

North Ridge Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Band 2020-2021 Band Handbook

Student and Parent Resources

Skyward (E-mail, “Snail” Mail and Gradebook)

The North Ridge Band will use **Skyward** to communicate with parents during the year. We do most of our communication with parents via e-mail. Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date in Skyward. You can contact the front office to make any changes. You can also keep up with your child’s grades for all classes in Skyward.

Charms (Financial Records)

Charms is a web platform that allows parents to make payments for fees online with a credit card. **The NRMS band is "paper free!"** We ask **ALL** payments be made online via credit card through "Charms." *For those unable to pay by credit card, please e-mail Ms. Shadman to arrange payment by a parent in person.*

Remind (Texted reminders for PARENTS and STUDENTS)

The band uses “**Remind**” to communicate with parents and students. You do not have to have the app to receive messages. Text the appropriate “code” to 81010. Codes sent via email to each class.

Canvas (Web-based classroom)

Each class will use Canvas as expected by the district for their assignments that will be due online and to access external practice tools such as Smart Music

Smart Music (Digital practice tool/recording platform)

Each student will have an individual Smart Music account where they will submit recordings to earn credit. Instructions located in Canvas.

Phone Calls

We highly recommend contacting us via e-mail or Remind for a prompt response. Should you desire to speak to a director in person instead of via e-mail you may leave a voicemail on the Band office phone at 817-547-5240. Calls returned the next day.

Fees

School Owned Instruments

- **Students who play a school-owned instrument** (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba) **will pay a user fee of \$100 for the year (\$50 per semester)**. This is separate from the general “Activity Fee” assessed to all students. This does not include reeds or other accessories.
- **Students using a school instrument will also pay a \$30 insurance fee for the year (\$15 per semester)**

Percussionists

- **Percussion students in the 7th and 8th grade will pay a \$100 user fee for the year.** This helps to cover the cost of school owned percussion equipment and accessories. This is separate from the general “Activity Fee” assessed to all students.

ALL students

- **All 7th and 8th grade students will pay a \$25 “Activity Fee” for the Fall Semester. Depending on the status of school regarding Covid 19, there may be an additional spring fee.** We will not assess individual fees through the year for required items/expenses. This fee does not cover optional trip/social expenses or an accompanist for solo contest. We will still encourage all students to participate in our fundraisers during the year.

Methods of payment

The North Ridge Band is PAPERLESS! Payments will be made online with a credit card through Charms using the “RevTrack” system.

In the event that you have a circumstance that prevents you from being able to pay online please contact a band director to arrange payment by cash in person.

Instructions for paying by credit card online with Charms

1. Visit www.northridgeband.com and click the "Charms" link
2. Enter the school code: NRidgeMSBand
3. Use your child's student ID as the "Students Password" to sign in. (That's their Lunch number)

Contact Ms. Shadman to reset the password to your student's ID number if you are unable to log in.

4. Click Finances and "Make miscellaneous payment." Follow the instructions to enter Credit Card information. *Payments can be made in full or as installments.*

Please note: Credit card payments are made exclusively through Charms.

Fundraisers

The band may be hosting a fundraiser, depending on the school year as related to Covid 19. Participation is optional.

Required Supplies

- Instrument with **name tag** and instrument specific supplies
- 1” binder with a pencil bag, 5 dividers and **pencils**.
- Metronome and Tuner with pick up mic (Korg brand, available at any music store)
- All required music for rehearsal organized in binder

Class Procedures

Students will be in their seat when the tardy bell rings with all required supplies in working order. Food, drinks and gum are not allowed in the band hall. Water is allowed. Students will follow teacher instructions during class. Parent contact will be made in the event that a student is not cooperating with teachers on any of these guidelines.

All students will check into Canvas daily to get information about recording assignments and practice projects.

Grades

- 50% of the final grade will be a daily grade. This will include the following:
Weekly supply grade to include instrument, binder and tuner/pick-up mic.
Sectional or Individual meeting attendance, extra rehearsals, practice sheets.
- 50% of the final grade will be determined by band performances and individual tests/quizzes.

Attendance at Sectionals, Rehearsals and Performances

Students are required to attend all band performances, contests, full band rehearsals and sectionals/individual play-offs. These performances and other events are graded.

Weekly sectionals are **required** for 7th and 8th Grade Band members. Unexcused absences earn a grade of “0” and cannot be made up.

Students are required to attend all band performances, contests and full band rehearsals. Performances count as two test grades.

An excused absence is defined as personal contact (not by note) with the director **before** the event. With the exception of emergency/illness (doctors note must be provided), **all absences that conflict with existing dates on the calendar (as published on August 19th) must be reported by the end of the first week of school.**

An unexcused absence from a PERFORMANCE/CONTEST/FESTIVAL will result in a grade of zero (0). These events cannot be made up.

Uniform Information

Formal Concert Uniform (to be worn at concerts, contests, festivals). **Not provided by school as part of band fees.** This is something students are responsible for purchasing.

Formal Black Concert Attire

Solid black dress shirt with long sleeves.

Dress black pants (full length, no capris) or black dress/skirt.

Tall black socks/tights (no “sheer” stockings or ankle socks)

Dressy black, close-toed shoes

****PLEASE NOTE:** We DO NOT anticipate using our formal uniform in the Fall. Depending on the status of school regarding Covid19 we may have performances that require this uniform in the Spring.

Informal Concert Uniform (to be worn at cluster concerts, pep rallies, football game, informal concerts, fifth grade presentation) Cost is included in band fee.

Attire: Band T-shirt/Cluster T-shirt

Blue jeans without rips/tears etc (Not shorts)

Tennis Shoes

ALL 7th and 8th grade students must have a Formal and Informal Concert uniform.

Private Lesson Program: *Lessons may be conducted REMOTELY during Covid19.

Private lessons allow our students the opportunity to study one-on-one with a professional on their instrument. This individual attention focuses on your child’s specific needs as a musician. The private lesson curriculum is designed for the more rapid advancement of the individual student.

. The private lesson program has become an integral part of the NRMS band program. As a student prepares for district and region band auditions, solo and ensemble contest, high school band, etc., the private teacher plays a very important role in his/her success.

Private Lessons cost \$18 per week and can be taken during band class or before/after school according to each teacher’s availability.

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, it is the parents responsibility to communicate in advance with the private teacher

Our goal is 100% of our students enrolled in private lessons. Please contact Ms. Shadman to inquire about financial assistance. You may sign up by contacting a private teacher directly from the band website.

Eligibility (NO PASS-NO PLAY)

Students must have all grades above a 70 in order to participate in any extra curricular event where awards or scores are given. This is a state UIL regulation that we must follow! Students with grades under 70 will not be allowed to attend contests and festivals.

Co-curricular activities

These activities are an extension of classroom instruction and are a way to demonstrate what has been learned in class. Band activities such as concerts are co-curricular activities and students are required to participate regardless of eligibility.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Performances at contests, band festivals, and athletic events are considered extra-curricular and are subject to eligibility rules. Participation in the extra-curricular activities is based on eligibility requirements set by the state law. “No pass – No play” rule is in effect for these activities.

Important: Honors Band students who fail a six-week grading period may be moved to another performing band