# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter ........................................................................................................................................3
Letter from the High School Principals .................................................................................................4
Music Dept. Philosophy ..........................................................................................................................5
Band Policy ...............................................................................................................................................6
Objectives of the Band Program ................................................................................................................6
Why Join Band? .........................................................................................................................................6-7
Brief Overview of the Band Program .......................................................................................................8-10
Marching Band Attendance Policy .........................................................................................................11-12
Conflicts with Band ..................................................................................................................................12
Third Quarter Privileges ...........................................................................................................................13
Duties of the Band Member ......................................................................................................................13
The Importance of Attitude .....................................................................................................................14
The Importance of Discipline ..................................................................................................................14
Weapons, Drugs, Alcohol, & Tobacco .....................................................................................................15
How Parents Can Help .............................................................................................................................15
Student Responsibility (to band, ourselves, school music, & each other) .............................................16
General Rules and Procedures ...............................................................................................................16-17
Quality Marching Band ........................................................................................................................17
Marching Band Camp .............................................................................................................................17
Marching Band Rehearsals .....................................................................................................................18
Care of Marching Band Uniforms ..........................................................................................................18-19
Travel Guidelines ....................................................................................................................................19-20
Adjudications, Competitions, and Festivals ........................................................................................21-22
AV, PMEA, & NAfME .............................................................................................................................22
Auditions ..................................................................................................................................................22
Instrument Care ........................................................................................................................................22-23
Music, Flip Folders, Lyres, and Drill Books ..........................................................................................23
Use of the Band Facilities .......................................................................................................................23
Skills Acquired by Participating in the North Allegheny Band .............................................................24
Why Music? ...............................................................................................................................................25
Get Set ......................................................................................................................................................25
System + Spirit = Success ......................................................................................................................26
Acceptance of Rules Sign-off Sheet .......................................................................................................27
Welcome to one of the most exciting, rewarding, and educational experiences that our school has to offer – the North Allegheny Bands! The goal of the North Allegheny Band Program is to ultimately provide our students with a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making.

Recent statistics prove that young people who participate in music are among the strongest academically in their schools. They also have higher SAT score averages than their fellow classmates. Their adult lives are filled with successes which are a direct result of the band experience. Skills acquired through membership include 21st century skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity amongst a myriad of other life skills like self-discipline, persistence, determination, and performance confidence. The North Allegheny Bands will provide this foundation for every student musician in the program.

This Handbook will answer many of the questions you may have concerning the band program, so please use this document as your primary source of accurate information concerning the bands at North Allegheny High School. In addition to this handbook, the North Allegheny Band Website also provides you with the most up-to-date information on all of the bands. Please bookmark www.naband.org and visit the page everyday.

The North Allegheny Band Program means a great deal to those of us who have been a part of its recent successes and wish to uphold the group’s fine tradition. Perhaps our most rewarding accomplishment is that many of our band graduates have gone on to experience great success at some of the country’s finest colleges and universities to major in music education, performance, and various other professional fields.

It is our sincere hope that you will find many long lasting friendships; earn the respect of those around you; and feel genuine pride in a job well done. We expect mature, responsible attitudes and actions – combined with lots of hard work.

By accepting membership in the North Allegheny Bands, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work hard together with the band staff in making this year’s bands the finest that our combined efforts can produce.

Both parents and students are asked to read this handbook in its entirety, sign off on the acceptance of rules and regulations on the last page acknowledging that you have read and understand the contents of this handbook, and return the signed page to the band office.

Every year is a new and exciting challenge; know that you will make a difference. We’re delighted you have chosen to become part of the North Allegheny High School Bands, and we’re looking forward to another exciting year.

Sincerely,

Todd R. Stefan  Stephen G. Baldanzi
Director of Bands  Associate Director of Bands
North Allegheny High School  North Allegheny High School
A Message From Our Principals

Dear Students and Parents of the North Allegheny High School Band,

Congratulations on being a part of the North Allegheny Band Program. The administrative team at NASH commends your commitment in continuing to develop your skills as a musician through the association with a music program that is recognized across the nation for high levels of performance, skill and precision. Participation in our instrumental programs requires a significant amount of dedication to performing consistently at high levels. As you develop through the program, you will gain valuable learning experiences and will have the opportunity to assume leadership roles that will build positive character and will foster meaningful relationships with other talented and motivated individuals. Best of luck this school year and recognize that you contribute greatly to the rich tradition of excellence we have acquired in the North Allegheny School District.

John W. Kreider
NASH Principal

Dear Students and Parents of the North Allegheny High School Band,

Welcome to the North Allegheny Band Program! We are truly honored to have such an amazing program comprised of outstanding students, staff and parents. As always, the North Allegheny Bands have served as a perfect example of the District’s dedication to excellence and drive to succeed. The Program exemplifies what hard work, discipline, and talent can produce.

The NA Bands have achieved local, regional and national honors over the past several years, and have become one of the finest organizations in the region. Recent honors include taking first place and “superior ratings” the last 13 years in festivals across the country, winning the Grand Champion of the Kentucky Derby “Pegasus Parade”, being selected to march in the 56th Inaugural Parade, performing at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Conference 3 times, performing at the MENC All-Eastern Division Conference in Baltimore Maryland, and appearing in Downbeat Magazine twice. The success of our band program is due to the dedication of our band staff, our talented and hard-working students, and the support they all receive from their parents and the community.

As you attend football games, parades, festivals, and concerts throughout the year, please take note of the band’s outstanding achievements and their true dedication to musical excellence.

Music education consistently develops a wide range of skills, positive character traits, and qualities that every parent and school district desires for their students. Our program provides every student with an opportunity to achieve success, which enhances opportunities for success later in life.

Best of luck and know that you are a source of pride to the North Allegheny School District.

Sincerely,
Mr. Hyland
NAI Principal
Music Department Philosophy

Every known civilization has utilized music for satisfying multi-dimensional human needs. Music is the aural art form that satisfies the need to respond emotionally to human experiences. Through listening, performing, creating and responding to music, 21st Century Skills can be achieved.

The Music Department believes that the role of music instruction in the schools is to enhance and expand creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, problem solving, literacy, flexibility, self-direction, social, cross-cultural, productivity, accountability, leadership, and responsibility in students through the integration of music in the teaching/learning process. Music education is both an individual process and a collaborative group experience that provides an enduring understanding of concepts that transcends grade levels and enables responsible individuals to become contributing members of society and to communicate in a global society.

Furthermore, the Music Department believes that the music education curriculum has the following unique and essential responsibilities:

• To heighten the aesthetic development by affecting sensitivity to musical sound.

• To help students attain proficiency so that they may become active participants in music.

• To help students attain the highest level of musical understanding of which they are capable.

• To help students attain an eclectic and multi-cultural perspective through exposure to all music and recognition of its value.

• To create learners who demonstrate self-motivation and direction, engage in collaborative learning, appreciate the importance of life-long learning, and reflect upon their learning process.

• To create thinkers who understand and employ skills of thinking critically, analytically and reflectively, express themselves imaginatively, effectively solve problems, and formulate well-informed personal, social, and academic decisions.

• To create communicators who express their thoughts clearly and coherently, and adapt to emerging technologies.

• To create graduates who recognize the importance of leadership and collaboration, solve inter-personal conflict through negotiation skills, demonstrate ethical responsibility, convey self-confidence and motivation, embrace a well-rounded approach to learning, understand the importance of emotional and physical health, appreciate diversity, and are active in their community.
Band Policy

In order to assist the band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the high school band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe each student should improve through regular practice. When the student has lost the will to improve him or herself, or to make a better contribution to the band, he or she is wasting the time and effort of fellow members and the community by continuing in the program. The happiest student is one who improves through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principals and develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate the learning of all students.

Objectives of the Band Program

• To teach music by its actual performance
• To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments
• To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community
• To develop discrimination with regard to the selection of music
• To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how historical and musical composition relate to students’ lives and musical experiences.
• To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience
• To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop espirit de corps.
• To foster leadership skills within each student.

Why Join Band?

...Imagine going to a new school and not knowing anything about where to go, or who to talk to. The transition from middle school to high school is easier for band students because you will have over 250 friends to help you through this process. Incoming band freshmen have immediate contact with upperclassmen, in a big brother/big sister kind of way. High school band is very healthy for students in a multitude of ways. Let's look at a few...

• We know that high school band students represent the top of the academic scale in our schools. We know that band students are averaging 62 points higher on SAT tests, which would indicate that they are stronger in verbal and math scores than other members of the student body. We also know band students are students who enjoy a successful high school career, go on to college and become the leaders in our society. There is a definite link between the top achiever academically and the band student. They are one and the same.

• In The Arts: An Essential Ingredient in Education, J. Buchen Milley states that "research shows that when arts are included in the student's curriculum, reading, writing and math scores improve.” Like all arts, music has a profound effect on the academic success of the student.

• Band is a group effort. Members are required to shift from an I/Me reasoning to a We/Us concept. This means extending oneself beyond the normal considerations of much of our day-to-day living. Instead of the logic being, what's in it for me, it becomes, what's in it for us. The values of cooperation,
communication, concentration, correlation and completion come into play each rehearsal and performance.

• Music is one of the few academic disciplines that require the student to master skills and apply them in performance. In other words, music involves multiple forms of learning.

• Band builds positive self-worth. Although we share many similarities with our athletic counterparts, band is a place for everyone. Rarely is a person serving as an alternate or substitute. Everyone in the band plays a starting role.

• **Studies by the College Entrance Examination Board show that:**
  o "New research on intelligence and brain function point in exciting future directions that tie directly to music, while the continuing use of music as part of the curriculum is clearly associated with both academic skills and personal characteristics that are highly desirable for school progress and for developing the kind of well-educated young people we need for the nation's well-being."
  o Students (1999) with experience in music performance scored measurably higher in both verbal and math sections of the Standardized Achievement Test (22 points above the mean on verbal and 18 points above the mean on math).
  o There continues to be a significant, and growing, spread between the scores obtained by musicians and those of their non-musical counterparts.
  o The correlation between cognitive learning and musical understanding continues to prove they are linked, and improving one will develop the other. In fact, music is suspected to be the key for unlocking the scientific mind.
  o The theory of "multiple intelligences" tags music as one of the separate minds, and being exposed to music strengthens all other learning forms.
  o Scores rise proportionately higher with the length of time spent studying music in school.

**Why Should You Consider Joining The Band?**

...Because high school band is unlike anything you have done before. It can greatly enhance your high school career, and it is, very simply, a great experience...

North Allegheny High School's band program has become nationally famous, not only for its high standards of performance, but also for the quality of experience given to its members. Our band program is a model for programs across the country. As you participate in the program and continue to grow, this will become more and more clearer to you, as it has to literally thousands of students before you. The pride and sense of camaraderie, that are the cornerstones of our band, will profoundly impact your future. Most students who come to North Allegheny High School are aware of our reputation, but how we reach such high levels is at least a mystery, and often the source of great fear. Incoming freshmen often assume that the only way to get so good is to do nothing else. **This could not be further from the truth.** In fact, one of the facets of the band that we are most proud of is that we accomplish these very high goals while maintaining a balance with the total school experience. We have top scholars, athletes, honor society members, student government leaders, etc. among our ranks.

"It's not good enough to know just math, English, or science. You have to be able to put it all together, and hopefully in a way that no one else has figured out how to do before. To be the next great inventor of something we haven't dreamed of yet, you need to have creative skills. Music really fosters those creative skills." – Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon
Brief Overview of the Band Program

North Allegheny Intermediate High School (NAI)

Wind Ensemble
The Wind Ensemble at NAI is a full credit class and is designed for the most serious and advanced brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 9 and 10. Placement into this ensemble is only by audition and director recommendation. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform the most advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a highly developed sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, advanced theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation in school concerts as well as outside of school performances are all required; including all trips and adjudications. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC honors festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

10th Grade Symphonic Band
The 10th Grade Symphonic Band at NAI is a full credit class and is designed for the 10th grade band student. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform moderate to advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have an above average sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation in school concerts as well as outside of school performances are all required. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC honors festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

9th Grade Concert Band
The 9th Grade Concert Band at NAI is a full credit class and is designed for the 9th grade band student. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform a variety of music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation in school concerts as well as outside of school performances are all required. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC honors festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.
North Allegheny Senior High School (NASH)

Honors Wind Ensemble
The Honors Wind Ensemble at NASH is a full credit class with honors weight and is designed for the most serious and advanced brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 11 and 12. Placement into this ensemble is only by audition and director recommendation. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform the most advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a highly developed sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, advanced theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation in school concerts as well as outside of school performances are all required; including all trips and adjudications. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC honors festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Symphonic Band
The Symphonic Band at NASH is a full credit class and is designed for the advancing 11th and 12th grade band student. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform moderate to advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have an above average sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation in school concerts as well as outside of school performances are all required. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC honors festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Concert Band I & Concert Band II
The Concert Band at NASH is a full credit class and is designed for the 11th and 12th grade band student. This ensemble is the largest band within the Senior High School concert program and is divided into 2 sections in order to help facilitate scheduling and so that more individual attention can be given to each member. Concert Band I and II will always perform as one band for all performances. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform a variety of music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation in school concerts as well as outside of school performances are all required. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC honors festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Co-Curricular Ensembles including grades 9-12

“Tiger” Marching Band
The North Allegheny “Tiger” Marching Band is the only group within the band program that combines all of its members in grades 9-12 together as one ensemble. Membership in the Marching Band includes woodwinds, brasses, percussionists, majorettes, colorguard, dance team, banner carriers, tiger mascots, and band managers. Although participation in the Marching Band is not required, it is strongly encouraged. The Marching Band provides entertainment and school spirit for all varsity football games, pep rallies, and other school functions. The band also acts as “musical ambassadors” to the North Allegheny School District and community by participating in local, regional, and national events such as competitive and non-competitive parades and music festivals, NCAA football games, and a
multitude of special events in and around the Pittsburgh Area that allows the Marching Band to be the most visible ensemble within the North Allegheny Band Program. The Marching Band begins with a two-week band camp at the senior high school in August and rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM during the football season. The band will also rehearse a few times in the spring to prepare for the spring trip and band adjudication. All musicians participating in Marching Band MUST be enrolled in a concert band, symphonic band, or wind ensemble.

**Jazz Ensembles**

Jazz Ensemble begins approximately the end of September/beginning or October with placement auditions. After the auditions are completed, the director will provide a rehearsal schedule that will mesh with the marching band schedule (ie rehearsing on Monday and/or Wednesday). At the conclusion of Marching Band season, Jazz Ensemble I rehearses on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, Jazz Ensemble II rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday after school, Jazz Ensemble III rehearses every Monday and Wednesday after school and Jazz Ensemble IV rehearses either Monday or Wednesday after school (Rehearsal times are subject to change as per the director)

**Jazz Ensemble I** studies and performs the most advanced music for the Jazz Ensemble/Big Band. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required, including all trips and adjudications. No other North Allegheny or non-North Allegheny activity including athletics can interfere with the Jazz Ensemble I schedule. Jazz Ensemble I is the top performing jazz group in the North Allegheny School District and is also the main touring ensemble. Jazz Ensemble I can perform up to 6 to 8 times per year including the main adjudication on the band trip.

**Jazz Ensemble II** rehearses, studies and performs moderate to advanced music for the Jazz Ensemble/Big Band. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required, including all trips and adjudications. Students that audition into Jazz Ensemble II and are members of other non-North Allegheny and North Allegheny groups, organizations, or teams must consult with the director about membership in this ensemble. The decision of the director pertaining to attendance issues is final. Jazz Ensemble II can perform up to 4 to 6 times per year including the main adjudication on the band trip.

**Jazz Ensemble III & IV** rehearses, studies and performs intermediate to moderate music for the Jazz Ensemble/Big Band. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required; attendance on the spring trip is encouraged for Jazz III. Students that audition into Jazz Ensemble III or IV and are members of other non-North Allegheny and North Allegheny groups, organizations, or teams must consult with the director about membership in this ensemble. The decision of the director pertaining to attendance issues is final. Jazz Ensemble III can perform up to 3 to 5 times per year and may include the main adjudication on the band trip. Jazz Ensemble IV will perform 2 times a year at our home jazz concerts.

**Indoor Marching Percussion Ensemble**

Please consult the Percussion Instructor for information and expectations of this ensemble.

**Majorette Squad**

Please consult the Majorette Instructor for information and expectations of this ensemble.

**Dance Team**

Please consult the Dance Team Instructor for information and expectations of this ensemble.

**Colorguard and Indoor Guard**

Please consult the Colorguard Instructor for information and expectations of this ensemble.
Marching Band Attendance Policy

In order for the North Allegheny Band Program to be one of the top musical organizations in this area, it is imperative that our precious rehearsal time is maximized. Your commitment to the success of the band will be directly reflected by your attendance and preparation for each and every band event. Band events, whether during or after school, or in camp, are the means by which students learn and perform, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up.

- It is imperative that you check the band calendar at www.naband.org. This calendar contains all of the band activities for the year. Claiming that you were not aware that there was a band event scheduled will not be accepted as an excuse.
- Changes to the band calendar can occur. If there is a change the students will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the change. (Additions to the band calendar rarely occur)

The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records, i.e., illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday/obligation. Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director(s).

For all absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- The director(s) must be notified at least one week in advance of the absence.
- Either an Absence Form (available at www.naband.org) or a note (email) from a parent telling us the date and reason for the absence must be submitted.
- If an emergency occurs the night or day of an event, and if at all possible, call the band office and leave a message or send an email to the director.
- Although you might have a planned and an excused performance miss, you are still required to attend rehearsals prior to your absence for your benefit and the benefit of the organization.
- Late arrivals and early dismissals will be counted as absences if the band member is not present for enough of the band event to meet the goals of the group.
- The following will be considered an excused absence: (any other reason for an absence will be considered unexcused)
  - A medical emergency
  - A death in your family
  - A personal illness (if you are feeling well enough to be in school the day of a band event, you will be expected to be present at the band event after school that day)
  - A significant family responsibility (wedding, reunion, etc.),
  - A religious holiday
  - A college visit that cannot be made on another date (Limit 2)
  - Once in a lifetime travel opportunities (these do NOT include family vacations).

- The following will be considered an unexcused absence:
  - Missing for WORK is UNEXCUSED…no ifs ands or buts, about it
  - Tickets to a Concert or Athletic Event
Having too much homework... Manage your time! This is one of the attributes that being a part of a band program teaches you. Saying you will fall behind on your homework due to a 90 minute rehearsal twice a week is difficult to believe. Chances are you waited until the last minute to do your work.

- The following procedure will be followed for absences from Marching Band rehearsals:
  - After the first unexcused absence - verbal warning
  - After the second unexcused absence - parental communication and loss of third quarter privileges for that week’s game.
  - After the third unexcused absence - a meeting will be held with the student, parent, and directors about an appropriate consequence and/or the future status of the student in the band program.

- The following procedure will be followed for absences from performances:
  - After the first unexcused absence - verbal warning and loss of third quarter privileges for the following game.
  - After the second unexcused absence - a meeting will be held with the student, parent, and directors about an appropriate consequence and/or the future status of the student in the band program.

- The Marching Band will perform as long as the Football Team remains in the playoffs. The WPIAL and PIAA do not post schedules for playoff games until the Monday before the game. We will be expected to participate in all playoff games. These games are required and are subject to the attendance policies. Playoff games are usually on Friday evenings, but may also occur on Saturday afternoons. Be prepared, plan ahead for the playoffs!

**Conflicts with Band**

Resolving conflicts between band and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are posted at least 2 months in advance on the band website [www.naband.org](http://www.naband.org), so that arrangements can be made.

- In the event that a student belongs to a non-North Allegheny organization, which may be appearing, rehearsing, or meeting during the same time, the Marching Band will take preference. Missing a rehearsal or performance for a non-North Allegheny organization will be counted as an unexcused absence.

- A North Allegheny game or other North Allegheny event will take preference over a Marching Band rehearsal; a Marching Band performance will take preference over any other North Allegheny practice or meeting. In the event that a North Allegheny game or event is scheduled opposite a Marching Band performance, the student must inform the Director at least two weeks in advance of the conflict, so that a solution may be reached.

- The Band Director’s decision will be final.

Other groups or organizations that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice should not interfere with the North Allegheny Band’s long-term plans.

- Do not come to the directors the day before or the day of another scheduled activity, club, or sport and say that you have a conflict. You have to take the responsibility of your own time management and schedule synchronization. You must communicate these conflicts at least two weeks in advance in order to avoid difficult situations and unexcused absences!
Third Quarter Privilege

All Marching Band members will be given a break during the third quarter of all football games. This is a band member’s privilege, and is not a right. Third quarter breaks are given by the directors as a time for the band to socialize with each other, for seniors to visit with the other band members, etc. At home games, the NADBP provides water and hot dogs and at away games the home band may provide the NA band with a snack and/or beverage. As per our attendance policy, Third Quarter Privileges may be revoked for unexcused absences, for disrespectful behavior toward staff or chaperones, and each other, or for any other reason outlined in the North Allegheny High School Code of Conduct.

The following procedure will be followed during the third quarter.

At Home Games:
The entire band will return to the band stands following the halftime show. After the entire band is seated all Seniors and Juniors will be excused to grab a water and hotdog behind the stands. All Freshmen and Sophomores will remain in the stands and will play “School Song”, if the team scores. Seniors and Juniors will return to the stands after receiving their hotdog and water. Once the Seniors and Juniors are seated the Freshman and Sophomores will be excused to grab a water and hot dog, and the Juniors and Seniors will play “School Song” if the team scores. The full band will be seated and ready to play at the break between the third and fourth quarters.

At Away Games:
After the home band’s performance all band members will be permitted to sit in the band’s stands with friends, other sections, etc. However, the band must be ready to play during the third quarter of the game especially when the “Tigers” score. The band must be seated in their sections ready to play at the break between the third and fourth quarters.

Duties of the Band Member

• Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Early is on time – On time is late.
• Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat.
• When the director(s) or staff member steps up on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
• Come to the rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE.
• There should be no excess playing (ex. Horsing around on the instrument), only practicing appropriate musical material.
• Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
• At the end of the rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
• Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
• Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
• Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority (staff and parent volunteers)
• Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.
The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few actual independent choices you have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to practice fundamentals daily. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundations. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

The Importance of Discipline

It is a simple fact that throughout the years there have been relatively few discipline problems in this organization. When you become a member of this band, you do so knowing your obligations and our excellent reputation. It is now your responsibility not only to maintain this reputation, but also raise it to a higher notch.

The pride of this band is built on self-discipline, genuine respect for other people, hard work and high standards of personal conduct and performance. Please think seriously about the fact that you will be treated like a mature, responsible person and you are expected always to act like one. You will be held accountable for your own actions.

As a representative group from North Allegheny, the Band must adhere to the latest Code of Conduct as set forth by the North Allegheny Administration and School Board. We should all be familiar with the contents of the Code of Conduct since it is distributed each year to all students in school. Additional copies can be obtained at the main office at NAI or NASH, and it is available online at www.northallegheny.org.

The Code of Conduct will be in effect at all band events. Examples of disciplinary options contained under each level of misbehavior will be interpreted by the directors, staff and building level administrators whenever necessary.

Disciplinary options for The North Allegheny Marching Band members include, but are not limited to:

- Those found in the Code of Conduct
- The loss of performance privileges
- Loss of spring band trip
- Dismissal from the North Allegheny Band Program
A Word About Weapons, Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

A band member who possesses weapons, alcohol or other drugs, or who is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs;

- **WILL be removed immediately from the band for the remainder of the year, this includes the year-end band trip.** The use of illegal substances will not in any way be tolerated. In addition to the removal of the individual from the band the student will also be subject to the penalties outlined in the school district’s code of conduct policy as handed out by the school administration.

- WILL be immediately reported to the school district administrative authorities. The report will describe the behaviors and conditions surrounding the circumstances.

- WILL be required to undergo an investigative analysis conducted by appropriate professionals. This can include medical, psychological, legal and others as are deemed appropriate by the school district administrative authorities. The recommendations of these professionals shall be followed by the band staff, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s). Should the parent(s) or guardian(s) refuse to cooperate in this investigative analysis, or fail to cooperate in this investigative analysis, or fail to cooperate in or follow through with the recommendations prescribed, then the student shall be permanently dismissed from the band program.

How Parents Can Help

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in this handbook are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies set within and that any questions are to be directed to the band director. Parents can have a very positive influence over their child’s band career by doing the following:

- Get private lessons for your child! The importance of this cannot be over-stated.
- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruptions.
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so by your child.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least three reeds in the case (for woodwinds).
- Purchase a metronome!
- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high and our budget is shrinking!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal and performance
- Notify the band director if your child is to be absent for any reason
- Visit rehearsals and see what we are doing
- Attend as many of your student’s performances as you can.

When a band question or concern arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods presented as facts. If questions or concerns arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact one of the band director(s). If it is a fund-raising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk to the NADBP president.
Students’ Responsibility To The Band

As a member of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. These expectations coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

To Ourselves

You have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument, and private instruction can never be overestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director(s) are always available for your guidance and encouragement — Just Ask!

To The School

The school district provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and equipment. The band patrons also provide a support network, both financially and philosophically. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible performances to our school, parents, and community.

To the Music

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects you to be virtuoso musicians, only to do the very best that you can. The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

To Each Other

We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band members’ integrity. The word “band” implies that we are banded together without divisions.

General Rules and Procedures

Band Members will observe all policies set forth by the North Allegheny High School Band and the North Allegheny School District as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection on the group. Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.
- Students will follow the instructions from all staff.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the rehearsal time.
- Students will bring all equipment and all supplies to rehearsals daily. Any student that comes to a rehearsal or performance and does not actively participate will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to: forgetting an instrument, not having a reed, mouthpiece, sticks, mallets, batons, or flags, not having music, not having the correct shoes for marching, etc. (Students that have
medical excuses or verified instrument repair issues will be exempt from penalty).

• The use of personal communication devices (including cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc.) during rehearsals and/or performances will not be tolerated and will be confiscated by a staff member and returned at the end of the event. **The use of music applications on these devices such as tuners and metronomes will be permitted at designated times**

• All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.

• Students will respect the property of others.

• Any student that is assigned to in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in any band activities for the duration of the suspension. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

• Any band member that is absent from a band activity and is caught in the stands, along a parade route, or in the audience will be removed from the band program. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

• Any student that leaves band camp without permission in his/her car or in someone else’s car will be charged with a tardy and may be subject to further disciplinary action including dismissal from the band.

• 

**Quality Marching Band**

Marching band is a unique form of art, blending sight and sound to present a total product. Of extreme importance, obviously, is how well a band can perform their music while moving. A band that marches with poor technique will also play poorly. The development of marching band from a musical as well as a physical aspect is the challenge that we face. It is important that the proper rehearsal procedures are implemented and that the Staff, Drum Majors and Section Leaders all have a unified approach to teaching. This is the area that I believe our leadership can make a tremendous impact on the success of our preparation.

**Marching Band Camp**

Marching Band Camp is held the two weeks in August before the teacher in-service days, and is run by the directors, band staff, and student leadership. Band camp is mandatory and falls under the attendance policy. Any student missing an entire week of band camp may not be permitted to participate in Marching Band or may not be allowed to perform with the Marching Band until he/she demonstrates complete knowledge of the music, routines, and drill. **Any students not attending either week of band camp may not be permitted to participate in the Marching Band for that year. These situations will be evaluated on a one on one basis by the staff.**

**Student leaders are expected to attend both weeks of band camp. Any student leader not attending both weeks of camp will be removed from their leadership position.**

Parent volunteers will be in attendance to help out with whatever needs may arise. Camp will conclude on the Friday of the second week with an all-day trip to Kennywood and a performance in the Fall Fantasy Parade.
Marching Band Rehearsals

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. If there is a situation preventing this, an absence form or parental note must be submitted before the absence is to take place. After school rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm for the duration of the football season. All 9th and 10th grade students at NAI will take the NAI to NASH school bus to get to after school marching band rehearsals. The buses will be parked in front of NAI at the conclusion of the school day.

Marching Band Uniform Maintenance

Care and maintenance of our marching band uniforms is the responsibility of each band member. They were designed exclusively for the North Allegheny High School Marching Band. They are very easily soiled. Therefore, each band member must be mindful of the following instructions. These uniforms MUST last and WILL last if they are worn and cared for with pride and responsibility. Students/Parents will be financially responsible for the damage or loss of any uniform item(s).

1. Be sure your uniform and hat are placed where they will not get dirty, wrinkled or damaged when not being worn.
2. A seamstress in the uniform room will do all uniform alterations and repairs. Parents are not permitted to alter or repair the marching band uniforms either themselves or by another person. The marching band uniforms must look uniform in all ways. Having multiple people alter and repair the uniforms can result in a non-uniform look to the band.
3. Never wash or launder your uniform. Uniforms will be dry cleaned periodically by a professional service.
4. To avoid soiling, NO EATING will be allowed while in uniform except when designated by the director(s).
5. When in uniform, avoid dirty, greasy and muddy areas. Never let a uniform touch the floor.
6. When in transport, uniforms should be placed in garment bags and hung from the window frame. Uniforms WILL NOT be draped over seat backs.
7. NEVER cut the material in an attempt to alter the uniform.

Placing Marching Band Uniforms on Hangers

When not being worn, or being returned to the uniform room, uniforms should be hung correctly on a hanger as follows:

Musicians:
1. The hanger opening shall be pointed toward the right as you face the front of your uniform.
2. Trousers shall be folded with inseams and creases together. They shall be placed smoothly on the crossbar and balanced so they will not slip off.
3. The jacket shall be hung over the trousers with the shoulders “square” on the hanger, and fastened.

Majorettes, Dance Team, and Colorguard:
1. Hanger hook is to be pointed toward the right.
2. Uniforms shall be placed neatly on the hanger with the zipper and buttons closed.
Care of Hats and Plumes

1. Keep your hat in the black hatbox at all times when not in use and keep your plume in your garment bag.
2. Be sure the hat is in the hatbox and the plume is in the garment bag when returned, except when they are wet from rain or snow.

Storage of Uniforms

1. Uniforms shall be stored in the uniform room at the high school except when being altered.
2. 

Checking Uniforms In and Out

1. Each person is responsible for the checking-out or returning of his/her own uniform and hat and caring for them while they are checked out.
2. DO NOT ask another person to check-out or return your uniform.
3. DO NOT agree to check-out and/or return the uniform of another person unless approved by the band director(s) for special circumstances.
4. Remove all personal items, music, waste paper, programs, etc. from inside hats, uniform pockets and garment bags.
5. Unless otherwise instructed, when returning from a performance with wet uniforms, each piece of the uniform shall be draped over a chair in the designated area. When dry, uniforms will be collected and returned to the uniform room.
6. If your uniform is not properly placed on a hanger, it will not be accepted at the uniform room and you will be sent to the rear of the line.

Uniform Replacement Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
<td>$309.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band Vestee</td>
<td>$78.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pants</td>
<td>$141.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plume</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raincoat</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garment Bag</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Units</td>
<td>See your instructor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel Guidelines

• Students must have all medical forms completed and returned prior any to travel with the band.

• All call times are listed on the band calendar. Call time is the time you are expected to be in your seat, dressed and ready to go. You should plan on arriving at NASH prior to call time.

• Students are to be in full uniform at call time unless instructed to do otherwise by the directors or uniform room volunteers.

• Refrain from public displays of affection. Parent chaperone has final say as to what is acceptable and what is not at the moment of the infraction.

• Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.
On The Bus

• If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, its too loud!

• There will be no hanging out or yelling out of bus windows

• Please keep the bus clean, pick up after yourselves, and always thank the chaperones and bus driver

• Students must go and return on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent, must notify the director in writing two days prior to the trip with the proper signatures. Unless otherwise discussed ahead of time with the directors and head chaperone, all students must stay for the entire event.

• Remain seated at all times

• Sit properly in a forward position

• Use only approved type headset radios/CD/Mp3 players/ipods, etc.

• Remain silent when an adult is addressing the bus

• Only smaller instruments may go on the bus. All other instruments go in the equipment trailer. You are responsible for getting large instruments to the trailer where they will be loaded for you.

• Please be kind and courteous to the loading crew. They work very hard packing and unpacking our equipment. Your cooperation is expected

Football Games, Band Festivals, and Parades

• When marching to and from a stadium, the band will remain at attention. When you have class it shows — when you don’t it SHOUTS!

• Only uniformed band members are permitted in the band section.

• All members are to remain in their sections.

• Other than during the third quarter break, there is to be NO eating or drinking in the stands

• All members must remain alert at games and be ready to play at a moment’s notice.

• Restroom breaks may be taken in SMALL groups. There is no need for 10 or more students to use the restroom at one time. Always ask permission to leave the band stands for any reason, including use of the restroom.

Band Trip/Major Adjudication Expectations

The bands go on an annual trip to perform in a nationally recognized band festival each year. A professional panel of judges, that includes university music professors and professional musicians, will adjudicate the groups. The purpose of the trips is educational in nature as supported by the school board and district administration. It is expected that each member of the bands do their best to participate because the band can’t perform without its members. Every student should do their best to go on the trip to perform with the ensembles.
Adjudications, Competitions, and Festivals

In addition to varsity football games, local parades, school concerts, and community events, the North Allegheny Band participates in various competitive and noncompetitive adjudications and festivals throughout the school year.

It is very important to remember that no matter where or when the band is performing that we always do our best. The objective of North Allegheny Bands at all competitive and noncompetitive festivals and adjudications is to play our best and try to obtain the highest musical rating that we can. Although the bands have always done very well winning many first place awards and superior ratings, winning is not the focus of the program. Performing to the best of our ability and learning about music is our focus.

High School Marching Band Festivals -
The North Allegheny Marching Band participates in at least two high school marching band festivals in a season, the Allegheny Valley Marching Band Festival and another high school's marching band festival. These festivals are designed to be noncompetitive and provide the opportunity for the bands to listen and watch each other's shows. There is usually a participation trophy or plaque given to every band and no comments or feedback given to the bands about their performances.

Competitive Parades -
The North Allegheny Marching Band will participate in competitive parades during the marching band season, which includes the spring adjudication trip. The bands are placed in classifications by the size of the group and are judged on their music, marching, and general effect. When added together, these categories will equal 100 points with the music category usually receiving more weight than the marching and general effect category. Feedback and comments are usually not given, however, in some instances a score sheet may be provided to the directors. In addition to the classification a "Best Band Overall" is usually awarded to the highest scoring band in the parade regardless of classification. These parades may also offer awards for drum majors, auxiliaries, and other specialized categories.

Competitive Music Festivals
The band program competes in a major competitive music festival once a year. Groups attending the competitive festival can include the Wind Ensembles, Symphonic Bands, Concert Bands, Marching Band, Jazz Ensembles, Majorette Squad, Indoor Drum Line, Percussion Ensemble, Dance Team, and Colorguard. Each competing group is placed into a division or classification based on either the high school's enrollment, the actual size of the ensemble, and or the difficulty level of music performed. Divisions and classifications are based on the individual festival's rules. Often times if two groups from the same school are competing in the same event, the second group will compete at one classification smaller than the first group. This rule prevents bands from the same school from competing against each other (this rule is not used at all festivals). Bands attending competitive music festivals are competing against each other and for a musical rating. Ratings given are Superior or Gold (90-100), Excellent or Silver (80-89), Good or Bronze (70-79), Fair (60-69), and Poor (59 and below). Some festivals use a slightly different scale for determining a group's rating. Ratings are based on a standard rubric and are earned by each ensemble regardless of what other ensembles are at the festival. In other words, a first place award does not guarantee a superior rating. If there are several outstanding bands at a given festival the fourth and fifth place ensembles may also receive superior ratings. Keep in mind when the North Allegheny Bands attend a competitive festival our goal is always to compete against ourselves and to try to achieve the highest rating that we can. Wind Ensembles, Symphonic Bands, Concert Bands, and Jazz Ensembles generally perform three musical selections that demonstrate varying musical concepts for a panel of at least three college or university music professors or
professional musicians. The groups are given written comments, taped comments, and given a clinic by one of the judges. Marching Band, Auxiliary Units, and Percussion Groups are also adjudicated by three judges from a college or university and/or professional musicians and are also given written and taped comments, but are usually not given a clinic following the group’s performance. All performing ensembles receive awards depending on the rules and regulations of the individual festival.

Allegheny Valley and the Pennsylvania Music Education Association

We strongly encourage all North Allegheny Band students to audition for and/or apply for individual performance opportunities with AV, PMEA, and NAFME honors groups. Students that participate in these groups have the opportunity to work with high school musicians from various other high schools from around Allegheny County, all of Western Pennsylvania, all of Pennsylvania and from the entire Northeast. They also get a chance to work with other directors, that are usually from a university school of music. Many questions about PMEA can be answered by going to the PMEA web site (www.PMEA.net). Some of the groups are by audition and some are by a selection process that does not involve an audition. Please consult with your director about these opportunities and to receive application materials and instructions.

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble Auditions

All auditions for the NAI and NASH Concert Bands, Symphonic Bands, and Wind Ensembles will be done on an individual basis prior to scheduling in February or early March. All audition instructions and requirements will be available at the time of auditions. Auditions for the Jazz Ensembles will take place after school in late September/early October. All audition information and instructions will be available at the time of auditions.

There are no auditions for brass and woodwind players for Marching Band. Students will be placed by the directors and instructors in a way that provides the band with an even, well-balanced sound.

Please consult the band web page for all information about the Concert and Jazz programs.

Instrument Care

1. The North Allegheny Band Program will provide the following instruments, free of charge, to its members: mellophones, baritone horns/euphoniums, sousaphones/basses, tenor/baritone saxophones, all marching percussion and pit equipment, as well as much of the auxiliary accessories for the field show such as flags, poles, etc...that our current budget will permit. Just as brass and woodwind players are expected to purchase their own mouthpieces, reeds, valve oil, etc., auxiliary members and percussionists may be asked to purchase certain items not provided as a part of our band budget. The band may also have a limited supply of other band instruments for its members to use. Check with the Director about the availability of an instrument. These instruments must be checked out to you prior to band camp and you will be held responsible for their playing condition during the season.

2. Check-in of all North Allegheny owned instruments will occur during the final week of the marching band season. Instruments must be returned in good working order (as issued). If an instrument is damaged at a rehearsal or performance through no fault of yours, the section leader and Director must be notified immediately so that the appropriate repairs can be done expeditiously. If an instrument is maliciously or
carelessly lost or damaged, you will be charged for either the repair to the instrument or the purchase of a replacement if necessary.

3. Proper care of all instruments (personal and school owned) during the marching season is essential. It is impossible to present a musical performance on an instrument with stuck slides, bad pads, split reeds, or chipped mouthpieces. Also, be aware that many students bring their own instruments to play in the band. When in the stands, treat all instruments with the same respect as if the instrument were your own. We highly recommend that brass instruments and mouthpieces be flushed periodically in order to remove accumulated dirt and grime. There is no excuse for not keeping your instrument in good playing condition.

Music, Flip Folders, Lyres, and Drill Books

1. Every North Allegheny Band member will have access (via www.naband.org) to all Marching Band music and Drill. It is your responsibility as young adults to organize these materials as you see fit. In the event that edits need to be made, you are required to have access to these materials at every rehearsal, even after the music and drill are memorized.

2. If you lose music or drill, report it immediately to either your section leader or the band librarian, who will replace it as soon as possible. Do not wait a couple of days and then expect the music or drill to be replaced immediately.

3. Each student will need to purchase an instrument lyre and flip folder for stand music. Lyres and marching band flip folders are available through your local music store.

Use of the Band Facilities

The use of the band facilities/uniform room before, after, and during school hours is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. **No outside students are permitted in the band room**, except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, e.g., throwing things in or around the band room. All percussion, wind, and auxiliary equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. Do not leave personal items in the band room or in your band locker. Items left will be collected and given to charity.

Please adhere to these few simple (common sense) rules:

- Do not bring food, drinks, candy, or gum in the band room or auditorium area without permission from a band director.
- Do not enter the director’s offices without permission.
- Do not enter the music library without permission.
- The copy machine is for band use only and may be used by a student only with the permission of a band director.
- Do not use teacher computers without permission.
- Do not lean on, deface, or mark on music stands or storage lockers.
- Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area and keep said storage areas clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this will lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band room.
- Do not use Stereo/TV equipment without permission.
- Do not use the office telephone during the school day without permission from a band director.
Skills acquired by participating in the North Allegheny Band

**Excellence**: The North Allegheny Band has a tradition of excellence dating back over 35 years. Support from family and community encourages students to maximize their potential.

**Self Expression**: Your child learns how to express ideas and emotions through performing in marching and concert events.

**Time Management**: The commitment of Band membership forces students to learn how to balance academics and activities. Frequently, Band membership has increased student achievement, as they learn valuable time management skills.

**Leadership**: There are numerous levels of student leadership positions within the Band, from band officers to section leaders to drum major positions.

**Interpersonal Skills**: The group dynamic of a large high school band is very complex, as you might imagine. The NA Band is proud of its diversity and the ability of its members to work together toward a group goal.

**Responsibility**: As a member of the North Allegheny Band, your child has to be on time, account for his or her actions and keep up with equipment and uniform parts. Students become responsible because they realize that the group's success depends on their own exercise of personal responsibilities.

In addition to the skills acquired through participation in the band program, the band program will also strive to:

1. Provide any interested student with opportunities for fun, musical knowledge, and musical fellowship through participation in band.
2. Provide for the mental, physical, social and emotional development of students.
3. Instill pride and discipline in each student.
4. Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction.
5. Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement.
Why Music?

- **Music Is A Science.** It is exact, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor’s full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with exact control of time.
- **Music Is Mathematics.** It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.
- **Music Is Foreign Language.** Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of short – hand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.
- **Music Is History.** Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and / or racial feeling.
- **Music Is Physical Education.** It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.
- **Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.**
- **Music is all these things**, but most of all, **Music Is Art.** It allows the human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why we teach music! Not because we expect you to major in music ... But ... so you will be human

... so you will recognize beauty

... so you will have something to cling to

... so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good;

**In short, More Life!!**

---

Get Set!

*(From the 2008 Fred J. Miller Summer Clinic Brochure)*

You have the ability, power, and freedom to approach your life with dignity and character. Each day you begin with a positive Mindset, you are able to face life’s challenges with an optimistic outlook and focused mind. Surround yourself with what makes you happy, and use that joy to inspire those around you.

Encouragement and praise have the power to change a life, and that life may in turn change others. Smile, be genuinely interested in people, and help make others realize their importance. You can be the inspiration for someone’s success.

Look for the best in everything and everyone. Choose to focus on positive qualities and situations. Choose not to be involved in harmful language, gossip, or destructive attitudes. Create “win-win” situations for people you encounter and appreciate the benefits you receive yourself.

Get set to be the positive change you wish to see in your surroundings. Get set to commit to what you know is your best you. You can generate the Mind set and have developed the skill set to allow yourself to reach for something more. Everyday is an opportunity to leave your positive, lasting mark on this world and the people in it.
The most common problem especially for young band members working with their peers, is gaining the respect and rapport needed to establish a healthy working relationship with each other. Respect cannot be demanded or forced; it must be earned. An outstanding band member must possess skill and knowledge related to his/her contribution as a performer. In addition, an effective band member must be able to apply and communicate this information to others in a productive fashion. All band members should view themselves as EQUALS regardless of their age or positions in the band. People who are admired by others have many traits considered to be desirable. There is no question that we all value people who are responsible, friendly, patient, positive, organized, perceptive, sincere, talented, enthusiastic, mature, stable, consistent, and competent. Yet, it is difficult to respect anyone who is temperamental, officious, obnoxious, impatient, irresponsible, disorganized, sarcastic, snobbish, arrogant, or dishonest. We must become the kind of person that others admire, and in most cases, this means self-improvement will be necessary. Self-improvement can be achieved by objectively analyzing one’s strong and weak points. Then, one must work hard to strengthen their weaknesses. People can change the way they are by improving personal qualities and traits, thus improving their image and how others perceive them. As problems arise we are faced with the challenge of finding appropriate solutions. Before selecting the most effective solution, examine every possible cause of the problem to determine the most relevant conclusion. Conflicts usually arise as a result of quick and careless decisions. Good band members are sensitive to people’s feelings and are cautious about passing judgment regarding the cause of the problems. Work hard to solve the causes of problems, rather than concentrating on the problem itself. We cannot motivate people; they motivate themselves as the result of a positive or negative experience. Good discipline and motivation are the “by products” of success. Therefore, as a band our goal should be to discover ways to experience success by working hard with positive attitudes.

The two most important attributes of a successful marching band are SPIRIT and SYSTEM. SUCCESS is the by-product of spirit and system. A system represents everything provided to the band by the administration, including philosophy, methods, marching and playing style, policies, activities, etc… Spirit represents how the band members react to the system with practice, attitude, commitment, responsibility, dependability, and hard work. When both of these virtues are outstanding, success will surely follow. Success, then, has its own by products including pride, good discipline, enthusiasm, and dedication.
Acceptance of Rules Sign-off Sheet

I have read the North Allegheny High School Handbook and understand the rules, regulations, and attendance policy. I have noted the performance and rehearsal schedule and have included them in my personal work schedule.

Student PRINT name: _____________________________________

Student Signature: ________________________________________

Parent/Guardian PRINT name: ______________________________

Parent Signature: _________________________

Date: ___________________

(Keep this copy for your records)

Acceptance of Rules Sign-off Sheet

I have read the North Allegheny High School Handbook and understand the rules, regulations, and attendance policy. I have noted the performance and rehearsal schedule and have included them in my personal work schedule.

Student PRINT name: _____________________________________

Student Signature: ________________________________________

Parent/Guardian PRINT name: ______________________________

Parent Signature: _________________________

Date: ___________________

(Sign and Return this copy)