – Large Group Music Festival Tentative - during the school day

***TBA, April** - Solo & Ensemble Music Festival Tentative-TBA

Tuesday, May 11 - JH Spring Awards Concert- 6:00 pm - NHS PAC

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

*=optional event

highlighted portions are updates

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. The NJH band website is designed to be an easy resource for students who wish to practice at home.

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 nice 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 participation- Students receive 5 points a day for showing up prepared with their instrument, music, and pencil. If a student repeatedly does not bring their instrument to school they will not only lose participation points but will result in an alternative assignment to regain participation points, as well as reaching out to parents. Participation points will also reflect if the student is on task and actively engaged in the music making process and following proper rehearsal etiquette.

Band Fu 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 number of times 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.

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. Our performances are worth 60% of the class grade, so it is paramount that they are not missed. With proper communication a make-up assignment can be assigned to students who absolutely cannot 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 a 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.

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 every day 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 2026-2027 student handbook. Cell phones are not permitted in my classroom.

One warning: The student will be asked to turn the device off and put it in their bag.

1st offense: Device is confiscated and held in the front office until the end of the school day. Students may retrieve it.

2nd offense: Device is confiscated; parent or guardian must retrieve it. A conference with administration is required.

3rd offense: Device is confiscated; the student will receive ASD or ISS. Parent/guardian retrieval is required.

Subsequent offense: Repeated violations will result in progressive disciplinary action, which may include additional days of in-school suspension or other consequences aligned with the NJH behavior matrix.

Out of Assigned Area:

The band room has many practice rooms and shelves. For student safety, I have a **no tolerance policy** for 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 with 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 *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 of times per year (competitions and fun trips). It is imperative that each student is on his or her best behavior at all times. 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.

Final Forms & Physical

All students are required to complete Final Forms registration in order to participate in any organized after school performance. That means students with incomplete Final Forms will be ineligible for a performance and will need to forfeit their performance grade. Thankfully our first performance is Oct. 27th. **Please do not delay with completing Final Forms.** More detailed information on how to complete Final Forms can be found at <https://www.neoshosd.org/finalforms>

A physical is also required in order to meet after school hours and to participate in any trips. Please submit an up-to-date physical to the JH office before Oct. 27th.

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 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 anyone interested. Please let me know if any of this applies to you and I can get you information!

Mr. Ben Fetzer,
Neosho Junior High Director
fetzerbenjamin@neoshosd.org

Neosho Junior High 417 451 8660

Information/signature sheet

Please return this sheet by Friday, September 4th, 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 2026-27 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 handbook 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_____