

NORTH MARION HIGH SCHOOL

Husky Band Hand Book

2024-2025



Matthew M. Morgan – Band Director

Current Booster Officers - Open for new officers to take over July 1

President – Patricia DeNoon

Vice President – Stephanie Cummons

Secretary – Kayla Rhoades

Treasurer – Resa Morgan

Co-Treasurer – Tiffany Craig

HUSKY BAND HANDBOOK

Dear Husky band student,

Welcome to the Husky Band Program at North Marion. We are glad you decided to be a part of this growing organization. The band is an exciting part of your schooling experience. The husky band serves two functions; to educate the student and to perform for the community. The students will be educated in the areas of instrumental music and life skills. They will be challenged to develop leadership, problem solving, and self-discipline skills along with individual musicianship, teamwork, and responsibility through participation in the various ensembles. The band also plays an important role through its obligations to concerts, parades, school events, and other performances throughout the school year.

By participating in the band, students can develop work habits and attention to detail that will most definitely be useful for the rest of their lives. It is no accident that band students are consistently among the top students academically. It is the band programs mission to produce students that are well equipped for life after high school. Performing with any musical ensemble is a great way to develop these skills.

At the end of this handbook is an informational form for you and your parent/guardian to fill out and return. **Please read this handbook in its entirety.** Then, along with your parent/guardian, sign and date the *Agreement Form* along with the *Website Consent*. The form must be returned to the band director before Friday July 19th to be eligible to participate in the Husky Band. Failure to turn in Agreement Form will prevent students from performing, which will greatly impact their grade. We look forward to working with you and your parents for the 2024-2025 year!

Spreading the Joy of Music,

Matthew M. Morgan
Director of Bands

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parent Volunteers

For any program to be successful, support from the outside is very important. Just as one person cannot do everything, everyone can do something! I would like to invite all parents to be involved in the band program. There are many areas in which you can be involved. Whether it is fundraising, chaperoning, driving, or sizing/fitting uniforms, we all have talents and abilities to serve the band. It is very important that we work together so this program can thrive! There will be a booster meeting on the first Tuesday every month (unless there is a conflict) at 5:30 P.M. in the band room or via zoom.

Communication

Email is a very useful form of communication. I use it a lot. Please be sure to provide an email address to better stay in touch. My email address is matthew.morgan@k12.wv.us. The band email address is nmhshuskyband@gmail.com. I check these emails often and will respond back in a timely manner. If you need to reach me by phone, you may call the school at (304) 986-3063 and I will return your call the next chance I get.

Facebook

The band has a Facebook page which is updated often with announcements, fundraisers, and upcoming events. You can find this page by going to facebook.com and searching "North Marion Marching Band-Current Members/Guardians Only". This group is private, and you will be asked to answer questions in order to be accepted. This ensures the safety of our students and band information. There is a public Facebook page titled "North Marion High School Husky Band" where parents can post videos and pictures for the public to see.

Band App

We use the band app to communicate with guardians and students as well. Please join the NMHS Husky Band 2024-25 group ASAP. Pictures can be stored on this as well.

Website

The band has a website that is used for most communication and updates. Please check this frequently to ensure nothing is missed. The website is nmhuskyband.com.



GRADING

The students will be evaluated on daily class participation, performance on playing tests, written quizzes, concerts/performance attendance, effort, and behavior. The student is expected to be prepared every day, display a positive attitude, demonstrate a willingness to learn, and put forth effort in class.

Rehearsal and Performance Expectations

During the fall semester, until football is finished, there will be practices on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. (6:00 P.M. during competition weeks). Students **will be** expected to be at **all** practices and rehearsals. Please see the 50/50 rule for students involved in other activities. If students miss more than **20%** of practices, they may be **written out** of the show for future performances.

Because we are a musical ensemble, attendance at concerts and other performances is required. Each **UNEXCUSED** absence will result in a letter grade cut of the final grade for that particular nine weeks. Please notify me at least 1 week in advance if you are unable to attend. In the event of an emergency, the student will have two days upon returning to school to provide an excuse. Once the 2 day period is up, it will remain unexcused.

A solo performance in class may take the place of an unexcused absence to bring the grade back up. The student should see the band director for a list of choices to prepare. They will perform this piece for the class the week before finals. This will keep the student preparing and performing, which is the biggest component of any ensemble.

If a performance is added to the schedule, I will make every effort to notify you a minimum of 1 week before the performance.

Important Note...

Extra rehearsals may be called at the director's discretion as a performance date draws near. Students will be notified at least a week in advance. Please make every effort to attend these as well. Attendance will be factored into grade.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BAND MEMBER

In the Husky Band we strive for excellence. For the band to reach its goals, the student and director must work together. While the director can teach, the student must be self-motivated to apply and demonstrate what the director is instructing.

Attendance and Punctuality Responsibilities

Attendance at all performances is required. Members should arrive promptly and prepared at the given time. As I like to say “To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unforgivable!” Remember, at the given time, students should be lined up and ready to go!

If a student must miss a performance or rehearsal, it is their responsibility to provide an excuse to the director AT LEAST ONE WEEK in advance. The director reserves the right to dispute the request of a member to be absent to ensure the policy is not abused. Excuses must be more specific than “student will be out of town.” In the case of an emergency, the student has 2 days after returning to school to provide an excuse. Excuse forms are available in the band room and must be filled out completely in order to be considered.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the following:

Tardiness (rehearsal or performance) – 3 tardies equal 1 unexcused absence and will result in the loss of half of the letter grade for that nine weeks.

Missed Rehearsal – (unexcused) loss of half of a letter grade for that particular nine weeks grade.

Missed Performance – (unexcused) a full letter grade cut for that particular nine weeks grade.

If a student comes to a rehearsal or performance without the proper equipment, uniform, attitude, or materials the consequence will be the same as a tardy.

The student must inform the director *in advance* if they plan to miss a rehearsal or performance due to a sports related conflict. Unless it is an emergency, excuses submitted the day of will not be accepted.

FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN THE ABSENCE BEING CONSIDERED UNEXCUSED, AND MAY NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE STUDENTS GRADE. Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain the information that was missed during an absence.

Band is a commitment. Our hope is that once you join you will never want to leave. If you do decide to leave, you must wait until the end of the semester. Your role is important to the ensemble. Whether it is on the field or in a concert setting, we would be losing an important piece of the sound.

SPORTS/EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONFLICTS

It is not fair to expect a student to give up one interest to participate in another. The band program is very willing to work with coaches. One goal of the band is to educate for life. Sometimes that means making decisions and prioritizing, but these qualities will build a strong, smart individual.

Football and Cheerleading

If a band member desires to play football or cheer for North Marion, exceptions can be made. Students participating in band and football/cheerleading are expected to follow the 50/50 Policy (explained below) when it comes to practices. The band director and coaches will work together. Students will be expected to be at every parade and other non-football related performance.

50/50 Policy

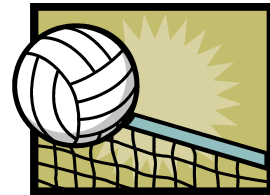
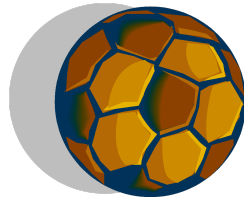
This policy allows the student to participate in band and another sport at the same time.

- Band practice vs. sports practice – band practices 2 days a week after school (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Attend band practice the first time the conflict arises and sports the next or visa versa.
- Band practice vs. sports event – Any North Marion athletic event takes precedence over a band rehearsal. Student is expected to attend the sports event and will receive an EXCUSED absence from the band rehearsal.
- Band performance vs. sports practice - If there is a performance the same time as a sports practice, the student is expected to represent the band and will be excused from that practice.
- Band performance vs sports event – If there is a game and performance at the same time the student may choose one over the other. Competitions should take priority though. If it happens a second time, the student is to choose the one he/she didn't the first time as to be fair to both groups.

The 50/50 policy assumes that the coaches of the individual sports in which students participate are willing to allow students to miss sports practices and events. The rule is designed to allow students to participate in fall sports and participate in band. However, students and coaches must remember that while sports are extra-curricular, band is co-curricular. This means that students who fail to meet the 50/50 requirement, even as a result of coaches' requirements, may see their grade reduced.

Non-North Marion related sports and clubs

While we recognize that participation in community sports and clubs is highly beneficial to the student's growth, you must realize that band performances are co-curricular and take priority over any community event. You will not be excused from a performance due to a community club/sport. The director reserves the right to use the 50/50 policy if desired.



The bottom line concerning sports/band conflict is the student is expected to split time between programs 50/50. It is unfair to the other members of the band or the team for a student to miss any more practices and/or performances/games than are necessary.

The band has the obligation to perform in and around the North Marion community and ALL band students have a responsibility to be at ALL scheduled performances throughout the year, up to and including graduation, which may sometimes fall on Memorial Day weekend. The only exemption from graduation is a brother/sister graduating. This also includes the Three Rivers Festival Parade and Grafton Memorial Day Parade.

Please Note:

Work conflicts, events, non-North Marion related performances, and/or other commitments are not considered to be eligible for excused absences, as they are considered to be “negotiable” with employers/instructors/mentors/etc.

DISCIPLINE

All Husky band members are considered to be “in school” when participating in any band event. Therefore, **all school policies will be enforced** as they would during school hours. In addition to the school policies, bullying and multiple behavior issues will not be tolerated and could result in being asked to leave the band. Additionally, **quiet attention is needed** during all rehearsals for the group to work effectively and efficiently.

There will be a **Zero-Tolerance** policy regarding drama and/or bullying behaviors that will be in effect at all times. Issues that may arise which fall under the purview of this policy include the following:

- A. The formation of “cliques” and/or cliquish behavior that cause disruption to rehearsals and performances.
- B. Negative, hateful, or derogatory comments about, or directed towards, any individual or group involved in the program. This includes, but is not limited to: students, staff, volunteers, and oneself.
- C. Negative, hateful, or derogatory comments about, or directed towards, other performing units within TOB, regardless of Class/Skill Level, Region, or Experience.

Performers who are unable to comply with the Zero-Tolerance policy will be subjected to participation in team-bonding activities, and a discussion with the Director. Serious offenses/issues may be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the Director and Staff.

As members of the North Marion Husky Band, performers are expected to uphold professionalism and respect for all persons, during performances, as well as through day-to-day interactions. The Husky Band, as an organization, aims to uphold the highest standards of behavior, technique, and performance ability, and encourages its performers to foster these values.

PERFORMANCE BEHAVIOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Wear the uniform with **respect**. Wearing half the uniform or wearing it incorrectly does not promote a positive image. In addition, while in uniform, band members should be a positive example that represents the school, band, and community well. This uniform represents the best the school has to offer.
2. Long hair must be pulled up and completely inside the shako. No hair is to be shown.
3. All jewelry must be removed prior to any field performance.
4. Members must sit together **by section and cannot leave without permission** nor invite others to sit with them while in performance. This includes football games.
5. Members must keep in mind how the public perceives them. Members should have the mindset that the performance begins the moment they arrive and ends when a formal dismissal comes from the director.
6. When at a band event, public displays of affection **will not be allowed**.
7. Members are expected to perform when directed. Pay close attention to the leader. Particularly at football games, we may play on very short notice. Be prepared!
8. Members must remain in full uniform. Until the final dismissal is announced or unless otherwise instructed by the director, each member should remain in complete uniform.

Failure to follow these responsibilities could lead to a strike on your name. After three strikes, you will receive a half letter grade reduction (See Responsibility of The Band Member Sheet – Tardiness). Failure to follow these responsibilities can also result in being told to sit out a performance.

UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITIES

General Information

1. All band members will be responsible for their uniform while it is in their possession.
2. Uniforms will remain at the school at all times. **Uniforms are not to be taken home or left in vehicles unless directed to do so.** Students must check-in their uniform **before leaving the school.**
3. If a uniform is stained or becomes dirty during the season it is the student's responsibility to have the uniform cleaned before the next performance. Please show the director the uniform BEFORE CLEANING for a list of appropriate dry cleaning services.
4. All band members must arrive in full uniform to every performance unless otherwise instructed. This consists of black pants, **BLACK SOCKS**, black shoes and theme t-shirt. If you only have 1 shirt be prepared to wash it if needed 2 days in a row.
5. Band jackets should remain zipped at all times, cape should always stay attached and suspenders should be worn **ON** the shoulders at all times unless otherwise directed. Students must pay for damage due to improper wear!
6. Full uniform must remain on at all times unless the director says otherwise.
7. Members are responsible for bringing all parts of their uniform to every performance. It is not the director's responsibility to provide missing items. **If a student is not fully prepared, he/she will not be allowed to perform which will negatively impact his/her grade.**
8. The uniform should always be worn clean, pressed, and wrinkle free.
9. Near the end of the year all uniform parts (jacket, pants, helmet, and plume) must be checked in. Students are responsible for damaged or missing items.

Uniform Care

1. Always hang up the uniform after every performance. Fold pants on the crease and place them on a hanger.
2. Always hang up uniform in a dry place to allow moisture to escape before placing it in the garment bag.
3. Repair uniform as needed (buttons, snaps etc.). See band director for parts needed.
4. Alterations may be made to uniform **ONLY WITH DIRECTOR'S PERMISSION.** Always treat the uniform with extreme care.
5. Garment bags travel best when laid flat. They should never be folded over or dragged on the ground.

Shoes Care

1. Clean shoe surface with a leather product cleaner before each performance.
2. Clean heel and sole edges as well.
3. Store shoes in a plastic bag before placing them in garment bag.

Shako Care

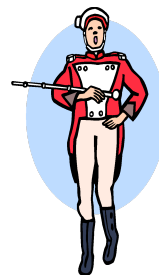
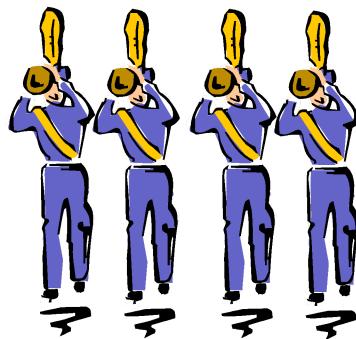
1. Remove fingerprints/smudges/dirt etc. from the helmet before putting it in the case.
2. Helmet should be stored in the case and on the shelves in the back of the band room.
3. Plume returned to its roll in the proper position and placed in the helmet case.

In School Performance Day Attire

1. Theme t-shirt and jeans must be worn to school the day of a football game if there is an assembly planned.

Concert Attire

1. Concert attire consists of black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes and white button up shirts for the ladies and the gentlemen. Please wear only black and white; not ivory, cream, gray or any other color. Inexpensive concert attire can be purchased at any local department store.
2. No white socks with black pants and black shoes.
3. Please try to present yourself as a professional every time you are in concert attire.



BAND CAMP

General Information

1. Band camp will typically be the third week of July.
2. The band camp fee is to be paid before camp if the child wishes to participate.
3. Please keep in mind, band camp is required to learn the marching drill and show music. For those students unable to attend band camp, you will still be able to be in the band as a non-marching member. See Mr. Morgan for details.
4. Students should plan accordingly for rain, hot, or cool weather.
5. Comfortable tennis shoes and socks must be worn when on the field. Students will not be permitted to rehearse without proper footwear. If unprepared to rehearse, this will count as an unexcused absence. This policy applies to any marching rehearsal after band camp as well.
6. Once at camp, no one should be in anyone's room other than their own.
7. NO video games should be brought to camp. It is for work.
8. NO energy drinks to be brought or drunk at camp! Water, water, water!!

Weather Advisory

When we practice outside we generally try to avoid midday (the hottest part of the day). It is still very important to take precautions while outside. We will have water available during rehearsals and have plenty of water breaks as needed.

The following are some precautions to take to prepare for each day:

1. Eat every meal
2. Dress in light, loose fitting clothing
3. Wear sunscreen
4. Drink a lot of water. Avoid soda pop and dairy products.
5. Hats and sunglasses are recommended
6. Chafing is possible! Don't be embarrassed to ask for powder or pack your own!

What to Bring to Band Camp

*Students will be permitted to bring **one** carry on bag, **one** luggage bag/suitcase, and **one** bag for linen. Please do not bring more luggage than needed; we will have limited space. Be sure to label all luggage with your name to be certain it does not get confused with someone else's. Keep in mind that luggage will be searched to ensure all school rules are followed.*

1. Instrument
2. Flip folder with all music and empty pages
3. Pencils
4. Sunscreen
5. Bug Spray
6. Any needed medications (to be left with the nurse, not in student's possession, in original bottle)
7. Light, loose fitting clothing that follow school dress code
8. Jacket and a pair of long pants in case of cooler weather
9. Good tennis shoes and socks (extra socks)
10. Extra pair of tennis shoes
11. Shower/Bathroom supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, rags, towels, deodorant, etc.)
12. Hats, bandanas, and sunglasses
13. Bedding (blankets, sheets, pillow cases) – the beds are bare, and linen is required.
For smaller rooms, the beds are double beds. For larger rooms, they are twin beds.
14. Pillow
15. Snacks (if picky eaters, pack protein!), NO energy drinks
16. Trash bag for dirty, wet clothes

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENT & STUDENTS WORKING CONCESSIONS

It is required that at least one parent/guardian or proxy work one varsity concession. Parents/guardians and students are also asked to work non-varsity concessions (soccer, JV, Husky Pups). By participating, your child will earn credits toward trips/band camp. By the end of the concession season, you are required to earn at least 40 credits from working concessions into your student's account. Credits for the events not worked will be taken out of your child's account like a fee/fine as credits are put in the account from fundraisers that students participate in until debt is paid to the boosters. If a student account is empty upon graduation and credits are still owed to the boosters for concessions not worked by parent and student, this fee will have to be paid before your child's graduation.

There will be a sign up for concession dates and times.

- Varsity games -20 credits a game for parents or guardians.
- Soccer, JV, Husky pups -10 credits parents or guardians, 5 credits Students.

(All credits earned will be put into a student account. 1 credit is equal to \$1)

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENT & STUDENTS WORKING FUNDRAISERS

If a student is being asked to participate in a fundraiser that does not place credits into their student account and has the sole purpose of earning money for the band, they will be required to participate in said fundraiser. If participation does not occur, their student account will be feed **a total of 20 credits** to make up for the money not earned. If a student account is empty upon graduation and credits are still owed to the boosters for required fundraisers not worked by parent and student, this fee will have to be paid before the child's graduation.

HUSKY BAND AGREEMENT FORM

Please complete this form and return it to the band room **before July 19, 2024** in order for your child to participate in the Husky Band program.

Band Member Agreement

As a member of the Husky Band program I agree to abide by **ALL** the procedures and policies outlined in this handbook as well as those of North Marion High School.

I understand that failure to follow the aforementioned policies could affect my grade or ability to participate in the band program.

****Web Consent****

Student's name/pictures will not appear online or in any band publication without parent/guardian permission. (please check one)

_____ I give the Husky Band permission to post pictures of my child/children

_____ I **DO NOT** give the Husky band permission to post pictures of my child/children

Parent Involvement

In order for this program to run smoothly, we need your help. **It is required that at least 40 credits be earned toward student accounts by working concessions.** By participating, your child will earn credits toward trips/band camp. If you do not volunteer, your child will not be eligible to receive trip credit from fundraisers and credits for the events will be taken out of your child's account. Your student may be asked to participate in **required fundraisers**. If the child fails to do so, a fee of **20 credits per unworked fundraiser** will be taken out of your child's account. These fees will have to be paid before your child's graduation. Please see the "**responsibility of parent and students working concession stands**" and "**responsibility of parent and students working fundraisers**" section of the handbook for further details.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian phone number (_____) _____ email address _____