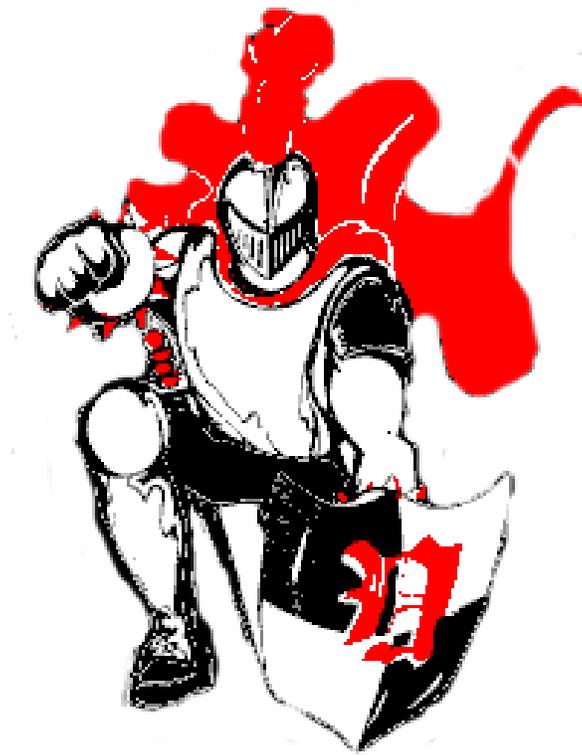


NORTH FORT MYERS HIGH SCHOOL

Handbook



2017-18 BAND HANDBOOK

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IN-SCHOOL ENSEMBLES

Wind Ensemble:

The Wind Ensemble is an elite ensemble comprised of a select group of wind and percussion students based on auditions and/or director placement. This ensemble is intended for musicians with a high level of proficiency on their instrument. The Wind Ensemble performs a variety of challenging concert band repertoire throughout the school year at fall, winter, and spring concerts, the Florida Bandmasters Association Concert Band Music Performance Assessment, and the NFMHS Kaleidoscope Concert. Auditions for this band are at the end of every year.

Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to attend all performances in addition to the class held during the school day. On some occasions, students may be asked to attend after school rehearsals. If after school rehearsals are needed, Ms. Johnson will announce the dates and times in advance. These changes will also be seen on the Band website. Wind Ensemble students will also be required to audition for the All County Concert Band. Students will also be expected to perform in a chamber ensemble or solo at Solo & Ensemble MPA or an equivalent event.

Symphonic, Concert, and General Band:

These three bands are comprised of wind and percussion students based on instrumentation and musical levels. All bands performs a variety of challenging concert band repertoire. Performances include, but are not limited to, fall, winter, and spring concerts, the Florida Bandmasters Association Concert Band Music Performance Assessment, and the NFMHS Kaleidoscope Concert. Members of these bands are required to attend all after school rehearsals and performances in addition to the class held during the school day.

Red Knight Jazz Band:

The Red Knight Jazz Band is a big band jazz ensemble comprised of students based on auditions. This ensemble performs challenging big band music in a variety of styles within the jazz idiom. This ensemble is intended for musicians with a high level of proficiency on their instrument as well as knowledge of a variety of jazz styles. Red Knight Jazz Band performances include but are not limited to fall, winter, and spring concerts, the FBA Jazz Band Music Performance Assessment, and the NFMHS Kaleidoscope Concert. In addition to these performances, this ensemble also performs for various events around the community. Members of this ensemble are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances during and after school. Auditions to be accepted into this band are held at the end of each school year. Accepted instruments are also limited to the following: all saxophones, trumpets, trombones, drumset, piano, bass guitar, and guitar.

JV Jazz Band:

The JV Jazz Band is a big band jazz ensemble comprised of students placed with permission of the band director. This ensemble performs challenging big band music in a variety of styles within the jazz idiom. This ensemble is intended for musicians with a developing level of proficiency on their instrument. JV Jazz Band performances include but are not limited to fall, winter, and spring concerts, the FBA Jazz Band Music Performance Assessment, and the NFMHS Kaleidoscope Concert. Members of this ensemble are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances during and after school. Any instrument is welcome to perform in this jazz band.

OTHER MUSIC INFORMATION

Solo & Chamber Ensembles:

All students will have the opportunity to perform in chamber ensembles and solos at the Florida Bandmasters Association Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment. Participation in a chamber ensemble is highly encouraged of all band members. Solo and Ensemble also includes events for Color Guard in flag, weapon, and dance categories.

Students will be given the opportunity to form ANY kind of chamber group as long as it is approved by Ms. Johnson. There will be some ensembles that will be formed and based on an audition. These audition-based ensembles will participate in Solo and Ensemble along with performing on various concerts.

Students who also participate in chamber ensembles will be given exciting opportunities to possibly perform outside of school. If a group is interested in performed in a community venue, the group must have their music and performance approved by Ms. Johnson before being considered. Performance opportunities will be announced as they become available. These performances will count as Extra Evidence for participating students.

*Private Lessons:

While it is not required, private lessons are also highly encouraged for students who wish to play in any ensemble. There are a number of affordable private lesson options in Lee County. Students will be provided names and contacts of teachers who are available for lessons. Extra credit can be achieved if a teacher signs the Private Teacher Cooperation Form. This must be filled out and turned in to Ms. Johnson by the end of the semester. If further assistance is available in finding a teacher, please contact Ms. Johnson.

**Chair Placements:

Students in each ensemble will be given chair placement tests in order to determine placement within a band. Chair placements in each ensemble will be determined by tests that are given by Ms. Johnson. Tests could include scales, other musical exercises, passages from repertoire being studied, etc. All students will be made aware of the assigned musical requirements at least one week before in order for to fully prepare for each placement tests. Chairs will be reassigned after the fall, winter, and MPA performances. Chair assignments will not have any affect on students grades, but only on the chair placement of each student. Should the repertoire of the ensemble contain an extended solo, the solo will also be assigned based on an audition. After a chair placement exam, students will be given the chance to challenge chairs. A student can only challenge the chair that is immediately before theirs. All chair challenges must be completed three weeks before a performance. Chair assignments that are in place three weeks before a performance are final.

Chair Challenges:

Before each concert series, Ms. Johnson will open the floor for chair challenges. Challenges make it possible for a student, who is not happy with their current chair placement, to challenge for a higher chair.

In order to challenge, a student must:

- Challenge the person directly ahead of them
- Tell Ms. Johnson and the to-be-challenged student the class before the actual challenge
- Ask for approval on the measures/piece that you wish to challenge on

The challenge will take place at the beginning of the class if both students are in attendance that day. Each challenge will be held in front of the class with the winner announced directly after the challenge is played. Should the challenger win, both students will be responsible for getting any new material and will be moved to the new chair immediately. Should the challenger lose, they will remain in their current chair but are able to challenge again the next day. Chair challenges can begin as soon as concert music is passed out and end approximately 3 weeks before the concert date.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

RESPECT

- Your instrument.
- Your peers: This band program functions as a family. Students are expected to treat classmates, director, parents, the many volunteers with the band, and students from other schools with the highest level of respect. Failure to do this will result in disciplinary actions against the student.
- Your classroom: Food will not be tolerated until sanctioned by the director. Refrain from disruptive talking or negative behaviors. Clean up after yourself.
- Your school: Students are not to mark or damage furniture, ceiling, walls, floors, or equipment. Anyone who intentionally damages or destroys school or personal property of others through vandalism will be immediately dismissed from the band program.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- A positive attitude.
- Present an eagerness and willingness to learn.
- Be in class! We begin to play when the tardy bell rings, so please be there as early as you can in order to prepare your instruments and minds for music!
- Practice, practice, practice! Learning doesn't just take place inside the classroom. Each student, regardless of ensemble, is expected to practice at least 30 minutes EVERY DAY.

INTERGRITY

- In this program we will strive to be the best band that is possible for North Fort Myers High School. Each student is held accountable for practicing, being musically and mentally prepared for each lesson, and having a view that will enhance the group every day.
- Set examples of positive self-discipline
- Learn music quickly to help others with their parts
- Take initiative in all class activities

OTHER RULES

- No gum!
- No eating or drinking (other than water) is allowed while playing an instrument.
- The use of cell phones or other electronics during band will NOT be tolerated. If a student is seen using an electronic device during class, they will be asked to pack up and their grade will be deducted.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

The band program at North Fort Myers High School enforces the Lee County School District code of conduct and its disciplinary procedures.

Drugs and Alcohol:

The band program at North Ft. Myers High School strictly enforces the Lee County School District policy on drugs and alcohol. Any student found in possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol no matter what age will be IMMEDIATELY dismissed from the band program. The band director and administration will follow through with the Lee County Code of Conduct policies regarding drugs and alcohol.

By joining the NFMHS Band, and therefore agreeing to this handbook, students agree to refrain from all behavior that may disrespect or hurt band students, parents, or NFMHS Staff. Any activity that is considered bullying, harassment, or disrespectful will be handled accordingly. Students who are found in violation of the above agreement will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Lee County Code of Conduct.

Discipline Policy

Step 1: Verbal warning

Step 2: Conference with Ms. Johnson and phone call to parents

Step 3: Written referral

Step 4: Removal from the band program

This action includes dismissal from all band classes, extra-curricular band activities, use of band equipment/facilities, and other band-related events.

*Students who commit actions that seriously endanger band students, parents, instructors, and the security of band facilities will be dismissed immediately from the band program at the discretion of the band director and the principal.

MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR EVERY CLASS:

- Instrument and all accessories (i.e. reeds, mouthpieces, oils, creams, etc.)
 - If you are renting your instrument, you must provide your own mouthpiece!
 - Woodwinds are asked to keep a MINIMUM of three reeds at all times
- 1 - 11/2 inch binder (ONLY black)
- Plastic sheet protectors
- Notebook paper to be kept in the music binder
- Pencil
- *Students may be asked to bring their chromebooks on occasion. Please keep your chromebooks and all other school supplies in your bookbag at your locker until asked to get them.

GRADING

- 40% Performance Quizzes

Performance evaluations include any in-class playing tests that Ms. Johnson gives the student. Students will be given playing quizzes on, but not exclusive to, demonstrating their knowledge of scales/arpeggios, musical exercises, or musical passages in the repertoire being studied. Students will be given these quizzes with ample warning time in advance in order to prepare.

- 15% Written Assignments

In-class quizzes will be given throughout the year covering various aspects of musical information covered in class.

- 10% Journal Assignments

Students will be asked on occasion to complete a journal entry. Entries might include concert reflections, listening examinations or reflections, or exit slips after a class period.

- 10% Weekly Grade

Participating in daily class instruction is critical to the success of the individual and to the entire band. This includes demonstrating correct playing techniques, having required materials every day, and demonstrating appropriate behavior. Each day, a student will receive a grade based on this 5 point scale:

5: Prepared for class with instrument with all required materials and appropriate behavior

4: Unexcused Tardy or Missing a binder/music

3: Poor participation in class

0: No instrument (or not mouthpiece or reed)

If an instrument is being repaired, please let Ms. Johnson know BEFORE CLASS STARTS. Students will not be penalized for having an instrument gone for repair; however, they should make every effort to do so at a time when it will least conflict with rehearsals. If an instrument is being repaired, please send a parent email or a note to Ms. Johnson notifying her.

- 25% Performances/Concerts

Students will be given a grade for their attendance and participation in each required concert and dress rehearsal. If you are aware of a conflict, let the director know as soon as possible. The student will either be assigned a project or will be asked to participate in an Extra Evidence assignment in order to receive partial credit for the concert missed.

*Extra Evidence:

Students who wish to raise their grade more than one letter higher may complete more than one extra evidence assignments. Extra evidence opportunities can be used as a make-up for excused absences.

Opportunities:

- Participating in an approved performance community venue.
- Audition for an All-State Ensemble, and do one practice audition with Ms. Johnson
- Perform with another honor ensemble (i.e. Southwest Florida Youth Symphony, Naples Youth Jazz Orchestra)
- Perform with an All-County Ensemble
- Take at least three private lessons on your primary instrument. Private teachers must fill out the required form.
- Written research paper (1300-1800 words) on an approved topic. See Ms. Johnson for more specific paper requirements.
- Attend two performances by the NFMHS Arts Department, Naples Philharmonic, Southwest Florida Symphony, Naples Jazz Orchestra, FGCU or Edison College Ensemble and write two page, double-spaced reviews for each performance. An original program must be turned in with the review in order to receive credit. All NFMHS performances are listed on the band website and school website calendars.

USE OF BAND FACILITIES

Band students are permitted inside the facility ONLY when the director or a staff member is present. Unless specified, a student should not enter band facilities unattended. Any students that are staying after school for rehearsals or performances are expected to stay in assigned areas only. Assigned areas include the band room and any other designated rehearsal space.

Practice Rooms:

These are to be used for practice or private study only. Please keep each room neat and refrain from removing the chair and stand that is placed in each room. Students may only use these rehearsal spaces with the permission of director. Only one student should occupy a practice room at a time unless given permission by the director. If you wish to use a practice room, you must ask Ms. Johnson to have it unlocked.

Instrument Equipment Room:

Only students who store instruments in the locker room should be in this area. Books, clothes, and other personal items will not be allowed in this area. Those who use this room should leave the room cleaner than when they found it. Please try to keep all cases and equipment off of the floors and stored on shelves.

Library:

The library is off-limits and is to be used only by the librarians, staff, and specific people whom Ms. Johnson designates. If a student wants to check out music, Ms. Johnson must be informed before the materials are handed out. This room may be used periodically for practicing, especially for those students in chamber ensembles, with Ms. Johnson's permission.

Band Office:

This area is private and is not to be entered by any student unless the director is present. Should a student enter this room without the permission of a staff member, they will be immediately reported to administration.

Uniform Room:

The uniform room is a non-student area. This area is to be kept clean and neat at all times. Periodically this room may be used for small ensemble rehearsals with the permission of Ms. Johnson.

Color Guard Room:

The color guard is reserved for the Marching Knight color guard members only. This room will remain locked during the school days and opened after school for sectionals and band/guard rehearsals. Unless in the auxiliary unit, students should not be in the color guard area.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of that instrument or piece of equipment. Lost or damaged items shall be replaced at the student's expense. Before school-owned instruments are checked out, a **loan agreement** form must be filled out and payment must be received (**\$35 for the school year, \$25 for the summer**). Students who are sharing an instrument (ex: tubas or horns) they will be asked to pay \$20). Students will not be prevented from using equipment for any financial reason. Students must return any items checked out at the director's request. If you are renting an instrument from the school YOU must provide the mouthpiece and other instrument supplies.

Please note that you will NOT receive an instrument until you pay the above fee. If a student is caught using a school-owned instrument without filling out a contract or payment, they will be given in-school suspension and be charged for that instrument price. School owned instruments do NOT include a mouthpiece or other instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc). The student is responsible for securing all other instrument needs.

BAND INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Students who have appropriate sized instruments may be issued a locker to store their instrument and music. Lockers will be assigned at the discretion of the band director. There are a limited number of lockers, so not all students are guaranteed to be able to store all of their instruments in lockers. Two students may share a locker. This year, we will be receiving locks from the school for lockers in the band room. If a student wants to have a locker, they will be asked pay \$5 for each lock. The band director and the administration reserve the right to access student lockers at anytime. Should the band director or the administration need to access a locker, appropriate actions will be taken.

During rehearsal, students may use their lockers to store books, extra clothes or other valuables, however, the school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. The best way to ensure the safety of any personal items is to not bring them. **LOCK YOUR LOCKER AFTER EVERY TIME YOU USE IT.**

UNIFORMS AND ATTIRE

* Please note: Student attire of ALL ensembles will be inspected by the director or staff before every performance. If a student does not have a required uniform part or is dressed inappropriately they will be requested to not perform.

GENERAL, CONCERT, AND SYMPHONIC BAND PERFORMANCES

Men

- Solid black long sleeve, button-down, collared dress shirt
- Solid black dress pants (no jeans)
- Black belt (no studs or any other designs)
- Long black socks
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes or skate shoes)
- No other accessories of any kind such as hats, sun glasses or jewelry

Women

- Solid black blouse with short or long sleeves that covers the mid-drift and chest at all times. NO TANK TOPS.
- Solid black dress pants. LEGGINGS ARE NOT PANTS.
- Solid black dress shoes that cover the toe. Heels or flats are okay.
- Solid black dresses may be worn as long as they extend below the knees when sitting down. There must be sleeves, and the chest must be completely covered.
- No other accessories of any kind such as hats, sun glasses or jewelry

WIND ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

Men

- Tuxedos. We have band tuxedos that will be given out to each male student at the beginning of the year after fittings and alterations take place. It is their responsibility to hold on to the tuxedo for the entire year. If lost or damaged, the student will be held responsible for the replacement or repair funds. Each tuxedo MUST BE RETURNED by the end of the year or else the student will be charged.

Women

- See requirements for Concert/Symphonic Band
- * Eventually, we may be transitioning to an ensemble-wide black dress. Until further notice, please prepare to have the above items ready for a concert. *

JAZZ BAND PERFORMANCES

The attire for all jazz bands will be the same as the concert band attire, except that men must wear a solid red tie.

FEES

- Other Ensemble Fee:
Each student who is not a member of the Marching Knights must pay a \$20.00 fee. Please note, if you are a member of the Marching Knights you do not have to pay this fee. Those students who are also enrolled in period 2 General Band also do not have to pay this fee. This fee covers the cost of music, MPA fees for large ensemble, and clinicians. This fee must be due by August 25, 2017.
- Special Trip Fee:
A planned trip for this year is in the works and will be decided soon. Once details are set, students and parents will be made aware of the information pertaining to the trip. This fee is separate from the regular season fees. All money received will FIRST be applied towards regular season fees. Students must pay all of the regular season fee before being able to begin payments on another fee.
- Other Fees:
Students who are auditioning on more than one instrument for MPA solo and ensemble, all county, and all-state must provide the cost of registration after the first registration fee. If you sign up for an auditioned event and back out, the student will also be charged for the registration fee.

*Fundraising:

There will be various fundraisers sponsored by the band this year. All students should participate in fundraisers as they help offset the costs for individual students as well as the entire program. It is possible to fundraise ALL band fees. Information regarding fundraisers will be given to students during class and will also be found on the band website.

Handbook Agreement Form

I, _____, (student name), have completed the following:

1. Read and agree to all terms set by the NFMHS Band Handbook
2. Reviewed the calendar on the dates and times given. I also understand that it is my responsibility to handle all schedule conflicts **no less than two weeks prior** to events in conflict.
3. Agree to pay the allocated \$25.00 Concert Band fee. (Please check the box below if you are a member of the Marching Knights and will be paying the Marching Knights Fee.

Check here if: I am a member of the Marching Knights and understand that, though I do not owe the Concert Band Fee, I owe the amount of \$200/\$250 for the Marching Knights ensemble fee.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____

This form is due to Ms. Johnson by Friday, August 25.

North Fort Myers High School Band
2017-2018
Friends of Music

The North Fort Myers High School Band Program is proud to continue Friends of Music program. This is a sponsorship program that helps to support the band and it's member at North Fort Myers. Funds generated by the Friends of Music program will be used to:

- Pay for Concert/Festival/Assessment Fees
- Bring in guest clinicians to help our students
- Purchase instruments and equipment that are needed
- Maintain the growth of the band program's musical needs

All Friends of Music sponsors will be listed on our website and in all of our programs, unless requested otherwise.

Sponsorship levels will also be listed:

Friend - \$15 or above

Musician - \$35 or above (Sponsor will receive a certificate.)

Conductor - \$75 or above (Sponsor will receive a framed certificate.)

Maestro - \$150 or above (Sponsor will receive a plaque.)

Virtuoso - \$500 or above (Sponsor will receive a plaque, and a complimentary full-page ad in one of our programs.)

Concertmaster - \$1,000 or above (Sponsor will receive a plaque and a complimentary full-page ad in all of our programs.)

Student Name _____

Sponsor Name _____

Sponsorship Amount \$ _____ Level _____

Name as you would like it to appear in our program:

(Ex. The Smith Family, or Ms. and Mrs. John Smith, or John and Jane Smith etc....)

Please make all checks payable to North Fort Myers High School Band. Thank you!