


# Noblesville High School NIPE
# Student/Family Handbook 2026-2027

Eric Thornbury, Director
Jacob Crossley, Associate Director
Thomas Thawley, Color Guard Director
Thomas Fitzpatrick, Color Guard Director
Cal Lennon, Percussion Director

18111 Cumberland Road
Noblesville, IN 46060
317-773-4680

NoblesvilleBand.org

Sponsored by:
Noblesville Band Boosters, INC

**Welcome**!

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

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**Required Checklist for NIPE Eligibility**
***Must be completed to participate ****

- **Online Sign-Up Form, Clinic Registration & Deposit**
- **Medical Form**
- **Concussion & Cardiac Arrest Acknowledgement**
- **Signed 2026-2027 Commitment Contract (attached to this handbook)**

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# *Early COMMUNICATION Solves Problems*

**Director Contacts**

Eric Thornbury, Director- eric_thornbury@nobl.k12.in.us
317-773-4600 x12246
Jacob Crossley, Associate Director - jacob_crossley@nobl.k12.in.us
317-773-4600 x12220
Thomas Thawley, Color Guard Director - thomas_thawley@nobl.k12.in.us
Thomas Fitzpatrick, Color Guard Director - Thomas.John.Fitzpatrick@gmail.com
Cal Lennon, Percussion Director - charles_lennon@nobl.k12.in.us

**Point Parent Contacts**

NIPE Point Parent- Kimberly Iverson
Kiverson4@yahoo.com

**Band Booster Contacts**

Emily Alexander, President- President@NoblesvilleBand.org
Gretchen Horne, VP - President@NoblesvilleBand.org
Carrie Dolan, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@noblesvilleband.org
Jacky Doke, Treasurer- Treasurer@NoblesvilleBand.org

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**Sources of Information**

**Parent Communication Groups/Sources of Info:**
Band Website: https://www.noblesvilleband.org/nipe

BandApp: Download app and join the group!
You can also access the band app via web browser:
NIPE 2026-2027 Band App https://www.band.us/band/104813235

Facebook Private Group: (NHS Bands and Guard 2026-27)
https://www.facebook.com/groups/838263646667828
*These groups are for additional discussion. This is not our primary source of communication. Our Facebook group is private/by request and only for Noblesville Band families. If you have complaints, please do not post those in the Facebook group.*

**Public social media:**
Facebook Page: Follow our public page - Noblesville High School Bands
Twitter: @NoblesvilleBand
Instagram: @NoblesvilleBand

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**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 any missing rehearsals could result in dismissal from the group or loss of spot. All absences must be prearranged and communicated to the Director. In the event of an emergency, please notify the group parent and/or the Director in a timely manner.
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 join extracurricular groups in the future until a financial agreement is made. Families may be subject to further collection efforts. If any family needs assistance, you may contact the Band Director or Treasurer 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 spring instrumental ensemble class (concert band, orchestra, guard) to participate.

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. 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 unless students are flexing their schedule.

**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 & Band Trips. Please contact our treasurer to apply funds accordingly.

**The band boosters reserve the right to automatically apply fundraiser funds towards outstanding balances on student fees after the final due date for fees has passed.*

- Poinsettia Sale - Students will receive a portion of each item sold that will be deposited into their Fundraiser Account.
- ButterBraids - Students will receive a portion of each Butterbraid sale that will be deposited to the Fundraiser Account.

2. Band Boosters Fundraisers

Funds earned for the Boosters General Fund support the entire Band Program and every band student. 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:

- Donation/Sponsorship – If you know of a Business that would be interested in Sponsoring the Band, or an individual student, in exchange for advertising on our beautiful truck or trailer, in programs and on t-shirts, please let us know! We offer various levels of Sponsorship and would be happy to speak with them regarding benefits. Contact our Corporate Sponsorship Chair - Sponsorship@NoblesvilleBand.org
- Kroger Rewards – Earn direct donations by shopping at Kroger and using your reward card at checkout. To get started, visit www.kroger.com. Click on the Community tab, then select Community Rewards. Create an account and select the *Noblesville Band Department*.
- Indoor Percussion Contest. If accepted we host this competition for indoor percussion (IPA), one of the larger contests in the State.
- BINGO – Returning in 2026! This fundraiser is a one day event to raise funds for our financial assistance fund.

**Health & Safety**

Noblesville Indoor Percussion is hard physical work 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. 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)*

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**Communication**

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 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 student leaders. For parents, always start with your student, group parent, website, Facebook and/or Band Booster. If you are still left with questions, email the director.

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**Attendance/Tardy Policy**

1. Being "on time" to rehearsal means 10-15 minutes early. At the time rehearsal begins, the student should already be ready to rehearse. Students late to rehearsal will need to warm-up with calisthenics, jogging, or strength training.
2. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure they are checked in for attendance.
3. Email director with absences, as we want to keep children safe.
4. 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 perform because of these conflicts, some may share a spot with another performer.

**Cost of Attending NIPE Contests for Spectators**

Generally, the entry cost to attend an invitational contest for non-performing family members is $8 - $40. Prop parents do not need to purchase entry tickets. WGI contest tickets can be purchased prior to the day, and can be found at https://wgi.org/ under events. FOR DAYTON- IT IS BENEFICIAL TO PURCHASE TICKETS BEFOREHAND. Contests often have concession stands or vendors for food purchases. Plan ahead to have both credit and cash payment options. Locations will vary on what type of payments are accepted.

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**Etiquette at Contests**

Parents & Students, you are always representing the Noblesville Band and our community. We insist that you speak not only highly of our groups, but of all the groups 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. Indoor percussion, while competitive, is ultimately a culture of encouragement where everyone is part of one big family that carries beyond our home field.

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**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.

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**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 group. Students who have conflicts with performance may not be placed in a solo spot.
2. Equipment – Most equipment is borrowed. Therefore, students must take care of it and are responsible for any damage they cause in use. This includes the instruments themselves as well as drum sticks & beaters/mallets.
3. 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.
4. 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. Student belongings should stay in their provided locker – no personal items should stay in the percussion room.

**Fees: NIPE Financial Responsibilities**

The cost of Noblesville Indoor Percussion Ensemble (NIPE) is divided among the projected number of students who commit to participating. Income from fees go directly towards NIPE expenses.
All fees will be invoiced and sent via email to the parent/guardian email addresses entered on the sign up.

**Please read through the Financial Commitment Contract at the end of this handbook carefully.**

- This year each student is responsible for fundraising or paying **$1,150**
  - *$50 extracurricular transportation fee to Noblesville Schools is NOT included in this fee.*

- **A $50 non-refundable registration fee applies to all students participating in the November percussion clinic. Payment is due at the time of sign-up. This will apply towards the NIPE balance.**

- **A $250 non-refundable deposit for all performers will be invoiced via email. Payment is due by December 15th, 2026**

- The remaining **$850 balance will be invoiced in December and DUE by April 15th, 2027.**
  - Pay schedule as follows:
    - $250 DUE 1/15/27; $200 DUE 2/15/27; $200 DUE 3/15/27; $200 DUE 4/15/27
  - Payment options will be included in the email with your invoice. Monthly reminders will be sent until invoices are paid in full.

- Additional Costs:
  - Fees for food for overnight trips will be collected prior to each trip (Approx. $40)
  - Optional: Treat bags, meals at contest, contest tickets & parking, spirit store purchases.

***Outstanding balances from previous seasons must be settled to participate in the current season**.*

*Any accounts that are not settled with an agreed upon payment plan in place past the final due date may be subject to additional collection efforts. Any extra fees or costs associated with the collection process are the responsibility of the signor.*

*If financial assistance or alternative payment plan is needed, please contact our treasurer as soon as possible.*

**Questions?**

**Jacky Doke, Treasurer - treasurer@noblesvilleband.org**

**NIPE Family Volunteer Commitment:**

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

- **2 shifts at IPA Invitational hosted by NHS (per household)**
  - **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27TH, 2027**
  - *Shifts are typically 2-4 hours depending on how many groups are participating.*
- All Volunteer opportunities will be posted on our website:
  - **NoblesvilleBand.org/nipe Resource Center> Volunteer Tab**
    - All Sign Up Genius Links
    - Help Wanted Section!
  - **Band App**

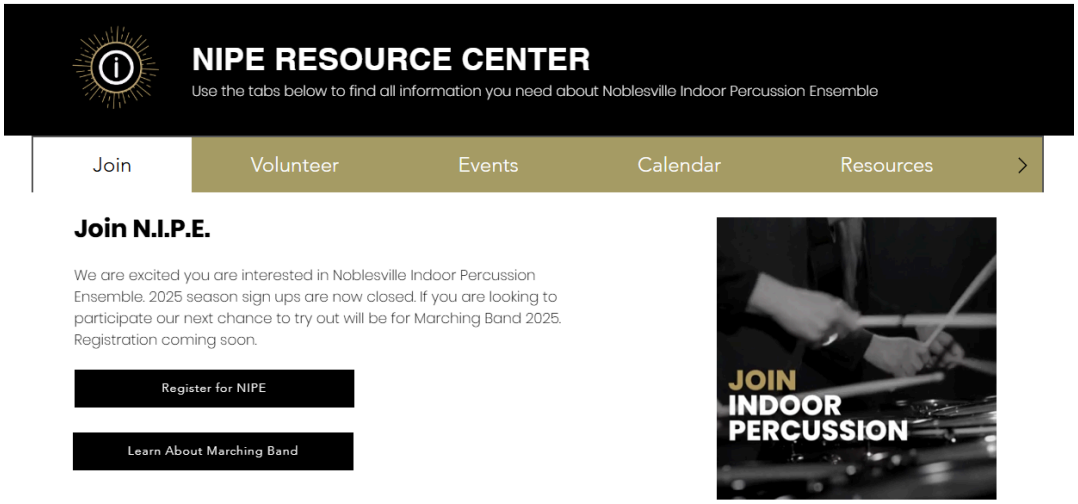
- **All volunteers supervising students must have a level 3 background check.**
  - *The link is on our website. (NoblesvilleBand.org/nipe Resource Center> Volunteer Tab)*
  - Check Sign Up Genius for background check requirements
  - Lanyards & name tags provided upon approved background check

**If you are unable or unwilling to fulfill these volunteer commitments in FULL, there will be an additional $500 fee for the season. This will be invoiced to you at the end of the season. This fee becomes part of the obligation to pay. You may opt-out of the volunteer requirement for the season by paying this fee in advance.*

**Questions?**

**Carrie Dolan, Volunteer Coordinator - volunteers@noblesvilleband.org**

**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 season to date.**



# Noblesville Band Boosters Financial Commitment Contract

## Your Financial Responsibilities

Enrolling and participating in competitions, programs, events, and activities ("Programs") offered by or associated with NOBLESVILLE BAND BOOSTERS INC. ("Nonprofit") comes with financial responsibilities which include dues, fees, and other related costs ("Charges") all of which are part of a legally binding contract. Charges will be assessed to your account, and you will receive notifications about this account through the email account supplied to Nonprofit. Make sure you understand your obligations by reading and acknowledging the financial agreement below.

## Financial Agreement

By enrolling in and participating in Programs offered by Nonprofit, you are entering into a legally binding contract in which you acknowledge and agree to pay all Charges assessed to your account. This includes accepting responsibility for any additional costs related to your enrollment in the Programs including, but not limited to, accommodations, meals, clothing, transportation, instruments, entry fees, and any other costs associated with the Program. Charges apply regardless of the participation or length of term, even if the participation changes at any point of the year, and you acknowledge such determinations will be made by Nonprofit in its sole discretion. Published drop/add deadlines also apply regardless of the length of participation.

- You understand if you allow your account to become delinquent, Nonprofit services such as future registration and participation in the Programs may be suspended until such time as your account is settled with a payment plan in place. In addition, you understand Nonprofit may refer your past due account for collection and authorize legal action against you for the collection of this debt. You agree to be liable for all collection fees, plus any court and/or attorney fees resulting from the enforcement of this agreement (as allowed under Indiana law), necessary for the collection of any amount not paid when due. Any collection fees are in addition to the principal fees due on the account.
- You understand and agree Nonprofit uses electronic means for registration in Programs and financial transactions such as account payments and payment setup. Email is the official method of communication by Nonprofit. Nonprofit will send notifications regarding your participation in Programs, account balances, financial aid, and other information related to your status as a participant in the Programs through the email account supplied to Nonprofit.
- You understand and agree if you accrue an unpaid balance, you authorize Nonprofit, its directors, representatives, and/or its agents, including attorneys and collection agencies, to contact you via telephone and/or all forms of electronic technology (to include email and text messaging) to collect such outstanding debt, unless you notify the agent in writing to cease electronic/telephone communication.
- You understand neither suspension or expulsion from the Programs ends your obligation to pay any unpaid Charges assessed to your account. You further understand suspension or expulsion will result in the forfeit of paid Charges for the semester in which you are suspended or expelled.

# 2026-27 NIPE Commitment Contract

*The success of our program depends on a commitment from directors, students and families!*
*Please review, sign and return this form ASAP!*

Student Agreement:

- I have read the Noblesville Band Handbook and agree to the requirements within the handbook.
- I will work together with the directors to make a positive contribution to the Noblesville Band program by practicing weekly, doing my personal best during class time, and attending all rehearsals and performances this year.
- I am aware that school rules apply to rehearsals and performances. Directors reserve the right to deny participation to students who have discipline or attendance problems.

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

- I have read the Noblesville Band Handbook and will work together with the directors to support my students' interest and commitment to the Noblesville Band program as stated in this handbook.
- I understand and acknowledge the Financial Commitment Contract.
- I agree to pay the 2027 NIPE fee of $1,150 per the terms specified in both the handbook and the financial commitment contract.
- I agree to the volunteer commitment per the terms specified in the handbook.
    - I understand that our family must work TWO shifts at our hosted IPA Show on 2/27/27
    - I understand that not completing all shifts required will result in a $500 fee.
- Information from directors will be communicated via email. Information from Boosters will be communicated via Band App. It is my personal responsibility to read this information.
- I received the rehearsal and contest schedules and understand that attendance at these rehearsals and contests is part of the requirement for participation. I understand absences must be communicated **IN WRITING TO A DIRECTOR WELL IN ADVANCE**.
- I am aware that school rules apply to rehearsals and performances. Directors reserve the right to deny participation to students who have discipline or attendance problems.

***Parent/Guardian copy. No signatures required on this copy.***

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Student(s) Name:_____

Parent/Guardian #1 Name:_____

Parent/Guardian #1 Signature:_____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name:_____

Parent/Guardian #2 Signature:_____

***Booster copy. Please return this copy.***