

All Information regarding the middle
school band program.



New Prairie Middle School Band Handbook 2021-2022

Mr. Fowler

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WELCOME

Dear student and guardian,

Welcome to the New Prairie Middle School Bands for the 2021-2022 school year! Membership in this organization is a serious commitment on many levels. You are very likely to have questions throughout the year. That is why I have assembled this handbook. So that every student and parent can be aware of the many ins and outs of the band program.

Students that take part in the New Prairie band program are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential through a curriculum constructed as a continuous progression from middle school all the way through your time at NPHS. It is a rewarding and fun experience that is well worth the time.

Whether your motivation for being in the band is musical, social, leadership oriented, or simply for fun, YOU are the most integral part in insuring our band's success. Your hard work, dedication, spirit, enthusiasm, service, clear communication, and constant commitment to the band is crucial to the quality of YOUR band experience. The direction of the band does not reside solely in the hands of the director, instructors, or our student leadership; all members share this responsibility equally.

In this handbook, you will find policies, procedures, and expectations regarding the NPMS Band program. Please take the time to read this material carefully and submit the Handbook Agreement form.

A student's success is largely contributed through communication: between the teacher and student, students and parent, and teach and parent. I will always make time to meet with you in person, send an email, or talk with you on the phone. You can find my contact information below.

Sincerely,

Mr. Fowler

Contact Information



Email – kendellfowler@npsc.k12.in.us



NPMS Phone # - (574) 654-0235 ext.70235



NP Bands Website - <https://newprairiebands.weebly.com>

ENSEMBLES

The NPMS Bands consists mainly of 3 grade level bands and an extracurricular Jazz Band, along with a few other performance opportunities. All band classes are yearlong courses.

6th Grade Band

The beginning band class is open to all New Prairie 6th graders interested in learning an instrument. The 6th grade band focuses on building individual instrument and musical skills. No prior musical experience is required to join Beginning Band.

7th Grade Band

In 7th grade, band students will continue building their instrument skills and start diving deeper into ensemble skills. There are more performance opportunities in 7th grade, including Jazz Band and Solo and Ensemble Contest. It is encouraged to start band in 6th grade, but it is possible to join band for the first time in 7th grade with extra independent study.

8th Grade Band

8th grade band students will continue to develop advanced instrument and ensemble skills. There are also chances to meet and perform with members of the NPHS Bands as we prepare for the transition to high school band the next year. 8th grade band members have the option of joining the High School Marching Cougars if they desire. It is highly recommended to join the marching band 8th grade year but not required. Marching band is required once the student is in high school.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble available to 7th, 8th, and some 6th grade band members. In addition to the regular band instruments, students have the opportunity to play bass, guitar, piano and drum set in Jazz Band. All Jazz Band members must have been in band for at least 1 year and have prior experience on their jazz instrument (exceptions can be made for some 6th graders). Jazz Band meets once or twice a week after school (from 2:15-3:30) and performs in some of the NPMS concerts.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE & PROCEDURES

Be on time! - Students should be in the band room by the tardy bell, and in their seats with their instruments 2 minutes after the bell rings.

Get rid of the gum - No food, gum, or drinks (besides a covered bottle of water) are allowed in the band room. Students who bring their own lunches should leave them in their backpacks or unopened underneath their seats. Bottles of water (no other drinks) are allowed during band class.

Bring your stuff - Students need to come prepared for class with all of their materials every day - see the “Materials” section for a full list of class supplies.

Respect, respect, respect! - Please respect your classmates and teachers always. Listen when teachers (or anyone) is addressing the class, play your instrument only at appropriate times, and treat everyone kindly.

Treat your instruments well - Your instrument is for you to play, and only you. Students should not be sharing instruments or any other equipment. If it isn't yours, don't touch it! This especially goes for percussion instruments.

Turn in your assignments - We will have a variety of practice assignments, recordings, and other work throughout the year. Be efficient and productive while completing work at home or in class, and submit *all* of your assignments. There will be missing assignment reports going out to parents periodically.

Be ready to learn! - You should be ready and willing to *work* and *learn* every day. We are here to do our best and improve as musicians, a great learning attitude is the first step!

No cell phones/ mp3 players/ air pods – Devices will be confiscated. This includes phones on stands. There will be periodic stand checks to see if devices are on stands.

Have fun! - Band is a very unique class and should be fun for all students! We have a lot of fun music and activities planned for the school year, all you need to do is try your best and have fun!

BATHROOM

If you need to go to the bathroom, you must give me your handbook to sign you out. You also must sign out on the bathroom sign out sheet towards the front of the room. If you do not have your passes or you ran out, then I will not let you use the restroom.

MATERIALS

Every student is responsible for having the things they need for band. The band can only function at 100% when all of its members are present and prepared. The specific needs for band are dependent on the instrument a student plays. If a student neglects to bring materials, then there will be participation points taken off.

Woodwinds:

- In instrument case
 - At least 2-3 good reeds
 - students can buy a single reed or box of reeds in band class
 - You must sign the sheet if you buy one of my reeds
 - cleaning swab
 - cork grease
- Pencil (some will be in the front of the room)
- Music
- IPad- charged

Brass:

- Valve/ slide/ rotor oil
 - students can buy oil in band class
 - You must sign the sheet if you buy one of my oils
- Pencil (some will be in the front of the room)
- Music
- IPad- charged

Percussion:

- Drum sticks
- Bell mallets
- Pencil (some will be in the front of the room)
- Music
- IPad- charged

Music - All music will be printed and every student will get their very own band folder. Students are responsible for their own music folder and make sure that it isn't lost or destroyed. Some of the music will also be on Schoology so you have access 24/7 even if you left your music at school.

GRADING

Students will receive grades for various aspects of band class. Student grades are weighted as follows:

Assignments/Practicing - 35%

In class and homework assignments must be fully completed and submitted on time to earn full credit. Practicing is a major part of learning an instrument, and most homework assignments will involve playing your instrument. Students will be required to bring their instruments home daily to complete their assignments.

Playing Quizzes - 20%

Students will have playing quizzes to check understanding, progress, and content mastery. Most quizzes will be recorded on their iPad's and submitted through Schoology.

Performances - 35%

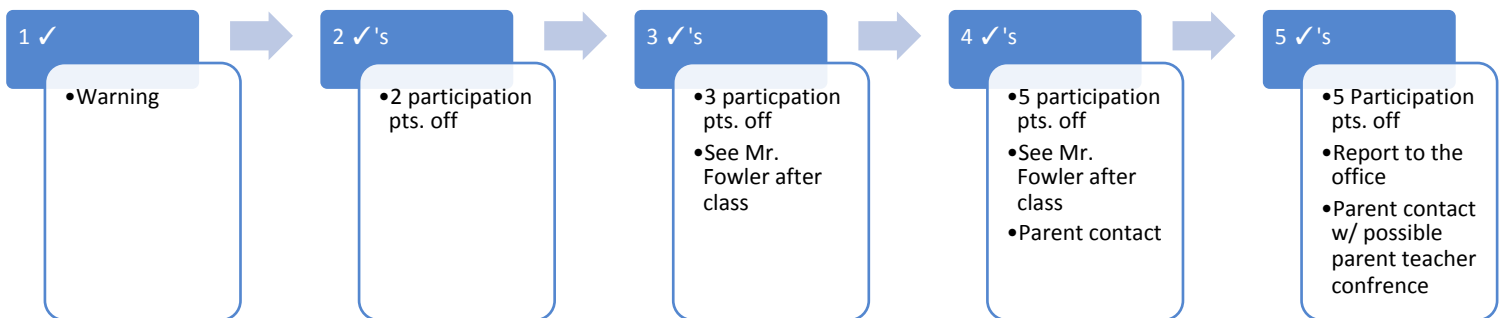
Band is a co-curricular class, which means that all rehearsals and performances are a part of every students' grade. There are several performances and occasional rehearsals that students must attend. Please see "calendar" section to see after school commitments

Participation/Preparedness - 10%

Students must come to class each day prepared and with all required materials. Not bringing instruments, music, not having necessary instrument materials (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, etc.), or not engaging in class activities can result in a loss of Participation Points.

DISCIPLINE

Band class will operate on a check system. Every time a student breaks a rule or does not follow directions will receive a check (☒). Each check (☒) a student receives increase in severity. The check system will be as follows:



BATHROOM

Students may use the restroom only if they have their planner and have passes left to use. The student must also sign-out to use the restroom to leave. If a student does not have any passes left, he/she may not use the restroom unless specified otherwise by an adult.

CONCERTS/DRESS & AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL

Band is Co-Curricular, meaning a portion of the student's grade comes from after-school activities to include concerts, rehearsals, etc. Performances are essential to the success of the band program. Even one student being absent can turn a potentially fine performance into a mediocre event. Performances are major exam grades. *Absences from performances or rehearsals must be approved by the director in advance.* Notification of an absence to the director. Any absence that is not brought to the director's attention for approval prior to a performance or rehearsal will be considered *unexcused*. Excuses must be presented at least 2-3 weeks before a concert and 1 week before a rehearsal. ATTENDANCE AT AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES IS A REQUIREMENT OF BAND MEMBERSHIP. Every effort will be made to accommodate students involved in other activities. These will be handled on a case by case basis. I am very flexible when approached early with potential conflicts! Please see the "Calendar" section for dates.

Concert attire

Students are to dress appropriately for performances. Our concerts are formal events and our appearance should reflect that. Blue jeans, shorts, jewelry and camouflage are not acceptable.

- Band polo
 - Polo is \$16. Students can order one if they don't have one or need another one
- Khaki pants
- Belt (if needed)
- Clean closed toed tennis shoes or dress shoes

PRIVATE LESSONS

It is strongly recommended and encouraged that all band students enroll in private music lessons to advance their own personal levels of musicianship. It is through private lessons that students may gain a greater level of satisfaction and achievement. Private lesson teachers can tailor instruction to students' individual needs and help students proceed at their own pace. Private lessons can raise the ability level of each student and, in turn, that of the performing ensemble—pushing the ensemble further along in its pursuit of musical excellence.

Any student who is serious about being a better musician should enroll in private lessons. Understand that private lessons do require a financial commitment.

If a student's family cannot afford lessons but still want to take lessons, the band can help with finances as long as the student is excelling in lessons and parents volunteer for concessions.

BAND LEADERSHIP TEAM

For the first time in New Prairie Middle School history, we have a band leadership team! The band leadership team will help with many things within the band program. The band leadership members are as follows:

President	Alia Nix
Vice President	Kenadie Quirk
Secretary	Emily Deutscher
Treasurer	Estefani Rosales
Music Librarian	Emily Deutscher / Kaylin Estes
Equipment Manager	Griffin Rowe / Noah Kinlaw
Historian	Remi Alva
Social Ambassador	Ava Lux / Georgia Wagnerowski

HONOR BAND

IBA All-Region

The All-Region Bands provide an excellent opportunity for students to have their talents recognized, perform with other outstanding young musicians and work with highly respected music educators and conductors. The festival rehearsal will be **Saturday, November 13** and the concert will be **Sunday, November 14**. Nathan Simpson, band director at Honey Creek Middle School in Terre Haute, is the 2021 Festival Coordinator. This event is highly recommended! Be the first New Prairie Middle School student to go!!!

IBA Junior All-State

The 14th Annual Junior All-State Band Festival will be held **Thursday - Saturday, January 13, 14 and 15, 2022 at the Indiana Music Education Association Professional Development**

Conference in Ft. Wayne. The finale concert will be featured on Saturday, January 15 at the conference. This will be an exciting opportunity for 100 outstanding students in grades seven through nine. Selected students will participate in a musical experience that your most talented musicians will never forget

Audition material and requirements can be obtained through the director. Auditions are held in November. Participants from all over the county are chosen based on their auditions, by a qualified judge and will be notified by their director when the results become available. Selected students will participate in several rehearsals with a guest clinician. If a student is chosen, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to transport them to the rehearsals and performances. This experience is extremely beneficial to participants. It gives them a chance to perform with other students in the county, to learn from another band director, to perform music that they would not normally perform, and gives them good audition experience. This event is highly recommended! Be the first New Prairie Middle School student to go!!!

ISSMA SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Solo and Ensemble is an extra performance opportunity for all 7th and 8th grade band members. It is a performance opportunity to showcase your skills as a musician and be evaluated by a professional musician. Once you are evaluated you will receive a score and based on that score you will receive either a bronze, silver, or gold metal. It is run through ISSMA and takes place in late on Wednesday, January 26th. Every 7th and 8th grader is required to do an ensemble for Solo & Ensemble. Students can go the extra mile and choose to do a solo if they want.

JME ISSMA CONTEST

Each spring, the 7th and 8th grade bands perform in the ISSMA JME Band Festival. This involves performing a concert for a panel of judges to receive feedback, a score, and a medal for the performance. JME ISSMA Contest will be either on March 19th or April 2nd.

COMMUNICATION

We use a few platforms to keep students and parents informed and up to date on all of the things that are happening throughout the year, as well as post our assignments and resources:

Schoology - Schoology is our main platform for school work and hosting resources. On each band's class page, you will find folders that contain assignments, important handouts, scans of

sheet music, and more. Students will use Schoology to complete and submit assignments during E-Learning days, as well as some in class assignments.

Powerschool - NPUSC uses PowerSchool to log all assignment grades. Student grades will be updated at least once a week throughout the school year. Parents can check grades on PowerSchool to follow student progress.

Email - Most teacher/parent communication will happen through email. Email lists are organized by grade. If you have a new email address or an additional guardian that needs to be added to the NPMS Band email list, [click here](#). Or go to Schoology and fill out the NPMS Bands Parent Contact form.

Remind - In addition to email, the NPMS Bands will be using the Remind software to communicate reminders, assignments, and upcoming events. Remind is a free communication built for teachers to safely communicate with parents and students. To register, simply text the message [@npmsband](#) to the number **81010**.

FUNDRAISERS

Snap! Raise

Snap! Raise is a terrific fundraiser as it is minimal work as far as collecting money from students and parents. How this fundraiser works is students will collect 20 emails from people not including friends and family. The emails go into the Snap! Raise data base and those people will receive an email to donate to the band. This fundraiser this year will help raise money for the upcoming trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Century Resource

Century Resource is a fundraiser that sells delicious gourmet cheese, sausage, chocolate, and candy. There is also prize incentive for doing this fundraiser for selling a certain number of items. The items in the fundraisers are great gifts for the holidays.

Scrip Gift card Fundraiser

This is a fantastic fundraiser because you do not have to spend more money out of your pocket to receive something. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your everyday purchases. It's never been easier to fund opportunities for what's most important to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How gift card fundraising works



Shop 750+ top brands for everything on your list



Amazon Smile

Do you like shopping at Amazon? Every purchase you make on amazon will benefit the band program due to the amazon smile program. If you buy something through amazon, amazon will donate 0.5% of profits to our program.

Concessions

Concessions is a great way to support the music program and sports for New Prairie Middle School. If someone works concessions for the band, a third of the profits will go towards the program. There are concessions for football, basketball, and volleyball. If you want to work concessions, [click here](#). Or you can go to Schoology and go to “Concessions Volunteer Form”.

Mattress Fundraiser

Did you know that you should replace your mattress every 8-10 years? The annual Mattress Fundraiser is a great way for you to purchase Mattress's, bedsheets, pillows, and more! Every purchase benefits the band program both at the high school and middle school. There are also cash incentives for students and families who refer people that purchase a mattress from the fundraiser.

CALENDAR

****ALL times below are listed on central/school time****

August: Snap! Raise Fundraiser

September: Snap! Raise Fundraiser cont.

October 8th: NPMS/NPHS Bands Fall Sampler: 6pm @ NPHS Auditorium

November: Century Resource Fundraiser

Nov. 13th & 14th: All Region Honor Band

Nov.: IBA Junior All-State Audition

December 15th: NPMS Bands Winter Concert: 6pm @ NPHS Auditorium

January 13th-15th: IBA Junior All-State Band Festival (If chosen from audition)

Jan. 26th: ISSMA Solo & Ensemble

February

March 9th: 6th Grade Band Concert- 6PM @ NPHS Auditorium

Mar. 16th: NPMS Bands March Concert- 6PM @ NPHS Auditorium

Mar. 19th: JME ISSMA Contest (Possible date 1)

Mar. 26th: Mattress Fundraiser

April 2nd: JME ISSMA Contest (Possible date 2)

May 12th: NPMS Spring Concert- 6PM @ NPHS Auditorium

June: Disney Trip (for selected members from the middle school and high school)