

# **NORTHWEST WHITFIELD BAND HANDBOOK**



**MARCHING BRUINS**

**2026 – 2027**

**Welcome:**

Welcome to the Northwest High School Band Program. Some of the best times, life-long friends, and fondest memories will be made here. This band has a storied past built upon the successes of those that came before you. It is now in YOUR hands to continue this tradition of excellence and raise the bar for those that follow in your footsteps. You must reflect on the past while focusing on the present to succeed in the future.

First and foremost, your attitude will contribute to the success or downfall of this organization. Attitudes are contagious; both good and bad. You will not have fun or enjoy yourself 100% of the time. However, it is important for you to understand that sacrifice is necessary to accomplish great things. If you keep your focus on the bigger picture while pushing through those difficult times, they will be well worth it. No matter the situation or the goal that you are trying to obtain, it is important to remember the old adage "No pain, no gain". It is up to you to understand that EVERYTHING we do is to make you better.... regardless of whether you like it or not.

The purpose of this manual is to inform you of the rules and procedures of the various organizations within the band program. Please keep this manual handy to refer to. All band members and parents are urged to read the entire manual carefully prior to beginning band activities. We also require that you sign the agreement form and return it to the band director's office in order to avoid conflicts with the policies and rules stated herein.

It is a requirement of the membership that you keep your parents or guardians informed concerning the band activities, schedules, and responsibilities. The easiest way to do this is to attend the monthly meetings of the Band Booster Club. The meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (except December, January and June). We encourage all parents to be an active member of the Band Booster Club. We also have the ability to send out group text messages to alert you to short term announcements.

While we know that no manual can be all inclusive, we ask you to look here first for the information you need. If you do not find it here, we will be glad to discuss questions you might have about the band program and its procedures. You may always reach me via email at [nathaniel.vanoy@wcsga.net](mailto:nathaniel.vanoy@wcsga.net) or call me at 706-516-2200.

Nathaniel Vanoy  
Band Director  
Northwest Whitfield High School

Assistant Directors:  
Christina Bryant – New Hope Middle School  
Nick Walker – Westside Middle School

## Fees and Payments

The fees for the 2026 – 2027 marching season are as follows:

<b>Marching Band Fees</b> <b>COLORGUARD</b> \$500 <b>PERCUSSION</b> \$400 <b>WOODWIND AND BRASS</b> \$350 <b>8<sup>th</sup> GRADE APPRENTICES</b> \$150	<b>ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN MARCHING BAND FEES:</b> (if needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BAND / GUARD SHOES - \$40</li> <li>● BAND GLOVES - \$5</li> </ul>
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**COMMITMENT FEE:** A \$100 Commitment fee is due 5/20

**MULTIPLE STUDENT DISCOUNT:** Families with multiple siblings in the same household that are participating in the Northwest Marching Band will receive a 25% discount of marching band fees for each additional student.

### ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BY OCTOBER 31ST

Cash/check payments can be placed in the drop box found in the band room. For cash, use the envelopes provided by the drop box and be sure to include the student's name on the envelope. Make checks payable to 'NWSB Band Boosters' and include the student's name in the memo section. Online payments can be made via our website: [www.northwestwhitfieldband.org](http://www.northwestwhitfieldband.org). If you ever have questions about your fees, you can contact Mr. Vanoy at [nathaniel.vanoy@wccsga.net](mailto:nathaniel.vanoy@wccsga.net) or the booster treasurer at [nwhsbandtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nwhsbandtreasurer@gmail.com). All funds collected will be applied towards band fees first.

### PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT

A 10% discount will be given for marching band fees if they are paid in full by the end of band camp in August. **Band Fees must be paid in full before any payments will be credited toward any trips or other band activities.**

### \$25 WORK CREDIT - up to \$150 MAXIMUM

Parents are expected to work in support of the band (i.e. concession stand, pre-season clean, chaperone, meal coordination/serve, pull trailer). \$25 will be credited to the student's account for each event worked up to a maximum of \$150. Be sure to sign in at each event and/or notify the Treasurer to ensure credit. Trailer mileage reimbursement will be credited at \$0.30/mile between locations.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS** - The Commitment Fee is non-refundable. Surplus funds will be applied to the following season's fees. Sr. surplus funds will be applied to the general fund or sibling accounts.

Please know that we absolutely will not allow finances to keep ANY student from participating in the band programs so long as they are in good standing in the program. Please contact Mr. Vanoy or the booster treasurer to discuss alternative payment plans and options. All communication is kept strictly confidential.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is extremely important for parents and students. The NWHS Band Program makes every effort to communicate every event and send reminders out as often as possible. The PRIMARY methods of communication are through items sent home with the students AND the Bandapp texting service. Most reminders are sent out only via text service. It is very important that your family is signed up to receive text alerts. Facebook is used for general promotion of the band program. Specifics are very rarely sent out on our Facebook for the students' safety.

**Google Classroom code:** 7qivz5g

Scan QR to join band app



**Website:** [www.northwestwhitfieldband.org](http://www.northwestwhitfieldband.org)    **View calendar tab**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All band students need to understand their role in the promotion of good will and integrity within the school as a whole. Band students are expected to set the standard for our school with the utmost respect and dignity. Students are expected to show proper regard for all school and county board policies. Band students are to be of good report in all of their classes and promote a good climate and respect for learning. Any consistent conduct unbecoming of a band student will result in removal of the student from the program. Any involvement with alcohol or drugs will result in **immediate removal** from the band program.

## **MARCHING BAND**

The marching band is the largest and most visible performing ensemble of the Northwest Whitfield High School Instrumental Music Program. The Marching Band attends and performs at all football games, competes in area marching band festivals, performs in parades, and different area civic events. The following rules should be read by all members about general conduct, attendance, and bus regulations.

The Marching Bruins serves as the foundation for all ensembles at Northwest Whitfield High School. It is the culmination of all that has been learned to this point in your musical careers. It provides a HUGE

opportunity to showcase your talents and entertain MANY people in the process. The goal of the marching band is to entertain all audience members through a high level of musicianship, showmanship, and character.

This ensemble requires a large commitment. We will practice several weeks during the summer, practice nearly every day after school, perform at all football games, 2-3 Saturday Contests, and various civic opportunities. Please see the schedule below for specific dates and times.

All marching band members are expected to be enrolled in the appropriate concert band or guard class during the school day. These are year long commitments. This is to ensure continued musical achievement, improvement, and development. Students are ALWAYS expected to show up the next day better musicians than they were the day before. Exceptions may be made only in rare circumstances.

Lastly, all students enrolled in band classes are expected to participate with the marching band. The only exceptions that will be made are for those students that are actively participating in fall sports and activities (i.e. football, softball, volleyball, cross country). Other exceptions may be made but must be approved by Mr. Vanoy and an administrator if needed.

### Pass Offs

All performers must pass off music and guard work in order to perform.

### **2026 Marching Band Audition/Rehearsal Schedule**

The schedule for spring and summer rehearsals are listed below. Please plan to attend all required camps and rehearsals. See attendance policy for more information.

#### **Band Camp:**

July 13-17	Guard	8:00 am - 12 pm
July 14-17	Percussion	8:00 am - 12 pm
July 20-24	Full Band	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
July 27-31	Full Band	7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Aug 3 ,4 and 6th	Full Band	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

#### **Saturday rehearsals:**

Aug 8, 15 ,22	Full Band	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
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#### **After school rehearsals:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	Full Band	3:45 pm - 6:00 pm
Wednesday	Full Band	3:45 pm - 5:30 pm

#### **Friday: Game Day**

Students are expected to report to the band room immediately after school in preparation for the game.

#### **Football Schedule**

8/21 CCHS Away	9/11 N Murray Away	10/9 SEH Away	11/6 Heritage Away
8/28 Dalton Home	9/18 Woodland Home	10/23 Ridgeland Home	
9/4 Sonoraville Home	10/2 Adairsville Home	10/30 Calhoun Away	

Scrimmage TBA

#### **Parades etc. Veterans day parade 11/14**

**Competitions Sep 19th, Sep 26th Oct. 3rd Hosting NCC, Oct 17th, County Exhibition TBA**

## **Attendance and Rehearsal Participation**

Consistent attendance AND participation at all rehearsals and performances is crucial to success as a band. It is YOUR responsibility to arrange your schedule so that you may be present at all required and scheduled events. We make it a point to be very up-front and clear about times and dates so that you may plan around marching band. The dates above were announced and sent home in the spring semester. Schedule non-emergency appointments (i.e. dental, orthodontic, medical checkups, etc.) around marching band practices and performances. An attendance policy is located below that could affect your ability to continue to perform with the marching band

**Convenient:** something that is suitable, useful, or causes little trouble, often being easy to use or access. It describes things that fit comfortably into a schedule.

**Commitment:** An agreement or pledge to do something in the future.

## **Required Rehearsals Beginning in July Through First Day of School:**

Missing pre-school year camps creates confusion and causes delays in the process of learning the marching show and music. Plan family vacations, appointments, and trips around the scheduled times above.

Missing more than 10% of the required rehearsals prior to the school year start date will result in a loss of position. In the meantime, an apprentice may be placed in your spot to shadow. You will have one week to reclaim your position on the field. This will be determined by the Director, Assistant Directors, and instructors.

Missing more than 25% of the required rehearsals prior to the school year start date will result in permanent loss of drill spot on the field.

## **Required Rehearsals Beginning the First Day of School:**

### **Time for Time**

Students will not be allowed to march until missed time is made up. Time may be made up after normal rehearsals with a section leader and/or the band captain.

MOST CONFLICTS CAN BE AVOIDED AND/OR WORKED OUT WITH COMMUNICATION. Notifying Mr. Vanoy as soon as a potential conflict is realized will provide a greater opportunity for compromise!

### **Missed Rehearsals:**

If a student misses a rehearsal then, they will have the option to make up the time they missed by running laps or through time for time. If a student does not make up their time, their spot will be taken by an eighth grade apprentice until time is made up.

### **Excessive Missed Rehearsals:**

After 3 unexcused missed rehearsals, a band member will be placed on probation and an apprentice will be assigned to shadow the member's drill spot during rehearsal. Upon the 4th

unexcused absence, the member will lose their drill spot and future membership in the marching band will be discussed.

### **Missed Performances**

Any missed performance for any reason may result in the student's position being filled by an alternate. Missed competitions even if it is the first absence will result in removal from the ensemble. This will only affect marching band and not affect the student's participation in band class. Illness, family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances (at discretion of Mr. Vanoy and a school administrator if needed), will be considered for exceptions to this. To be considered for excusal, the reason for absence must be presented to Mr. Vanoy in writing (hard copy or email).

### **Physicals:**

In general, a physical is NOT required to participate in the marching band. However, there are certain circumstances in which we will require a physical to be submitted for continued participation with the marching band.

1. If a health situation occurs with an unknown cause during practice, a game, and/or other performance that requires medical attention from EMS, trained staff, or close supervision by chaperones, a physical will be requested.
2. If a student "sits-out" five times or more during practices, rehearsal, and/or warm-ups, a physical will be requested.

Student health and safety is of the utmost importance. Marching band requires a certain amount of athleticism and conditioning. Adequate breaks with available water will be given during rehearsals. We encourage students that feel light-headed, dizzy, short of breath, or overheated to sit down somewhere and send another student to immediately alert a director, staff member, or chaperone. It is IMPERATIVE that any known health issues be listed on the "Student Medical Profile Sheet" as well as interventions needed to remedy them if they happen to arise.

Tips to help keep "sit-outs" from happening from weakness and/or light-headedness:

1. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, every day and stay away from carbonated and/or sugary drinks. Each student is required to have a 2qt. insulated water bottle.
2. Limit caffeine intake. Caffeine is a diuretic and accelerates dehydration.
3. Eat wholesome, healthy foods and limit intake of refined sugars and processed foods.
4. Eat a good breakfast and limit intake of sugary cereals and sugary toaster products.
5. Exercise regularly. Walking 30 minutes a day (or the equivalent) is adequate.
6. Get outside some during the summer and acclimate yourself to the heat.
7. Practice deep-breathing exercises. Improper and shallow breathing can lead to light-headedness.
8. Take daily prescribed or necessary over the counter medication at the same time every day and do not miss doses.

### **Lettering Policy**

Students may letter at the end of their first year if they meet this requirement AND earn enough points on the awards sheet located at the end of this handbook. All wind and percussion students will be eligible to letter at the end of their second year of meeting criteria below. Completion of additional years will earn the student a bar to have placed on their letter.

Consistency and continuity are very important to any performance organization and we encourage everyone to participate in every musical organization possible offered through the instrumental music program. All wind and percussion members of the Blazing Blue must be registered for a class and participate in both the marching band and another concert organization in order to be eligible for a letter.

Lettering requirements for wind/percussion players are:

- Participate in the Blazing Blue Marching Band and one additional concert ensemble (Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band).
- 90% attendance to all scheduled rehearsals; with no unexcused absences.
- 100% attendance for all performances. An unexcused absence automatically eliminates a student from an end of the year letter.

Color Guard members are eligible for letters upon completion of their second year of membership and the following criteria are met. There is no option to letter at the end of the first year.

- 95% attendance to all scheduled rehearsals; with no unexcused absences.
- 100% attendance for all performances. An unexcused absence automatically eliminates a student from an end of the year letter.

Emergency medical or family situations are of course taken into consideration, but it is the responsibility of each student/parent to notify the director (not the section leader, best friend, etc.) of such a situation. The director reserves the right to use his discretion under any circumstances.

## **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

ALL Whitfield County Board of Education Discipline Codes will be strictly enforced!!!

1. Be respectful to others and their property.
2. Enter the band room quietly and set up quickly.
3. BE ON TIME for all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Class begins when the director steps up on the podium. You are late if you are not prepared!
4. Do what is right even when others are not. Lead by example.
5. Keep the band room, practice fields, and any other areas occupied or passed through by any band member clean and neat.
6. Never pick up or play anyone else's instrument or equipment. Only percussionists are to touch the percussion equipment.
7. No playing out of turn! This means an instrument will not be played unless given specific instructions by the director.

8. Come to class prepared: instrument in working order, music, accessories, pencil and method books.
9. No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band room at any time.
10. There is more than enough time for socializing in our programs. Save conversations for before or after rehearsal, bus rides, etc. Do not talk during rehearsals or when any director is addressing you.
11. Study music quietly when the director is assisting other students.
12. Do not enter Mr. Vanoy's office without his permission.
13. All part assignments are made according to the practical chromatic range of the player. Seating within the ensemble is determined by the musical part.
14. Musical part assignment is based on ability, attitude, and regular individual practice.
15. Absolutely NO public displays of affection while in uniform (kissing, hand holding, etc.).
16. Bad language will not be tolerated. This is especially true while in uniform.
17. 17.Mature behavior and self-discipline is expected in all classes, rehearsals, performances, and events.
18. No energy drinks at any time.

### **Discipline:**

All school and county board policies and rules will be in place while participating with the band. This means that while representing the band, the rules will follow you wherever we go, regardless of location. Any infractions will be dealt with according to the Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary infractions may result in removal from the band.

### **Non-Band Students**

The following items are in place in order to protect the band students, their equipment and their belongings:

1. Any students not currently enrolled or participating in the band are not allowed in the band room without Mr. Vanoy's permission.
2. Non-band students including former band members are not allowed in the band set-up in the stands at football games at any time (including 3rd quarter).
3. Non-band students may not ride on or enter any bus that is reserved for the band.

### **MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS**

Marching band uniforms are provided for your use by the Northwest Whitfield High School Band Booster Club. A cleaning fee is charged annually to cover the expense of two dry cleanings throughout the marching band season which are included into the students' band fees. Each member is responsible for purchasing the following items: marching band shoes, black socks and black gloves, Guard uniforms, equipment & accessories . NO SHOES OR GLOVES ARE TO BE KEPT IN THE UNIFORM BAG OR STORAGE ROOMS; THESE ITEMS ARE TO GO HOME WITH YOU AFTER EACH GAME OR EVENT.

**NO JEWELRY OF ANY SORT** will be worn with the band uniform pursuant Georgia High School Association safety regulations. Regular uniform inspections will be held by section leaders prior to performances to check for clean uniforms, black socks, and polished black band shoes.

Hair must be contained within the shako (hat). No hair should touch the collar of the uniform. Front ensemble and colorguard students must have natural hair colors. Gentle highlights are appropriate. See Mr. Vanoy with any questions.

Alternate uniforms of the current year's band shirt and issued shorts may be used depending on weather conditions. Only tennis shoes will be allowed.

**The marching band uniform is the symbol of pride and dignity. Treat it with the utmost respect at all times. Not wearing uniforms appropriately will be dealt with swiftly. This includes following protocol set by Mr. Vanoy or an assistant director depending on conditions. For instance, the band may not remove their coats unless instructed by Mr. Vanoy or an assistant director. When in doubt, you should be in FULL UNIFORM (all uniform parts on and zipped). Do not assume otherwise. Wearing shakos (hats) or plumes inappropriately will also not be tolerated. This is non-negotiable.**

**Remember that there will be ABSOLUTELY NO public display of affection and ABSOLUTELY NO foul language when you are representing the band. This means in full or partial uniform, member shirts, or section shirts. This will not be tolerated.**

## **FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES**

### HOME GAMES

1. Students will report to the band room at 3:45 for rehearsal
2. Students will eat dinner together and remain in the designated area until dismissed. Students will not wander through campus unattended or return to the band room until instructed to do so.
3. When entering the stands, you will find your place and remain AT ATTENTION.
4. Band members will sit in their seats, **always pay attention and be ready to play (NO CELL PHONES)**. No one will be permitted to move from their designated seat in the band block.
5. Eating is not permitted during the first half and fourth quarter. **Do not bring food into the band section at any time. This includes having someone bring you food.**
6. No one except band members may sit inside the band block. Friends and family may sit in the section of bleachers adjacent to the band. Section leaders are responsible for enforcing this policy and reporting infractions to Mr. Vanoy
7. We will begin playing at the buzzer announcing the end of the third quarter. Anyone not present at this time will be considered late. Exceptions may be made for running clocks (one team is up by 30 points), or long concession lines. **Socializing and waiting until the end of the 3rd quarter to get food is not an excuse.**
8. All members will sit with the band until the whole band is dismissed. No exceptions.
9. No one will be permitted to leave early from any game.

## **10. NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN THE BAND SECTION, water is the only exception.**

### **AWAY GAMES**

All regulations for home games will be in force for away games with the following modifications and additions.

1. All band members will ride to and from away events on the band buses. All equipment will be unloaded and put away; buses will be cleaned before students are released to go home.
2. All members will ride the buses according to the bus list. Band members will sign up for buses before the first trip. Changes from one bus to another will not be permitted after the bus list has been made.
3. Students are to respectfully adhere to all chaperone and bus drivers' requests.
4. Sound equipment is permitted only with headphones.  
*Please note that the band/school is not responsible for any personal belongings that are lost or stolen.*
5. The standard health form, completed by each member and signed by a parent or guardian, must be on file with the band director before you are allowed to travel with the band.

### **BUS BEHAVIOR**

All Whitfield County Discipline Codes will be in effect on the bus. Excessive noise will not be tolerated. It is distracting to the driver and a threat to your safety. Please follow all requests from drivers and chaperones. Buses must be cleaned by the students after every trip. No wrappers, bottles, or paper should be left on the floors. Failure to do so will result in a warning. The second time any bus is left dirty will result in one trip with students assigned to buses by Mr. Vanoy. The third time will result in assigned buses for the rest of the season. Boys will sit with boys and girls will sit with girls. It is up to the chaperone to determine seating.

### **Concert Bands and Ensembles**

The concert bands at Northwest Whitfield High School serve as the primary training ground for increasing musical proficiency and maturity. These bands are where the greatest musical improvement will take place. **All members of the marching band are required to be in the appropriate instrumental ensemble Fall and Spring.** All students that are enrolled in any band course are required to attend all concerts and rehearsals. If a student misses a performance an alternate assignment will be assigned

Membership in the concert bands is open to any student at Northwest High School provided that the student has been involved with the middle school band programs and has been recommended by the middle school band directors. Assignment to a particular band is made by the band director prior to registration for the following semester. Each person will be assigned to one of the following bands

WIND ENSEMBLE: This band is made up of the most advanced musicians at Northwest Whitfield High School. This band is the most advanced performing group at Northwest. The Wind ensemble performs at the Georgia Music Educators State Concert Band Festival as well as community sponsored events. Placement is determined by Mr. Vanoy

SYMPHONIC BAND: This band is composed of developing musicians. This band's main focus is development of skills necessary to play at the highest level. The Concert Band performs at the Georgia Music Educators State Concert Band Festival as well as school concerts. Placement is determined by Mr. Vanoy

JAZZ BAND: This band is composed of advanced level musicians who are interested in jazz.. Instrumentation is limited to trumpets, trombones, saxophones, percussion, guitar, bass guitar, and piano. The jazz band performs school and community events.

PERCUSSION: This group is composed of all of our percussionists within the band program as a whole. These students will accompany the concert bands as well as percussion ensembles and spring productions.

## GRADING FOR ENSEMBLE CLASSES

- Daily Participation Grade/ Performances/ Written Work (80%) Test (20%)

## CLASS MATERIALS

Students are expected to have all materials in class each day for their participation grade.

1. Band Instrument
2. Band Folder (Music & Method Books)
3. Pencil (NO PENS) – Keep in your folder.
4. Instrument specific Supplies
  - Flute: Tuning Rod (specific to your make & model), cotton cleaning swab or bandan.
  - Oboe: 3 reeds at all times (Martin Leshner medium-soft) reed case, 35mm film canister (for reed soaking), weighted silk swab, cork grease.
  - Bassoon: 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium soft), reed case, 35mm film canister for reed soaking, weighted silk swabs (for boot joint and wing joint), bocal brush, cork grease.
  - All Clarinets: 4 reeds at all times (Vandoren V-12), Hite mouthpiece & Rovner ligature. Weighted silk swab & cork grease.
  - All Saxophones: 4 reeds at all times (Vandoren) Hite mouthpiece & Rovner ligature, neck strap, weighted silk swab, cork grease.
  - Trumpet: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth, mouthpiece.
  - Horn: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece.
  - Trombone: Slide lubricant (superslick), tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, mouthpiece.
  - Euphonium & Tuba: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Mouthpiece.
  - Percussion: 8 inch practice pad, stick bag with the following: Vic Firth SD1

general concert snare sticks, Vic firth M1 yarn mallets, Vic Firth T1 general timpani mallets.

### RECOMMENDED MATERIALS FOR HOME PRACTICE

The following materials will make home practice much more enjoyable and productive. Metronome, Electric tuner, Wire music stand.

### PERCUSSIONISTS

The band program owns thousands of dollars worth of percussion equipment. The students may use this equipment with certain restrictions:

1. Students are responsible for putting away all percussion equipment at the end of each rehearsal. This will be used in the grading process.
2. Students found not caring for the equipment or found damaging equipment will be required to pay for the replacement of that equipment.

### SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School Instrument Guidelines:

1. Each student is expected to keep the instrument issued to them to use in good playing condition and clean at all times. Students are responsible for repairs that result from mishandling and abuse.
2. Abuse or mishandling of the instrument will be cause for the instrument to be taken away from the student. This includes dropping the instrument in class.
3. Students who have been issued a school owned instrument are expected to turn in practice records.
4. The instrument is not to be played or borrowed by friends, family, or fellow band members.
5. The student shall turn in the instrument whenever requested by the director.
6. STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE INSTRUMENT OUT REGARDING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INSTRUMENT

All students are required to complete a check out form signed by a parent. This is a contract that says that all repairs acquired throughout the year will be taken care of by the student's family and if the instrument is lost or damaged beyond repair, the student will be required to pay the value designated on the form to replace the instrument.

### Ensemble class scheduling

Ensemble classes are offered each fall and spring semester. It is vitally important that your continuous membership in the ensemble both semesters be of the highest priority. The only way to develop your individual performance ability and the performance ability of the band is to be actively involved each semester. Students should be striving to improve their abilities. Band is not a seasonal activity. It is a year round activity. All scheduling conflicts must be channeled through Mr. Vanoy, or student's counselor.

## **HONOR BAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Our students are eligible to audition for all Georgia Music Educators Association honor band events as well as state sponsored events. All Northwest Whitfield High School band students are strongly encouraged to audition for every event. Northwest is very fortunate to have many students who have been selected for these various honor bands and have benefited themselves greatly as well as the band. Listed below are some of the different opportunities:

### **Governor's Honors Program**

Students from the entire state of Georgia audition for placement in these honor groups in every field, including music. Students from the tenth and eleventh grade are chosen for the selection process. The first regional audition is in the second week of October. The final audition and selection process is in February. Results are given the week after spring break. If selected, student participation includes a six week course offering in music at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, GA .

### **District 7 Concert (9-10) & Symphonic (11-12) Honor Bands**

Students from the district 7 region of the Georgia Music Educators Association audition for placement in the honor band. The region is from the Carrollton Area up the Western half of Georgia to the Tennessee state line. This honor band is composed of the finest musicians in our district. The audition requirements are the same as the 1<sup>st</sup> level of the All State Band audition.

### **All State Concert Band & Orchestra (9-10) All State Symphonic Band & Orchestra (11-12)**

Students from the entire state of Georgia audition for placement in these honor groups. This is considered the pinnacle of any high school musician in the state of Georgia. The students that are selected for this ensemble are often heavily recruited by college music departments throughout the United States.

## **THE BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION**

The parents and friends of the band members of Northwest Whitfield High School have for many years maintained the Band Booster Club (a non-profit corporation). The members of the Booster Club have consistently supported the music groups of the instrumental music department and have rendered valuable financial aid and parental backing to all the

instrumental organizations. The success of the Instrumental Music Department at Northwest Whitfield High is due, in large part, to the active participation of the Band Booster Club. The band booster club meetings are the second Tuesday of each month (except December, January and June) @ 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The following parents will be serving as officers for the 2026-2027 school year:

### **Band Booster Club Officers**

President/Co Anthony Hulse, Kristy  
Harden

Treasurer Amanda Hegwood  
Secretary Bobby Fugatt

Vice President Beth Osborn  
2nd VP (Concessions) Misty Hulse

The objectives of the band booster organization are:

1. To arouse, stimulate, and maintain an enthusiastic interest in all phases of the instrumental music department at Northwest Whitfield High School.
2. To cooperate with those in charge of the instrumental music department and the Whitfield County Board of Education to the end that this department be brought to and kept at the highest possible degree of efficiency.
3. To develop a closer relationship between parents and the school, fostering the musical interest and education of the children, and stimulating the knowledge, performance, and appreciation of finer music.
4. To assist in the purchase of band uniforms, instruments, and other equipment not regularly provided by the Whitfield County Board of Education budget.
5. To augment or encourage educational trips, festivals, and concerts that are approved or sanctioned by the school.
6. To aid in chaperoning football games.
7. To work in the concession stand during football season.
8. To oversee all fund-raising projects.

We have a very active and supportive band booster organization that sponsors these projects.

### **FUNDRAISING POLICY**

All students and parents participating in the band program are encouraged to participate in all fund-raising events. These monies are used to benefit the band program as a whole for specific purposes. The purpose of any fund-raising project is to **raise funds for a specific objective**. All monies raised will go for that specific objective only. All fund-raising activities are sponsored by the Whitfield County Board of Education and the Northwest Whitfield Band Booster Organization. Any monies that are raised through the fund-raising event belong to the booster organization. **NO MONIES WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS.** Funds raised go either to the general budget or to specific student's accounts based on their fundraising results. For student specific fundraising, the funds can be applied to any balances related to their marching band fees or trips.

## First Year Member Letter Award (Winds and Percussion)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Points</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
50	All-State Band	_____
25	District Honor Band	_____
15	Audition for District Honor Band	_____
10	Audition for All-State Band-Second Round	_____
5 each	Marching Festival – Superior(Band for winds, Drumline, DM	_____
10 each	Best in Class(Band for winds, Drumline for perc.)	_____
10 each	Grand Champion	=====
15	Band Trip (if one is taken)	_____
15	Participate in Concert Festival (LGPE)	_____
5 each	One hour private lesson	_____
25	Play all 12 GMEA scales from memory(percussion on mallets)	_____
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		_____

**50 POINTS ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AN AWARD (BAND LETTER).**

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is true and accurate.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Director's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_