



Neosho Bands High School Handbook 2026-2027



Neosho High School Band • 511 Neosho Boulevard • Neosho, MO 64850
Neoshoband.com

(417) 451-8670 ext. 4016 Instrumental Music Office
On Facebook - Neosho Wildcat Band Boosters
CALENDAR - Neoshoband.com

Mr. Duffield, Director of Instrumental Music / Percussion—duffielddan@neoshosd.org
Mr. Brown, Associate Director of Bands / Woodwinds—browndustin@neoshosd.org
Mr. Fetzer, Junior High / Brass—fetzerbenjamin@neoshosd.org
Mr. Robertson, Middle School / Brass—robertsonmatt@neoshosd.org



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. All event absences must be communicated by a parent. (planned absences 2 weeks in advance).
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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. Please communicate in advance any conflicts.
- **Parental Support:** Your involvement is crucial for the success of the program. Please help with practice, attending events, and supporting fundraising efforts.

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 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.

Hair Policy

During performance season, students should maintain a polished, uniform appearance. Hair should not be dyed in non-traditional or attention-drawing colors, including colors intended to make an individual stand out. Hair must also be secured up and away from the face for performances to ensure a consistent appearance and allow for safe, unrestricted movement.

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.



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.

Grading Procedure

- **Quick Check Essential Musicianship (Weekly Grade):** 10 points per week for focus and engagement, preparation, participation, posture and instrument maintenance, and behavior.
- **Performance:** Attendance at concerts, contests, parades, and other performances is mandatory. Performances are 50 points.
- **Playing Tests and Other Performances:** Tests may include scales, etudes, and concert material, or other performances in conjunction with an event and are worth 25 points each.

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:** Studio Jazz Band (top ensemble), Stage Jazz Band (second big band)
 - **Prerequisite:** Participation in concert band is required, with exceptions at the director's discretion. Instrumentation is limited. Students may play a secondary instrument for jazz.
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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.
- One mandatory full band event will be scheduled (generally basketball homecoming)
- **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.



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.

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.

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 (final total due by November 1st).
 - **Deposit:** A non-refundable \$25 deposit is due by May. 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 additional and 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.