



# Neosho Bands High School Handbook 2025-2026



Neosho High School Band • 511 Neosho Boulevard • Neosho, MO 64850  
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## Band Member Duties

- **Punctuality:** Be on time for all rehearsals and performances. **Early is on time; on time is late.**
  - **Rehearsal Etiquette:** Grab your instrument, warm up, and focus. Equipment stored neatly in assigned areas. No talking once the director steps on the podium, or passing the sideline onto the field.
  - **Attitude:** Arrive with a positive attitude and a commitment to improvement. Practice daily.
  - **Respect:** Show respect for yourself, your peers, and all authority figures. Follow Wildcat Standards.
  - **Focus:** No excess playing or distractions; focus on producing a good tone and working on current music.
  - **Clean-Up:** Put materials away and clean up before waiting to be dismissed by the director.
  - **Academics:** Maintain good academic standing to remain eligible.
  - **Music:** Approach music with musical expectations and goals.
  - **Food/Drink:** No gum, food, candy, or sugary drinks in rehearsal/performance areas.
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## Attendance Policy

- **Rehearsals/Performances:** Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Conflicts with other activities are the student's responsibility; communicate conflicts in advance (at least two weeks notice).
  - **Absence from Performances:** Absences will only be excused for emergencies or illness, with excused conflicts through prior approval from the director. Unexcused absences result in a failing grade and no make-up assignments.
  - **Communication:** Inform the director and section leader about absences or lateness in a timely manner. No-shows will result in a lowered grade and possible removal from future events.
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## Attitude and Discipline

- **Success:** Success is measured by attitude and discipline. Self-discipline in practicing and commitment to the band's goals are essential.
- **Behavior:** Students must display respect and dedication. Disrespectful behavior toward anyone in the band or school community may lead to dismissal or disciplinary action.

## Parents' Responsibility to the Band

- **Policy Compliance:** Parents must ensure that all policies and forms are completed and returned, and understand the band's rules.
  - **Attendance & Practice:** Parents are responsible for their child's attendance at band functions and ensuring regular practice.
  - **Parental Support:** Your involvement is crucial for the success of the program. Please help with practice, attending events, and supporting fundraising efforts.
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## How Parents Can Help

- **Encourage Practice:** Set a regular practice time and a quiet, interruption-free space.
  - **Instrument Care:** Ensure the instrument is in good repair with necessary supplies (reeds, oils, etc.).
  - **Equipment:** Provide a metronome, tuner, and make sure school-owned instruments are treated with care.
  - **Stay Informed:** Use text alerts, ParentSquare, Facebook, band website, or other communication methods to stay updated.
  - **Support Events:** Attend booster meetings, performances, and help with fundraisers and other activities.
  - **Private Lessons:** Consider providing private lessons to further your child's musical growth.
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## Rules and Procedures

- **General Rules:** Follow all school policies in addition to band-specific rules.
  - **No Gum/Food/Drinks:** Gum, food, and sugary drinks are not allowed in band areas.
  - **Be Prepared:** Arrive on time, warmed up, and ready to start.
  - **Respect:** Show respect for authority, peers, and property.
  - **Substance Use:** Drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited.
  - **Bus Policy:** Ride the assigned bus for trips; no changes allowed.
  - **Payment Procedure:** Turn in payments in sealed, labeled envelopes, into the money box and keep receipts for cash payments.
  - **Practice Areas:** Practice is allowed in the band room or practice rooms before/after school, under director supervision.
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## Practice Guidelines

- **Regular Practice:** Set a daily practice time and stick to it.
- **Use Tools:** Practice with a tuner and metronome, focus on tone, range, and technique.
- **Consistent Improvement:** Work on scales, sight-reading, and areas that need improvement.
- **Quality Over Quantity:** "Perfect practice makes perfect!"

## Use of the Band Facility

- **Privileges:** The band room is a privilege to use. Any abuse or damage will be treated as vandalism. No horseplay allowed.
  - **Personal Items:** The band room is not a locker; store only band-related items in the provided lockers. Keep the room tidy and put things back where they belong.
  - **Practice Rooms/Small Ensemble Rooms:** These rooms are for practicing only. If not practicing, leave to allow others to focus.
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## Band Offices, Phone, Library, Workshop, Storage

- **Band Office:** Do not enter without permission. Knock before entering if the door is closed.
  - **Library/Storage:** Use only with permission from the director or designated staff.
  - **Workshop:** Ask a director for assistance with reeds, sticks, mallets, or repairs before or after rehearsal.
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## Grading Procedure

- **Participation (Daily Grade):** 10 points per day for attendance, preparation, participation, and behavior.
  - **Performance:** Attendance at concerts, parades, and other performances is mandatory. Performances are 100 points.
  - **Playing Tests:** Tests may include scales, etudes, and concert material, and are worth 20 points each.
  - **Extra Credit:** Speak with the director to arrange extra credit through activities like private lessons, auditions, or volunteering.
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## Concert Bands

- **Eligibility:** Previous band enrollment is required. Auditions divide students into separate bands, and chair auditions may occur throughout the year.
  - **Competitions:** 2-3 full band contests, 2-6 honor ensemble performances, and chamber group contests are part of the curriculum.
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## Jazz Bands

- **Ensembles:** Three jazz bands: Studio Jazz (top ensemble), Stage Jazz (second big band), and Lab Band (third big band).
  - **Prerequisite:** Participation in concert band is required, with exceptions at the director's discretion. Instrumentation is limited, and students may explore secondary instruments for jazz band.
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## Pep Cats

- **Overview:** Pep Cats play at 7-9 home basketball games. Students can commit to any number of games, or directors may assign students to separate events.
- **Uniform:** A small fee for a uniform shirt may be required.

## Section Leaders & Drum Majors

- **Section Leaders:** Chosen through an application process. They assist with sectionals, monitor behavior, and model leadership. They should be prepared, patient, and respectful. Hazing or punishment is not allowed. Problems should be referred to the director.
  - **Drum Majors:** Selected through auditions. They conduct the band, manage equipment, and represent the band during performances. They attend section leader meetings and camps.
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## Football Games

- **Band Role:** Perform pre-game, during the game in the stands, and at halftime. The band gets third quarter off and marches as a unit.
- **Rules:**
  - Sit with your section in designated areas.
  - Only uniformed band members allowed in band seating.
  - No food, un-sportsmanlike conduct, or phone use in band seating.
  - Follow the director's instructions for rehearsed cheers.





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## Competitions

- **Behavior:** Always exhibit respect and courtesy to everyone, including staff, chaperones, and other schools.
- **Rules:**
  - Chaperones will be on buses; no bus changes without permission.
  - Be on time and keep the buses clean.
  - Parents may sign out students after the event.
  - Follow school rules and maintain exemplary behavior.

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## Hotel Situations

- **Room Assignments:** Boys and girls are assigned separate rooms. No entry to the opposite gender's room.
- **Room Rules:** Keep rooms locked, clean, and quiet. Do not leave without permission, and do not play instruments in rooms. Medications must be labeled and communicated with directors in advance.
- **Conduct:** Be polite to hotel staff and guests. Any failure to follow rules can result in loss of trip privileges or program removal.

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## Band Dues and Fees

- **Dues:** Cover food, equipment, staff, travel, and uniforms. Students can make a one-time payment or split it over three months (due by November 1st).
  - **Deposit:** A non-refundable \$25 deposit is due by May to hold a spot. Additional fees for band uniforms and color guard uniforms and equipment may apply.
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## School-Owned Instrument Policy

- **Responsibility:** Students using school instruments must care for them. Fees: \$25 for single-use, \$40 for dual-use instruments. Any damage is the student's responsibility. A check-out form is required.
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## Lettering

- **Earn Points:** Students can earn a letter or bar by accumulating points throughout the year. Points must be submitted in spring for approval.
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## Advanced Band / Advanced Jazz Band (Honors Credit)

- **Seniors:** Can earn honors credit by completing tasks such as tutoring, transcribing solos, or earning honor ensemble recognitions. A list of tasks will be provided during the first week of school.





## Wildcat Pride Marching Band Student Contract

As a member of the Wildcat Pride Marching Band, I understand that I represent my team, school, and community at all times. I agree to the following expectations:

**1. Social Media Conduct**

I will follow the social media policy by representing myself, my section, and the entire band program with professionalism and respect in all online interactions. This includes adhering to the district's social media guidelines, which also apply to texting and messaging individuals or groups.

**2. Academic and Attendance Standards**

I will meet all Wildcat Standards for grades and attendance, maintaining eligibility for participation.

**3. Respect and Sportsmanship**

I will treat my peers, instructors, staff, and all members of the community with respect, both during school hours and outside of school activities.

**4. Communication**

I will communicate clearly and promptly regarding any absences or conflicts, following the established procedures.

**5. Effort**

I will try to give my best effort in every rehearsal and performance. This means coming prepared, staying focused, and showing a willingness to improve with a positive attitude.

I understand that failure to uphold these expectations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the program.

**Student Name (Printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_