

North Daviess Band Department



Student Handbook
2025 - 2026

The Value of Music Education

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences. Recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the areas of the brain than any other disciplines. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both the right and left hemispheres function

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!"

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

MUSIC is not only important ... it's ESSENTIAL!

Instrumental Music Department Philosophy

Arts education can be one of the primary means of passing on to students the cultural heritage of a society. Music transcends barriers of ethnicity, economics status, language and even literacy in its power to reach the depths of the human soul. Experiences with music develop a student's ability to make value judgments, to function logically as well as intuitively, and to utilize one's innate creativity.

Participation in performance organizations encourages initiative and leadership among students, stimulates goal-oriented thought processes, creates an appreciation and respect for the efforts of others, and assists the development of responsibility to the organization, and in a broad sense, society.

Few high school musicians make music a career. However, the mental discipline and thought processes required in the study of music are relate to all careers and life-goals.

Band Department Goals and Objectives

- ❖ ND Bands will make participation in instrumental music available to any student at North Daviess High School who chooses to be involved.
- ❖ ND Band Students will develop musical experiences that enhance students' overall educational experiences.
- ❖ ND Bands will provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- ❖ ND Band Students will develop a life-long appreciation for music and continuation of musical activities.
- ❖ ND Band Students will develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

Offerings and Membership Requirements:

CONCERT BAND

Open to all students (grades 7 -12) with prior band experience, this class will concentrate on developing individual and ensemble playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, balance/blend and technical ability. This class will also focus on preparation and performance of fine concert band literature and the study of the elements of music that make up these pieces. Students enrolled in the High School Band Class should expect to perform as part of the NDHS Cougar Marching Band during home Football games and with the ND Pep Band during home basketball games, on three (3) concert programs, the Southern Indiana Festival of Bands in the fall semester and at ISSMA Concert Band Contest in the spring semester. There will be some out-of-school time required for performances. This class is the main focal point for the entire program. JrHS Concert Band students will be expected to perform on three (3) concert programs and at ISSMA Concert Band Contest in the spring semester. Eighth Grade students are invited also to play with the ND Pep Band during home basketball games

Seating auditions will be held early during the fall semester. This will become part of the students' semester grade. Challenges may take place throughout the year to ensure proper placement and ensemble needs.

NOTE: In order to be eligible for certain activities (such as, but not limited to, honor bands, solo & ensemble competitions, and trips), students must meet all requirements of the course in which they are enrolled; this constitutes being a "member in good standing" of the North Daviess Department of Bands program.

MARCHING BAND – "Marching Cougars"

The North Daviess High School Marching Band continues to establish a fine reputation for musical excellence. The band is working toward a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride on the part of EACH person involved. The North Daviess High School Band will perform at all home football games, contests, and other performance opportunities in the area. Membership in the North Daviess High School Marching Band requires that students attend all rehearsals and performances and comply with all rules and regulations for the North Daviess Bands. If you are enrolled in band class, you are expected to attend and perform with the Marching Band at all home Football games. Sports exemptions and scheduling conflicts require a parent/student/teacher conference to ensure proper communication. Decisions will be made to educationally promote not only the individual but keep the entire program in mind.

Summer Activities

A complete schedule of all summer activities is distributed before the conclusion of the school year. These rehearsals include a week of music and marching fundamentals prior to the Daviess County Fair Parade, two weeks of band camp in preparation for our performance at the Indiana State Fair Band Day by the HS Band. Other rehearsals are scheduled as needed. Also, ALL incoming 7th and 8th grade students are expected to practice over the summer in order to participate in the Odon Old Settlers' Parade at the beginning of August.

Procedures

The NDHS Band has a limited amount of rehearsal time when compared to other similar groups in the area. It is essential that we make efficient use of the rehearsal time we have. This can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. We all depend on each other to "carry our fair share of the load" in order for us to achieve our expectations.

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. We will not usually rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is just drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, we will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a

satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Students should wear comfortable shoes (preferably low-topped sneakers) and socks for rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Caps and sun block are highly recommended. You may bring water, etc., to the field for breaks.

Each member is expected to have all necessary equipment, in working order, along with all music at rehearsals. Absences from band rehearsals or performances are unexcused unless due to a) personal illness, b) death in the family, c) an emergency, or d) special permission of the director obtained IN ADVANCE from the parent or guardian. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas. Excessive absences for any reason may result in being removed from performance status and will severely affect the student's band grade.

PEP BAND (Basketball season)

As a demonstration of support for our school and community, we will provide musical entertainment at all home basketball and football games.

General Guidelines:

Dress will be the Band T-Shirts, jeans and tennis shoes

Report time will be 1 hour prior to varsity game time, unless otherwise announced.

We will sit together as a group; **no visitors are allowed in the band block.**

No food, candy or drink (other than water) in the stands.

We will stay for the whole game and support the teams as well as have a 3rd quarter break.

JAZZ BAND

Offered as an extracurricular activity at the JH and HS Level, students will explore and experience techniques, history and styles available through jazz studies. There will be performances and practices outside of the school day as deemed necessary by the director. One of the performances is a dinner concert and the other is an ISSMA group contest in the spring semester, both of which are listed in the calendar. Membership will be by audition and or selection to fulfill the proper instrumentation. You must be a participant of the North Daviess High School Band.

COLOR GUARD

As an extension of the Band program, the Color Guard offers additional pageantry arts training and serves to support the visual components of the Marching Cougars. Auditions are open to any NDHS student grades 8-12. This voluntary performance ensemble dances and uses equipment (such as flags, rifles, etc.) set to music capturing the expressive and dynamic qualities of the music. Additional fees may be required as set forth by the band staff. The color guard performs at State Fair Band Day, IU Band Day, and all home football games and parades.

Solo & Ensemble

ISSMA District Solo and Ensemble Contest is held in late January OR early February each year. It gives students an opportunity to excel individually or in small instrumental groups.

Each student will be encouraged to participate in at least one event (a solo OR an ensemble). Students may select their own music (with director approval) or the director will assist in the selection. Allow at least six weeks of preparation time for the festival. Each S&E participant must play his or her contest selection for a director before the established ISSMA deadline. Private lessons are a very big help.

There is an entry fee for each participant due at the time of registration. (Usually in mid-November.)

Private Lessons

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve their excitement towards practicing increases and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. Locating a private teacher is a challenge in our area, but if you are interested, please let your director know. New this year will be a rotating private lesson schedule with time slots on EACH day of the week except Wednesday due to JrHS Jazz Band meeting times. We will discuss in class how this rotation will work.

Individual Opportunities

All-State Honor Band and Junior All-State Honor Band, Indiana Bandmasters Association (IBA) All-District Honor Band (grade 9 through 12), IBA All-Region Honor Band (grade 7 through 9), Solo and Ensemble, and other Honor Band activities provide students with the opportunity to excel individually on their instrument and to receive recognition for their musical achievements.

To be eligible for these auditions, students must be members in good standing of the Band program at NDHS and pay an audition fee where required. Any student's grades 7-12 are eligible to audition for any honor band. There are always outstanding musicians in the North Daviess High School Band, and they are strongly encouraged to participate in these activities. Often, colleges and universities use membership in these organizations as partial criteria for music scholarship consideration.

Grading Procedure

Band is a unique course at North Daviess High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program.

Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore it is imperative that students be present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade.

Performances are viewed as major tests and are learning experiences that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room. The level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student in developing an insight into their own level of performance. A performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. **ALL PRE-ARRANGED (UNAVOIDABLE) ABSENCES FROM PERFORMANCES MUST BE APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE DIRECTOR IN ADVANCE.**

Grades will be comprised of a combination of attendance & daily rehearsal behavior (participation points), playing exams, written work, and nine-week's projects. **We will continue utilizing GoogleClassroom this year. Enclosed in this handbook are the sign-in codes for all the classes. Please sign-in as soon as possible. You will be responsible for class work that will be accessed through this learning platform.**

The band, as an organization, provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship, attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the North Daviess Band. Individual practice and preparation are essential.

Parents (ND Music Boosters)

Parents are an **important** part of the North Daviess High School Band and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want the band to reach. There are many things parents can do:

- Attend Music Booster Parent meetings.
- Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance, and everyone can find the niche that suits them best: chaperone, uniforms, transportation, equipment handling (pit crew), sewing, meals and publicity are just a few of the areas we need filled for the marching season alone.
- Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:
 - Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
 - Notifying the director if your child is to be absent or late for performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance unless in absolute emergency situations.
 - Encouraging your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place to do so.
 - Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending performance possible.
 - Discussing with the director anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.
 - Arranging for private lessons for your child, if at all possible.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The North Daviess Band program strives to foster a “team” philosophy and the actions of one person have an impact on the entire organization. It is for this reason that the following policies are in place. Mostly it is just a matter of common sense.

Our priority should always be to provide the members with a quality educational experience. As we strive competitively to be the best we can, our focus must be on setting new standards in both performance and character. With our hard work and dedication, we will become respected by our peers and audiences. Please remember you represent the entire organization . . . ALL THE TIME.

ATTITUDE

Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is positive it will take you far in life. All students should have a personal goal of doing their best to make the group successful. Those who have pride in themselves will generally have a positive attitude. Characteristics of a positive attitude include a pleasant outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful.

Behavior expectations/Norms for Rehearsals

1. No gum chewing eating, or drinking in the band room is permitted at any time.
2. **All students are expected to have a pencil with them for each daily class.**
3. Instrument cases should be kept in cabinets when not in use. This includes Percussionists’ stick bags. Music folders should be kept in the folio cabinets, **NOT** in or with your instrument case.
4. No book or other non-band related material is permitted at your seat during rehearsal. This includes cell phones and other electronic devices. **DO NOT HAVE YOUR CELL PHONES OR OTHER DEVICES OUT AT YOUR SEAT DURING REHEARSAL. CELL PHONE OUT WILL BE TURNED IN TO THE FRONT TABLE AND PICKED UP BY THE OFFICE TO BE PICKED UP FROM THE OFFICE AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY. THIS WILL ALSO RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE THAT DAY BY 50% NO EXCEPTIONS.**
5. Be respectful of others.
6. Students should be in your seat and ready to play within 5 minutes of the tardy bell ringing.

* All students will be graded weekly by a Rehearsal Behavior Rubric. (10 points per day, 50 per week)

General

- All members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member or chaperone without question unless said instruction is a violation of civil law or moral standards.
- All school rules and policies are in effect at all functions.
- Any member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band activity, is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not his or hers, remind them.
- Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something as seemingly innocent as playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns or equipment, or something more overt as deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls or leaving trash around. An organization with class, mature members, and pride will not permit acts such as this. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these types of things do not occur. If you see it, stop it. If they refuse to stop, notify a director or chaperone immediately.
- Band members should not remove, play with, hide, or take all or part of the uniform of others. The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance. If you have a problem with your uniform, don't take someone else's. See the director for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.
- All students must travel to off-campus activities on the bus. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, your parent(s) or guardian(s), in person, at the conclusion of the event, must sign you out with the director and you will be removed from the bus roster. Students will be released only to parent(s) or guardian(s). Please be aware of this policy - it is for your protection as well as the school's.
- Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection. Please do not go beyond the limit of common decency.
- Any time there is a critical incident involving the police and anyone on an ND Band trip, the director should be notified immediately.
- Any injury that occurs during a band function must be reported to the director without delay.
- At any band contest, festival, trip, or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not leave by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the stands at football games with the exception of WATER
- Students remain in their assigned seats when in the stands. It is important to present the image of discipline and pride at all times. The band plays only as a group, except when the percussion section plays in support of the cheerleaders.
- Only NDHS Band members are permitted in the Band seating area.
- When the NDHS Band moves to or from any location, there is to be absolutely no talking. When we move, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and our tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are "performing" whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner.
- Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to insure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non-band personnel should wait outside the school to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

Instrument and Equipment Care

Wind Instruments

Reeds, valve oil, and other supplies are available in the band office. All purchases should be made prior to the start of band class. All other accessories can be purchased from a local music store or through Paige's Music who has someone stop at ND weekly. All members are expected to have the proper accessories with them for rehearsals and performances.

Woodwinds: Three reeds (Buy a box from Paige's Music!), cork grease, mouthpiece cap, and neck strap

Brass: Valve, slide, or rotary oil, polishing cloth, slide lube, mouthpiece brush, mutes

School-owned instruments become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student's expense.

Seasonal rental agreements and fees will be assessed to help maintain our investment of school owned instruments for which they are assigned, Letters were sent out over the summer and payments are due now.

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it for repairs. Paige's Music provides excellent service and sends a representative to our school weekly for drop off and pick up. If they know in advance they usually can provide a loaner instrument.

Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

Percussion Equipment

Due to the expense and wide variety of percussion instruments the school will provide all necessary percussion instruments required throughout the year. An assortment of sticks and accessories will be the students' responsibility to have and maintain. ***All percussionists should use ONLY THEIR MALLETS.*** As the students' interest and talent increase so will their selection of sticks and mallets.

Everyone is responsible for the general welfare and care of the instruments. Larger instruments should be covered at the conclusion of EACH rehearsal.

We must take good care of the equipment we own. Be cautious when moving equipment. Know the proper technique to carrying or lifting equipment. If someone is helping you be sure to point out the proper technique. Never use the instruments as a table or other non-musical use. This promotes general disrespect for the instrument. If you are not a percussionist, DO NOT PLAY ANY PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT.

Guard Equipment

The school owns all guard equipment with the exception of specialty equipment purchased by a member of the guard. It is the responsibility of members to maintain and care for their equipment. If you are not in guard, DO NOT spin or use any of the guard equipment. This is for your protection as well as the guard member who has been assigned a piece of equipment.

Uniform Information

When you are in uniform, you are no longer just an individual, but a representative of our band, school, and community. You are NOT PERMITTED to eat or drink while in uniform with the exception of a bottle of water. Please eat BEFORE you come to the home games.

Your uniform is to be complete at all times when in public; you will receive detailed guidelines regarding the proper manner to wear the uniform, with which you will be expected to conform. Trousers should be long enough to just brush the tops of shoes. Jewelry, nail polish, and student-selected accessories are not permitted. The only headgear worn with the uniform is that provided by the Band. Baseball caps will not be tolerated. Uniforms are to be transported in a uniform bag . . . ALWAYS. The student must pay for any lost, damaged, or destroyed articles of the uniform. You will also be given your first pair of black gloves to be worn ONLY with the uniform. If you lose your gloves or they become damaged, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING ANOTHER PAIR AT THE COST OF \$2 PER PAIR.

All band members must have black marching shoes for performance and must be ordered through the band. Shoes must be clean for each performance.

Guard uniforms are to be worn in the prescribed manner. Members of the Guard are also required to provide the appropriate footwear. Make-up, jewelry, and hairstyle are as much a part of the uniform as the uniform itself. Guidelines for these will be established and members will be expected to conform.

The way you wear your uniform reflects the pride you have in your band. Our uniform, when worn properly, projects an image of pride and dignity. It is everyone's responsibility to see that all members respect and care for the uniform and that the uniform is worn properly at all times.

CONCERT BAND UNIFORMS

For ISSMA Contest and other times that we do not wear the Marching Uniform, we will continue to follow the "Concert Black" uniform dress code. Black pants or skirt and a black shirt (NOT a t-shirt) with black socks and black shoes (NOT TENNIS SHOES).

Band Awards

Each student that participates in the full band program, at North Daviess, including Concert, Jazz and Marching activities, will receive points toward the band awards at the annual Music Department Awards Banquet. An absence from a rehearsal or performance does cause the student to lose points toward these awards. For more information, a list and point breakdown of all events will be made available.

Travel Tips

Whenever we travel, whether to a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.

- Follow all instructions of directors or chaperones. If you don't understand, ask.
- No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
- Each bus will have a first aid kit on board. Ask chaperones for help.
- Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
- No alcoholic beverages, non-prescription drugs, or any controlled substances (which includes tobacco and alcohol) are to be taken, bought, or consumed during the trip.
- Chaperones should be notified in writing if you are taking any prescription drugs.
- No changing buses without directors' permission.
- Leave non-essential valuables at home.
- Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
- Profanity is not a part of this band. Make sure your language is never offensive.
- Personal mp3, CD players, and iPods (e.g. headphones only...no speakers) are allowed on the bus, but for the sake of your own hearing, the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head.
- Behavior of students needs to be exemplary at all times. There is no excuse for rude, obnoxious acts.
- All school rules are in effect throughout the duration of any trip.
- Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember that PLEASE and THANK YOU cost you nothing, and yet is highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.
- Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action that could include removal from the organization.

North Daviess Band Department – Please return this ENTIRE page. Thank you.

BAND AGREEMENT 2025-2026

As a participating member of the North Daviess Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the NDHS Band to operate successfully. I fully understand the conditions set forth in this handbook and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

This agreement must be signed by both student(s) and parent. Please return by Tuesday, August 12th for a full 25 points. (One per family is fine. Thanks!)

North Daviess Music Boosters

All band parents have a fantastic opportunity to help the student-musicians at North Daviess attain success. Please take a few moments to fill out the information below. Thanks for your help in making the study of music a positive experience!

Your name: _____

Name of student(s) in band: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

E-mail address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please place an "X" or check mark next to the choices in which you are willing to help us have a successful year:

_____ Serve as an officer or chairperson for the music boosters.

_____ Serve on an action team that develops fundraiser ideas.

_____ Serve on an action team that makes phone calls to other booster parents.

_____ Work as an usher/door monitor at concerts to help minimize the distractions to our performing students.

_____ Assist or organize booster-sponsored Cougar Discount Card program

_____ Help raise money by working at concessions stands, dinners, talent show, etc.

_____ Work with publicity officer to produce a booster newsletter.

_____ Chaperone field trips.

_____ Decorate for concerts.

_____ Assist at the music awards dinner in the spring.

_____ Other ideas: _____
