

Northwood High School
Instrumental Music Ensembles
2017-2018

Mr. Brett Cox, Director
mbcox@chatham.k12.nc.us
(919) 542-4181 ext. 34302

2017-2018 GRADING POLICY – ALL CLASSES

- 1.) Required Attendance at Performances/Rehearsals – 40% - All music classes at Northwood are Co-Curricular and require outside practices and performances as determined by the director. Policies regarding absences can be found later in this document.
- 2.) Performance Assessments – 20% - Students will perform musical exercises on their instrument or through other mediums for assessment. Students will be provided a rubric outlining all expectations and be given at least five days to prepare for an assessment
- 3.) Classwork/Homework – 20% - These grades are drawn from any worksheets or homework assignments for the purposes of learning a concept or checking progress periodically.
- 4.) Attendance/Attitude/Growth – 20% - Attendance and attitude are self-explanatory. Growth will be determined by the director based on improvements made over time on similar assignments. If attendance and attitude are in order, then growth will definitely occur.

2017-2018 SUGGESTED MATERIALS FOR NORTHWOOD BAND MEMBERS:

ALL INSTRUMENTS

- Music folder (supplied by NHS)
- Lyre (Marching Band)
- Pencil with eraser
- Tuner - Korg CA-1 (\$20 - \$25) or **Tonal Energy** app for iPad / iPhone and iPod Touch 4th generation and later (\$4) recommended. If you have an “iDevice”, buy **Tonal Energy**. It is a bargain.
- Metronome - Korg MA-30 (\$25 - \$30) or *Subdivide* app for iPad / iPhone and iPod Touch 4th generation and later (\$2) recommended.

Metronome apps for computers and cell phones or from websites like *metronomeonline.com* are fine for home practice as long as they’re in the room where the student will practice and you have a good, loud set of speakers. If you get a metronome app for your iPod Touch/iPhone/Android device, be sure it has a loud volume, wide range of tempos and variety of subdivision patterns.

- Combination metronome-tuner - Korg TM-40 (\$25 - \$30)
Combination metronome-tuners usually aren’t as reliable or full-featured as having a separate tuner and metronome. However, the Korg TM40 seems to be the best bet for the money if you’re on a budget. *Tonal Energy* has both a full-featured tuner and a good metronome.

NOTE: You don’t need a combination metronome-tuner if you’ve already got a good tuner or metronome or apps that have the same features.

BRASS PLAYERS

- All tuning slides should move smoothly and freely. This includes the trombone hand slide.
- Trumpet players ***must*** have a 3rd-valve tuning slide ring.
- **Piston** valve oil for trumpets, euphoniums
Match valve oil brand with instrument brand when possible
- **Rotary** valve oil for horns, tubas
- Slide lubricant for trombone players (Slide-O-Mix or Trombotine and water bottle recommended)
- Mutes as required by concert literature (May be provided by school or purchased by student)

CLARINET, OBOE, BASSOON, SAXOPHONE PLAYERS

- Reed case
- Mouthpiece cap (oboe and bassoon players do not use mouthpiece caps)
- Instrument swab
 - A cloth or silk swab is preferable to a felt swab for clarinets.
 - A cloth, silk or chamois-style swab is preferable for saxophonists.
 - Saxophonists should ***NOT*** use “Pad-Saver” swabs.
 - A silk swab is preferable to other types for oboe and bassoon. School oboes and bassoons normally include a silk swab when checked out.
- Seat strap for bassoon or neck strap for saxes.
 - Seat straps are included in instrument check-out for school bassoons.
 - A neck strap is optional but recommended for soprano clarinets.
- 3 playable reeds. Rotate reeds at least every other day for best performance.
Recommended reeds (reed strength depends on player and mouthpiece)
 - Soprano Clarinets**
 - Van Doren “blue-box” 2 1/2, 3 or 3 1/2
 - Mitchell-Lurie 2 1/2, 3 or 3 1/2
 - Hemke 2 1/2, 3 or 3 1/2
 - Bass Clarinet**
 - Van Doren “blue-box” 2 1/2 or 3
 - Rico **Royal** 3 (Rico Royal is a blue box, NOT an orange box)
 - All Saxophones**
 - Van Doren “blue-box” 2 1/2, 3 or 3 1/2
 - Hemke 2 1/2, 3 or 3 1/2
 - Oboe and bassoon**
 - Purchase handmade reeds from a professional player or from a reputable online double-reed specialist company.

- If that isn't possible, purchase Emerald medium or medium-hard reeds from Music & Arts until we can arrange purchase from an online dealer. **DO NOT buy soft or medium-soft reeds.**
- Nothing stifles a young double-reed player's progress more than poorly-built reeds or reeds that are too soft. Buy good reeds. Yes, they are more expensive than clarinet/sax reeds.
- **Buy at least two reeds at a time.**

<p>CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</p>

Symphonic/Concert Band and Wind Ensemble

- Meets as a scheduled class during the school day throughout the school year.
- Students are expected to have 3 years of ensemble experience and fundamental skills in instrumental performance and music-reading.
- Performs a combined four to five concerts per year.
- Concert Band and Wind Ensemble performs in the NC Bandmasters' Association (NCBA) District Concert Festival.
- Literature is primarily original works for wind band in traditional and contemporary classical styles, but will also occasionally perform quality arrangements of film, jazz, orchestra and choral music.
- Focus is on development of fundamental tone production, technical skills, ensemble sensitivity, self-expression, independent music decision-making, student leadership and character development through music literature and public performance.
- Students are eligible for the ensemble by enrollment in a band course during the previous school year or through audition with the band director.

Marching Band

- Meets as a scheduled class during the school day during the fall semester.
- After-school rehearsals occur Monday and Tuesday afternoons until 5:00.
- Students are expected to have no less than 3 years of ensemble experience.
- Performs four to five competitions, all home football games, and a holiday concert.

Chamber Ensembles

- Chamber ensembles are assigned by the director as part of the coursework for the concert ensembles. They meet during class time during the spring semester. Students have the option to form separate chamber ensembles and arrange rehearsal schedules outside of the school day. Student-selected chamber ensembles may not substitute for the ensemble assigned by the director.
- Students must perform at least once in a chamber ensemble during class time.
- Outstanding chamber ensembles will be selected to perform at the NCBA Solo and Ensemble MPA and/or at concerts designated by the director.
- Chamber ensembles may also be asked to perform at select events in the community.

Spring Musical Pit Orchestra (optional)

- Meets as an extracurricular ensemble about twice a week from late January through about the second week of March. Daily rehearsals each weekday happen about two weeks before the show opens. Schedule varies according to the performance dates of the musical.
- Participation is by director invitation only.

All-District Band (optional)

- Students may audition for the Central District All-District Band in January. Audition requirements include eight memorized major scales, a multi-octave chromatic scale, a lengthy and challenging solo and sight-reading. Three or more of the major scales are multiple octaves.
- Students must pay an \$8 registration.
- Mr. Cox gives final approval for students to audition. Unprepared students are not allowed to audition.
- Auditions are scored using a rubric by other band directors in the Central District. Auditions are competitive and seats in the bands are limited. There are usually 900-1000 high school students who audition.
- Parents must provide transportation to the auditions.
- Auditions run from 9 AM to 6 PM. Students receive a randomly-selected audition slot about 2 hours long. The slots are announced about two weeks before the audition. Audition slots cannot be changed.
- The highest-scoring 9th and 10th grade students earn seats in the 9-10 Wind Ensemble. The highest-scoring 11th and 12th grade students earn seats in the 11-12 Wind Ensemble. The next highest-scoring group of students in 11th and 12th grades earn seats in the 11-12 Symphonic Band. A total of about 190 students can earn seats in the bands. The number of students selected is pre-selected and varies by instrument.
- Students who earn seats are invited to participate in the All-District Clinic in late January at a site to be determined. Mr. Cox provides transportation and supervision throughout the clinic. All-District Bands are directed by top-tier high school and college band directors and feature the very best band members from across the Central District.

All-State Band (optional)

- The very highest-scoring students in the 9-10 and 11-12 All-District bands are invited to audition for the NC All-State Honors Band. The number of eligible students varies by instrument. Larger sections, like flute, clarinet or trumpet, have more eligible seats. Smaller sections have fewer spots.
- Audition requirements are similar to All-District Band. The specific requirements for All-State are different than for All-District Band. Students are responsible for finding and preparing the correct requirements. Audition requirements are posted at www.ncbandmasters.org.
- Auditioning students compete against the highest-scoring students from the other five districts. There is a 9th-10th grade All-State Band and an 11th-12th grade All-State Band. The All-State Bands are directed by nationally-recognized high school and college band directors.
- The 2017 All-State Band Clinic will be in March/April

CONCERT AND OFF-CAMPUS EVENT ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- **A student can be excused from a performance or rehearsal due only to severe illness, death in the family or other emergency beyond the student's control.**
- **In order for an absence to be excused for these circumstances, a written note to the director by the student's parent is required. Student notification is appreciated as a courtesy, but is not acceptable by itself to excuse an absence.**
- If an absence is not due to an emergency, notify the director no later than one week prior to the absence. **It is Northwood High School Arts Department policy that all Arts classes are co-curricular. Performances and rehearsals are required. If performances or rehearsals are to be missed, students may write a paper on a topic chosen by the teacher, and it will total 4 pages for every full event missed.**
- Students should attend the entire performance or rehearsal.
Parents, please do not arrange events such that you need to pull your child away after a half-time performance or leave before the end of a concert. This is a matter of courtesy to the other students performing and respect for our duties at football games. At concerts, all performers deserve an attentive and respectful audience, not just your child's group.
- **Absences from band events because of a student's work schedule will not be excused.** Required events will be made known to students at least two weeks in advance to avoid job scheduling conflicts. Concerts are required assignments for all band courses. If a family's financial situation requires that a student work, please notify the director well in advance so that other arrangements can be made. This information will be held in strict confidence.
- Parents are responsible for providing or organizing transportation to an event for their child. With advance notice, the Band Booster organization or trustworthy students can help to provide rides to students if there is a transportation problem.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

MARCHING BAND

There are two uniforms for marching band performance. The director will inform the students which uniform will be used for each event.

Summer Uniform - Worn during August and September when the weather is usually hot.

- Current-year theme T-shirt tucked into jeans.
- Denim blue jeans. Do not wear skin-tight jeans or jeans with holes.
- Closed-toe sneakers. Wear shoes that have as much white coloring as possible.
- White socks.
- No jewelry (watches, earrings, finger rings, studs, etc.)
- No hats of any kind.
- No unnatural hair colors.

Full uniform - Worn at all football games and competitions in and/or after September.

AT FOOTBALL GAMES:

- Wear band T-shirt beneath uniform.

In the event that we have a Saturday event following a Friday night game, band members may be asked to wear a solid white or black T-shirt beneath their uniform during the Friday game. This will save the band T-shirt for the Saturday event.

AT COMPETITIONS:

- Wear the current-season band T-shirt during and after performance.
Additional band T-shirts are available for a fee from the Band Boosters.
- Marching uniform, adjusted for appropriate sleeve and pant length.
- Black marching shoes, available for order through the Band Boosters. These shoes can also be used for concert performance.
- **Black socks**
- Gloves
- No jewelry, fingernail polish or make-up may be worn.
- Hair must be slightly above the collar when the head is in instrument playing position. If the hair is longer, the student should cut it before an event or wear it such that it fits inside the uniform hat.
- Students may wear non-uniform hats (such as ballcaps) only when they have changed completely out of uniform following performance.

NOTE: Students should not get piercings during the marching season.

COLOR GUARD

Color Guard will follow the Summer uniform when the Marching Band uses it. Because the Color Guard's Full uniform changes each year, some guidelines for its wear are handled year-to-year. However, these guidelines should be followed at all times:

- Hair should be neatly combed and maintained as required by the Full uniform. The guard instructor or band director will provide specific instructions.
- Hair should be kept to natural colors.
- All earrings, finger and toe rings should be removed.

INDOOR BAND PERFORMANCES

"Black and White" concert attire

Women: Black dress pants, white blouse, black dress shoes.
Hair must be a natural color. It can be dyed, treated or highlighted, but unnatural colors, such as purple, green, blue and so on, should not be present on a concert stage.

Men: Black dress pants, white long-sleeved shirt, tie, black socks and black dress shoes.
You may wear marching band "dinkles" as your concert shoes.
Hair must be a natural color. It can be dyed, treated or highlighted, but unnatural colors, such as purple, green, blue and so on, should not be present on a concert stage.

OTHER

- Never chew gum while in performance attire.
- Each band and guard member **MUST WEAR** their current-year band T-shirt after performance, but their other clothes may be "street clothes" so long as they meet Chatham County Schools dress code.

TRAVEL POLICIES

MEDICAL RELEASE AND FIELD TRIP FORM PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION

- Each year, a Medical Release Form and Field Trip Permission Form shall be completed and signed by the student's legal guardian(s). Marching Band members complete these materials in their Procedure Packet.

- These forms must be on file with the director before a student may travel with the band. Special health problems should be noted on the Medical Release form. It is especially important that changes in phone numbers and medication/medical conditions be provided.

CHAPERONES:

- Chaperones accompany the bands to every performance to provide assistance and supervision for the students. They also help prepare equipment for performance.
- The directions of chaperones must be followed. Infractions will be reported to the director for disciplinary action.

TRAVELING TO AND FROM PERFORMANCES:

- The band will travel by activity or charter bus to performances. While traveling, Chatham County Schools guidelines regarding bus behavior are in effect.
- We cannot allow any student to return home by any means other than the bus unless the student is leaving with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s). Give a written note signed by the parent to the director before leaving the event. This relieves the band and the school system of any and all responsibility once the student departs with the parent/guardian. Under no circumstances should a student leave an event with anyone other than a parent or designated guardian.

ITINERARY

- A written itinerary will be sent home with the student one to two weeks prior to an off-campus event. This itinerary will be sent as soon as all information for a complete itinerary is available.
- **In the event that we return to the school more than 1/2 hour early or late, Mr. Cox will post a note through Remind.** Students will also be allowed to call parents with their cell phones.

DISMISSAL AND PARENT PICK-UP

- **All students are required to assist in resetting the band room and putting away equipment when we return from a trip. The director will dismiss the group once all tasks are completed.**
- The director will make every effort to return and dismiss your children at the time indicated on the itinerary. He will also stay at the school until all students have been picked up.
- **Parents, please pick up your child promptly at the school at the end of the trip. The director has been supervising your child (and many others) all day or evening and appreciates your courtesy in picking up your child promptly.**

DISCIPLINE

- Each student is subject to the rules and regulations of Chatham County Schools on any trip with the Band. Infractions of these rules are subject to disciplinary action by the director and NHS administration.
- If a serious violation of school policy (notably alcohol or drug use or violence) occurs while traveling as a member of the NHS Band Program the student may be sent home at the discretion of the director. Such an action will be made after consultation with the student's parents. Any costs incurred as a result of this disciplinary action will be the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian of the student.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- Mr. Cox - in-class instruction, handouts, Plus-1 tutoring by appointment
- Remind - We'll talk about how to sign up in class.
- Other band members - Call, text, Google Hangout, Skype
- Peer Tutoring
- Private lessons and qualified instrument repair shops
- Google (reputable sources only...)
- *Tonal Energy* app - Apple App Store - \$3.99
- *Subdivide Metronome* app (iOS only) - Apple App Store - \$1.99
- *A.P.S. Tuning Trainer* (iOS only) - Apple App Store - \$2.99
- *Scale-Master* (iOS only) - Apple App Store - \$0.99 - **Include the hyphen in the name when you search!**
- Instrument manufacturer websites and podcasts:
 - www.vicfirth.com Search for "Yamaha" podcasts on iTunes
 - www.conn-selmer.com/en-us/parents **There are many more. Google is your friend!**

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- PowerSchool
 - Your home for up-to-the-minute access to grades and attendance information.**
 - Remind** – A text-message and email service that allows instant communication to students/parents.
 - I will use this service to send you **short day-before and last-reminder texts or emails to the phone or email address of your choice.** I will also use it to announce unexpected changes of schedule for off-campus trips. See the handout for information about Remind. Notes are limited to 140 characters and will be limited to short reminders about assignments, concerts, fundraiser due dates, assessment payment due dates. You can sign up for notes from Marching Band, Symphonic Band or Concert Band. You must sign up for each group individually to receive those messages. **We will only use Remind for communication from Mr. Cox.**
- Band email list
 - Contact Julie Nelson, Booster Co-President, to add your email to this list (jnelson141@gmail.com).
 - Used for "band-wide" emails about fundraisers, Booster volunteer sign-ups and other important events. Longer emails with more in-depth information go out this way.
- Mr. Cox
 - Office phone - (919) 542-4181 ext. 34302
 - Voicemail checked once per day. I will make an attempt to reply within 48 hours, if applicable.
 - Email – mbcox@chatham.k12.nc.us
 - Email checked frequently during the day. Do not expect a response during non-business hours.
 - Other hours by appointment.

SIGN AND RETURN TO MR. COX

STUDENT NAME: _____

- WE WILL GET INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY.**
- PROVIDE PAPER COPIES TO MY CHILD IN CLASS.**

By signing, I am certifying that I have read the complete syllabus for the bands at Northwood High School and will abide by the procedures outlined. I have filled out the Contact Information form from the website as well.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent(s) Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent(s) Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

If your child is in marching band, you do not need to provide fill out the Contact Information form mentioned above due to filling out information in Charms Office Assistant.