



Noblesville High School Marching Millers Student/Parent Handbook 2022

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Sponsored by:
Noblesville Band Boosters, INC
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Welcome!

We are very excited that your family has chosen to participate in one of the most successful band programs in Indiana. The Noblesville Marching Millers have a successful tradition of excellence spanning over 70 years, including back to back State Fair Band Day Champions in 2017 & 2018, and then in 2 short years qualifying for the very prestigious ISSMA Open Class A STATE FINALS!!!! This year we continue our ISSMA Field Show competitions with great anticipation and support from students, parents, and our community. This extra-curricular program will be a unique and rewarding experience for both you and your child. Preparation is under way to make this another outstanding marching season, and we look forward to this new adventure.

This handbook has been assembled to answer questions and clarify our high expectations, to ensure the Marching Millers will have another successful year.

Fees

The cost of the marching season is divided among the projected number of students who commit to participating in marching band. Income from fees go directly towards marching band program expenses. Projected expenses include the paying for instructional staff, purchasing supplies, awards, music/copyright, drill, props, uniform dry cleaning, show shirts & more.

- This year each student is responsible for fundraising or paying **\$850**
- A **\$300 non-refundable deposit** is due by June 10, 2022. Invoices are sent via email to the addresses entered at the time of sign up. Payment options are included in the email.
- The remaining \$550 balance will be invoiced on June 15th and will be due by October 1, 2022. Monthly reminders will be sent until invoices are paid in full.
 - *The majority of season expenses will be spent by August 1, 2022. Students and families may continue to make monthly payments but are responsible for the full \$850 payment after August 1st even if your season is cut short for any reason.*
- An additional \$50 transportation fee will be invoiced in the fall from Noblesville High School. Payment details & options will be provided on the invoice.
- Marching Shoes & Gloves are an additional fee for those who need them. Items in good condition can be utilized for multiple years. Cash or Check payments are due at the time of ordering.

Any outstanding balances must be paid in full to participate in this current season. The current season must be paid in full to receive any awards, purchase a band jacket or attend trips. If any assistance is needed, please contact the Band Director to explore an alternative payment plan or financial assistance. **No student will be turned away for financial difficulty. Communication is Key!*

Fundraising Opportunities

The Band Boosters coordinate two types of fundraisers throughout the year.

1. Student Fundraisers

Various opportunities are available for your child to raise funds for their Fundraiser Account. These funds can only be used to pay for Concert Attire, Letter Jackets, Marching Band or Winter Group Fees and Band Trips. Look for these and more fundraisers throughout the year!

- **March-A-Thon Sponsorship**-students can ask friends and family for a dollar amount for every hour they will march this season, or a flat donation. 100% of money collected will go into the student's Fundraiser Account!
- **Patron Ad Drive** – In the fall, we will kick off a sponsorship campaign where students ask family, friends and neighbors to support them this band season. Sponsors will receive various benefits based on their monetary level of Sponsorship. Donations are split 50/50 between student Fundraiser Accounts & the Band Boosters.
- **Black & Gold Program Ad sales** - Students will receive 50% of the money from each ad they sell for the Black & Gold Invitational program. These funds will be deposited to their Fundraiser Account.
- **Wicks Pies & ButterBraids** - Students will receive a portion of each pie sale (fall) and Butterbraid sale (winter) that will be deposited to the Fundraiser Account.
- **Mattress sale fundraiser** - May 21, 2023 - Students earn cash for referrals that purchase a mattress.
- Other fundraisers may be added.

2. Band Boosters Fundraisers

Funds earned for the Boosters General Fund support the entire Band Program and every band student. The Marching Band has the largest budget of all the band programs and fundraisers help to offset the fees that you pay. The Boosters use this money for uniforms, equipment, props and costumes, transportation, contest fees, meals, financial assistance, scholarships and so much more! Here are a few of the ways you can help this season:

- **Black & Gold** – The Black & Gold Invitational is our biggest fundraiser of the year which is why we need all families to help make it a successful event. By fulfilling your volunteer obligation, you will help raise Boosters funds with ticket, concession and program sales. Encourage family and friends to attend and visit the concession stand. Purchase a family ad in the Program and your money will support the Boosters while also putting savings into your student's Fundraiser Account.
- **Corporate Sponsorship** – If you know of a Business that would be interested in Sponsoring the Band in exchange for advertising on our beautiful truck or trailer, the Black & Gold Program and on t-shirts, please let us know. We have various levels of Sponsorship and would be happy to speak with them regarding benefits. Contact the Band Directors for more information.
- **Kroger Rewards** –All you need to do is enroll online, shop at Kroger and use your reward card at checkout. Enroll at www.kroger.com. Click on the Community tab

then select Community Rewards. Create an account and select the *Noblesville Band Department*.

- **AmazonSmile** – Earn rewards for the band department every time you shop on Amazon. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to www.smile.amazon.com. Set your account up to support *Noblesville Band Boosters Inc.*
- **50/50 Raffle** - Parents will be selling tickets throughout the community. Students cannot participate in this fundraiser.
- **ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest** - we host this contest for area schools at the end of January or early February.
- **Indoor Percussion Contest**. If accepted we host this competition for indoor percussion, one of the larger contests in the State.

Parent Volunteers

It really does take a village to pull off a successful marching season. NO experience necessary. No, REALLY! There are some tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can pull water from a cooler, take tickets at a gate, serve pizza, hand out a band aid, use scissors, sew or build props - you have all the skills you need. Better yet, there is so much to do, you are bound to find something you actually enjoy doing. We ask that our volunteers work within the vision of the Noblesville Band, led by our band directors.

Family Volunteer Commitment:

In order to make this a successful marching season and keep the marching fees down, we require each marching family to commit to the following:

- **15 volunteer hours (per household) during the 2022 season**
- **3 hours must be Oct 1st at our Black & Gold Marching Invitational**
- **All volunteers must have a level 3 background check**

All Volunteer opportunities will be posted on our website:

NoblesvilleBand.org/Volunteer (password: blackgold)

- All Sign Up Genius Links
- Help Wanted Section!

If you are unable or unwilling to fulfill these commitments, there will be an additional \$300 fee for the season. This will be invoiced to you with your final balance. You may opt-out for the season by paying this fee in advance for a total of \$1,150.

Commitment to Excellence/Membership Eligibility

Students must fulfill the following duties to remain eligible to participate in rehearsals and performances:

1. Students must be present at every rehearsal/performance. Sitting out often while at rehearsal or missing rehearsal could result in dismissal from the group. All absences must be prearranged, emailed by a parent to Mr. Thornbury, and day-of emergencies must be emailed to him & emailing him a reminder near the absence is helpful.

2. Students must be current on their accounts. The Noblesville Band Boosters, Inc. is a non-profit organization that must pay their bills on time to stay in good standing with vendors and outside staff. Students with outstanding balances may not attend trips, join extracurricular groups in the future, purchase letter jackets, and will not receive awards. If any family needs assistance, you may contact the Band Director to explore several options: an alternative payment plan or financial assistance.. No student will be turned away for financial difficulty. The key is communication!
3. Students must be enrolled in a fall instrumental ensemble class (concert band, orchestra, guard) to participate in marching band.
4. All rules from the NHS Student Handbook concerning drugs policies and appropriate behavior also apply to the marching band activity.
5. Students must perform with a high level of effort and excellence to compete and perform with the Marching Millers. Directors have the final say on student eligibility for performances based on attendance, participation in daily rehearsals, and their level of excellence.
6. Students who have log entries during the school year due to discipline, behavior, attendance, or tardy issues may not be eligible for membership.
7. Students are liable for any damage to assigned uniform, equipment, or instruments.
8. Student academics come first. Students must be passing 5 classes to be eligible for marching band unless students are flexing their schedule.

Color Guard

The Color Guard includes flags, rifles, sabers, and dancers. Auditions are held for positions on specific equipment, but throughout the season, the directors reserve the right to move kids around as they see fit in accordance with drill/staging. Here are some unique considerations for the Color Guard:

1. Uniforms – each member will get a costume/uniform to fit the theme of the show. Color Guard gloves will be required for all members no matter the equipment that they are assigned.
2. Equipment – all equipment is borrowed or purchased (flags, rifles, and sabers).
Therefore, students must take care of them and are responsible for any damage they cause in use. Students will check out their equipment for the season, but will have to return it in good condition in order to receive their awards and be in good standing for the next guard season.
3. Makeup - each member is responsible for having their own "basics" for makeup. Concealer, foundation, blush, fake eyelashes, fake eyelash glue, and liquid eyeliner should be purchased on their own. Guard will provide specific colors for eyeshadow and lips.
4. Guard Room – the guard room is a storage room, not a “hang out” space. There should never be food or drink in the room; students should be in and out to grab needed equipment. During transit or meal times, students should be in the band room with the rest of the band, not in the guard room unattended. There is a locker system within the guard room but should not be used to store large personal items such as backpacks, jackets, etc. Locks are provided, but are \$5 if lost.

Percussion

The percussion section includes the front ensemble and drum line. Auditions are held for all positions. Directors reserve the right to move students to best fit the ensemble and individual needs. Here are some specific differences for the percussion section than the rest of the band:

1. Attendance - Many percussion spots are solo spots. This means that only one student is playing the music, specifically bass drum and many front ensemble members. Students placed in a solo spot cannot miss a performance and their attendance is vital for the success of the entire marching band. Students who have conflicts with performance will not be placed in a solo spot.
2. Uniforms – Percussion students do not wear gloves, and front ensemble members do not wear shakos.
3. Equipment – Most equipment is borrowed. Therefore, students must take care of them and are responsible for any damage they cause in use. This includes the instruments themselves as well as sticks / mallets/ beaters.
4. Sticks/Mallets – snare and tenor players are responsible for their own drum sticks. Bass drum and pit players will have beaters/mallets for them to use, but we recommend mallet players have their own sets to use.
5. Percussion Room – the percussion room is a storage room, not a “hang out” space. There should never be food or drink in the room; students should be in and out to grab needed instruments and mallets. During transit or meal times, students should be in the band room with the rest of the band, not in the percussion storage room unattended. Student belongings should stay in their provided locker – no personal items should stay in the percussion room.

PE Waiver

9-11th graders who complete 90% of the season will receive a PE credit for completing marching band. Marching band students can sign up for this option when filling out the Marching Band google form sign-up. Marching band students may miss no more than 24 hours of rehearsal/events/performances. *Note: Performance and Camp Days are 8 hour days.* Students must complete the PE Department required online course for the PE Waiver.

Health & Safety

Marching band is hard physical work, oftentimes in extreme weather, and injuries can occur. This is why the medical/permission to treat/permission to travel form must be turned in before a student can participate. Each day, students begin with warm ups called “fundamentals” to ensure the students know the best way to march safely, and warm-ups with percussion & guard to teach the proper technique to reduce the risk of injury. Anytime a student requests medical treatment from a parent volunteer on duty at a contest or practice, the parent on duty will call the parent of the student requesting treatment. This is to ensure that all parents are aware of the health of their child at our rehearsals.

WARNING: Under Indiana law a school is not liable for an injury to, or the death of, a participant in physical fitness activities at the school if the death or injury results from the inherent risks of the physical fitness activity. Inherent risks of physical fitness activities include risks of injury inherent in exercise, the nature of a sport, the use of exercise equipment, or the use of a facility provided by a school. Inherent risks also include the potential that the athlete may act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury or death, or that other participants may act in a manner that may result in injury or

death to the athlete. The athlete and parents are assuming the risks of participating in this physical fitness activity.

In addition to the NHS Handbook the band department advises that your child's physician be consulted prior to beginning any athletic activity (like marching band) and any limitations prescribed by the doctor should be given in writing to the program coordinator. (NHS Athletic Code of Conduct Section 22)

Communication

Band Directors are "normal" people. But they are very busy people. They work long hours and their main focus is the students. If you have a specific concern about the band program, set up a time, via email, to discuss it. If you need general information, directors are probably not your best resource. Most student questions can be answered by asking their section leader or a drum major. For parents, always start with your student, section parent, website, facebook and/or Band Booster. If you are still left with questions, email an assistant director.

On another note: Marching band requires dedication and discipline from your student. The job of the directors is to help your student excel in band, and to work to make the Noblesville Band program the best it can possibly be. On the field, the directors and staff may speak loudly, directly, and often without pleasantries. When mistakes are made, especially due to lack of effort, there are consequences. Try to relax and allow the process to work. Encourage your child to do their best, listen, and work hard. If every student is successful, then the entire band program will be successful.

How Do I Find Out What is Going On?

*Band Website: NoblesvilleBand.org

*BandApp: Download app and join the group!

*Facebook Private Group: (NHS Bands and Guard 2022-23) Our Facebook group is private/by request and only for Noblesville Band families. This group will be a useful resource for parents to get information about upcoming events, reminders for practice, sign up to volunteer, find rides, ask questions, share photos, etc. If you have complaints, please do not post those in the Facebook group. Instead email a board member or director.

Facebook Page: Follow our public page - Noblesville High School Bands

*Twitter: @NoblesvilleBand

Band Booster Contacts

Amanda Sheets, President- President@NoblesvilleBand.org

Lori Emmert, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@noblesvilleband.org

Jacky Doke, Treasurer- Treasurer@NoblesvilleBand.org

Attendance/Tardy Policy

1. Being "on time" to rehearsal means 10-15 minutes early. At the time rehearsal begins, the student should already be on the field ready to rehearse. Students late to rehearsal will need to warm-up with calisthenics, jogging, or strength training.
2. Email Mr. Thornbury with absences, we want to keep children safe. If it's a pre-arranged absence, please email Mr. Thornbury the week of to remind him. Drum Majors will call parents to check on missing students.

3. Some students have conflicts with particular days and will have pre-arranged absences on file with the directors. Please note that these have been evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and include considerations like experience, amount of time missing, etc. Some of these students may be unable to march because of these conflicts, some will share a spot with another marcher.
4. If students have last minute absences, even if they cannot be avoided for sickness or family emergency, the student may not be able to actually march or perform their “spot” at the next competition. It is up to the directors to make that decision, as the student may not have had enough rehearsal time to march their spot safely for themselves or the people around them, because changes (sometimes drastic changes) are made at almost every rehearsal. This is not a punishment, but a safety and performance consideration that is the best decision for the entire marching band.

End of Rehearsal Procedure

1. Marching Rehearsals are closed to the public. Parents, family and friends are encouraged to watch the last 20 minutes of rehearsal to see the final run through.
2. Students should be ready for pick-up 15 minutes after rehearsal ends. This allows time to put instruments away and for section meetings. Please have rides for students between 15 and 30 minutes after rehearsal or performance ends. Students should not be waiting on rides 30+ minutes after rehearsals or performances.
3. The West drive will be closed to vehicles during marching rehearsals, especially for pick-up at the end of rehearsal. Parking is available in several of the North parking lots and it is a short walk to the rehearsal fields.

Instrument/Locker Care

School Owned Instruments/Lockers: students should treat school-owned instruments like their own. Any damage that occurs under the student’s care will be assessed and the student will be billed accordingly. A lock will be assigned to students, and replacement cost is \$5.

Instruments are always lined up, cases always put away or neatly lined up if off site. All students will be given a lock for their belongings to use during the summer. NHS is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please keep items locked in lockers, and leave valuables at home.

FAQ & General Info

*Summer Rehearsal Checklist

- Sunscreen/Sunglasses/Hat
- Athletic shoes w/ Socks. No sandals
- Sack meal/After School Snacks/Camp Day Lunch
- Large insulated water jug (bring full, refill during rehearsal at school)

***Performance Day Checklist**

- Arrive hydrated with sunscreen applied
- Black Shorts/Performance T-Shirt/Show T-Shirt
- Marching shoes/Gloves/Tall Black Socks
- Water bottle for the bus (refill before leaving NHS)
- Sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses, hat, rain poncho
- Small bag to contain items, marked with student name (label everything)
- cold days- layers for rehearsal/performance

***Food/dinner breaks**

Each drill/camp day will include a 45-minute meal break. Students are not allowed to leave NHS to get food. Parents may drop off food, but we highly suggest the students come prepared with their sack dinner. No outside visitors allowed.

***Drill Camp vs. Band Camp**

Both drill camp/July 4th prep/band camp are rehearsal days, with different starting times. For Band Camp, the biggest difference includes evening activities including a special student-only ceremony (passing the torch from seniors to freshman) usually on Thursday. See current calendar on our website (NoblesvilleBand.org/Marching) plus more information to come via email and FB the week before band camp.

***Dress Code**

Students should wear comfortable athletic shorts. Do not wear jeans or dark clothing. Light cotton t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shorts should be worn each day. Students must follow school dress code policy. Students in violation of the dress policy may be given a t-shirt from the uniform room to wear, and non-compliance could result in dismissal from the group.

***Pick up and drop off**

Please drop off and pick up students in the North parking lot. Students should walk from a North lot to gate 29 or gate 30.

***Visiting Rehearsal**

NHS is a closed campus during rehearsals. Students are not allowed to have visitors during our rehearsal times/dinner breaks. However, we do encourage parents to park in the North Parking Lot and walk over to watch the final run through of the show that happens most rehearsals.

***Cost of Attending Marching Contests for Spectators**

Generally, the entry cost to attend an invitational marching contest for non-performing family members is around \$8 a person. Not every contest has the ability to take credit cards, so it is always recommended to have cash on hand. Depending on the contest, such as Bands of America (BOA) or State Finals, there may be a small fee for parking and higher admission cost. Contests often have concession stands or vendors for food purchases.

***Etiquette at Contests**

Parents & Students! Whether you are representing the Noblesville Marching Millers at our home Black & Gold invitational or away at another marching competition, you are always representing the Noblesville Band and our community. We insist that you speak not only highly of our band, but of all the bands you see. Spectators from other schools will constantly be around to hear your words & see your actions. Please be respectful & say only kind things. It is encouraged to clap for all performers, not just our students. Marching Band, while competitive, is ultimately a culture of encouragement where everyone is part of one big family that carries beyond our home field.

***Typical Performance Day**

Performance days generally start in the morning with 2-3 hours of rehearsal before loading the buses & equipment and driving to the contest. Upon arrival at the host school, students unload and warm up, perform, attend awards, load the bus and return to NHS. Plan for a morning to very late-night day. Students will want to bring a meal before we leave and money for dinner/concessions.

Required Forms for Marching Band Eligibility

- Google Online Sign Up Form
- Medical Form (Turn-In Paper Copy During first week of rehearsals)
- Cardiac Arrest and Concussion protocols forms signed
- Deposit- (Received via email invoice) Paypal, Venmo, Cash or Check to Noblesville Band Boosters, INC

There is a lot of information to process. Please be familiar with all of the information and ask questions. Following these guidelines will lead to our most successful marching season to date.