



North Iredell High School  
Band Handbook

Updated: August 2022

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August 22, 2022  
North Iredell High School

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

WELCOME TO THE BAND! I am so excited that you've decided to further your music education through joining the North Iredell High School Band Program!

Students, you're in for one of the most rewarding groups in the school. You'll get to make great friends, travel, perform, improve playing skills, compete and have fun! The work will be hard, but equally rewarding and I look forward to guiding you through your musical development.

Students, band will always be what YOU make of it. This is YOUR band program. It's success and atmosphere will be a direct reflection of how you treat it. I have always ascribed to the idea that band is a class where the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. I hope you will choose to invest yourself fully in the experience and those who do will find a home amongst the band students.

Parents, your student needs to know that you think what they do is important! What many miss out on is that band can be a great experience for parents as well. Parents travel together, they cheer together, if you will choose to invest yourself into the process you'll find that your student will be more successful and you will find the process equally rewarding.

This handbook will cover most everything you need to know to navigate this school year with the NIHS Band Program. I would ask that you please familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures of the band program and I'd ask you to tear off the back page of this book and sign the letter of mutual consent so that we know we are all on the same page.

We are going to do some big things this year, new uniforms, first full year in the new building, new practice area for marching band. I am excited for this year and look forward to working with each of you to make the band program successful!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Brantley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Charlie Brantley  
Director of Bands  
North Iredell High School

### Educational Philosophy

Before we discuss our program objectives and my educational philosophy, we must clarify that because of my educational philosophy I encourage the students to set their own goals and objectives that fit their needs. These are MY philosophies that I try to use to guide my decision making within the band program.

My fundamental beliefs about teaching band

1. Band is a curricular subject and should be treated as such.
2. Students come to band for different reasons, will be motivated differently, and will get different things from the band program.
3. Band provides opportunities to develop non-musical related skills, such as: leadership, social skills, and learning a growth mindset.
4. Quality music will help develop quality musicians and must be appropriate to the performance environment.
5. The band is part of the larger school community.
6. You must approach all aspects with a growth mindset. Growth must be more important than just “winning”.

### Program Objectives

These program objectives are based on the above fundamental beliefs:

1. To promote the band programs importance as a subject within the school community
2. To provide opportunities for students to be successful as a musician, leader, and citizen.
3. To foster a community of like minded students working towards common goals.
4. To program a variety of music that meets the educational needs of students.
5. To perform at events that support the school and our local community.
6. To promote a healthy competitive spirit that celebrates growth and performance of all involved.

### Parent Advocacy Information

It's already been stated once but it is so important that it must be stated again: your student MUST feel that you think what they're doing in the band is important. It is! While band is a fun activity, it is crucial that it is treated with importance. There are many reports that show how music develops students well beyond the classroom experience. It isn't a coincidence that every year we have some of the highest academically performing students in the school. We have students elected to the student council, we have almost all of the graduating seniors going on to college after graduation, Governor's school attendees, college music majors. Successful students are often drawn towards music and you should encourage your student to be successful as musicians. We encourage you to be involved!

While there are obvious ways to be involved, such as attending concerts and inviting others, participating with fundraisers, or attending band booster meetings, or helping move pit equipment. There are many ways you can show that you are supporting your student and your program in subtle ways that will put importance on your students participation. For example:

- Scheduling vacations/travel around band activities
- Making sure students are at all rehearsals
- Scheduling appointments around band rehearsals or class
- Understanding that rehearsal times or dismissals from event times may vary slightly and don't include clean up
- Making sure your student stays at competitions to observe and support other bands
- Sitting with the band parent section at football games
- Encouraging your student to take band every semester (colleges like seeing evidence of commitment and follow through)

Parental involvement has been cited as the number one factor for success in a child's musical endeavors in a number of studies. Parents who are actively involved in their children's music education have a chance to experience and enjoy first-hand the many important moments of musical and personal growth and achievement as they happen. We need your help!

### NIHS Band Boosters

Do you have a student in band? CONGRATULATIONS! When you have a child in the band you become a Band Booster. The North Iredell High School Band Boosters organization is a group for parents and other interested parties, dedicated to provide financial support and help promote band spirit. Committees are formed to provide necessary services to the band. Among these services are providing chaperones for trips, helping with fund-raising projects, aiding with public relations, serving on telephone committees, participating in pit crew and much more. Membership is open to everyone. All parents are encouraged to get involved through membership in the Band Boosters organization. The only way you can make a difference is to be there and to be active. For more information visit: [www.nihsband.com/boosters](http://www.nihsband.com/boosters).

### Course Offerings

Scheduling Policy: Students must be enrolled in a band class during each semester in order to participate in all band events during that semester. The only exceptions are class conflicts after all other class options have been exhausted. Students with class conflicts who wish to participate MUST be in the E-block class time and all exceptions are at the discretion of the director. Exceptions to this policy will only be granted and will only apply to marching bands and cannot be for wind ensemble or concert band in the spring.

Excused exemption example: A senior wind player needs a class in order to graduate that only meets 4th period 1st semester. They would be eligible to be in the e-block class and participate in the front ensemble for the halftime show and play in the stands at football games.

Conducting Class Policy: students must be in band all year to participate in conducting class unless they are granted an exception due to a class conflict only.

#### Fall Semester Course Offerings - All fall band students are part of the NIHS Marching Band

Percussion Class - 1st block - All percussion students must be in this class time in order to march a spot on the drumline or play a prominent front ensemble instrument.

Color Guard - 1st block - Students who successfully audition and are chosen for color guard in the previous spring should register for PERCUSSION CLASS as these classes meet at the same time.

Conducting - 2nd block - conducting class is only offered to upper level student that have met (or will meet) all graduation requirements. Conducting students travel to the middle school daily to help teach middle school band.

Winds Class - 4th block - all wind instrument players should be in 4th block.

Marching Band - 5th block - all students who are in marching band receive a ½ credit towards graduation.

#### Spring Semester Course Offerings

Concert Band - Concert band is meant for either: freshmen who do not successfully audition for wind ensemble or upperclassmen students wishing to learn a secondary instrument. Some students that have a legitimate scheduling conflict with Wind Ensemble may opt to take 1st block band with the understanding that the material will be geared towards freshmen and they will have independent study on music at their level. These students must play with the concert band students and MAY play with the Wind Ensemble at the discretion of the director.

Wind Ensemble - Wind Ensemble is meant for either: students who have successfully completed concert band, or freshmen students that scored above a 70 on their final exam for first semester band. Scoring a 70 or higher demonstrates the necessary skills needed to perform the music selected for the Wind Ensemble.

### Financial Obligations

Band Fees - Students participating in fall semester marching band are required to submit a band fee of \$170. This band fee goes towards: music, drill, staff, costumes/uniforms, bus travel, competition fees, show design, show shirt design, instruments, materials, color guard equipment, or any other needs the band may have. Students will also receive the following:

- New students will receive a marching band tee shirt
- Show tee-shirt
- Registration fee for all county auditions
- Battery Percussion will receive one set of marching sticks

Additional Required Items:

- Marching shoes or guard shoes (\$35)
- Gloves (wind players) (\$3)
- Flip Folder and Lyre (wind players only, available at Music and Arts in Statesville)

Tracking and Payment: All checks should be made out to NIHS Band or NIHS Band Boosters depending on the activity. Band Fees go to NIHS Band.

### Financial Aid

We will not turn away any students from participating due to financial hardship. There are two options for covering band fees and required materials.

Payment Plan - Payments of \$34 for each of the following months: August, September, October, November and December.

Financial Aid - Parents in true financial hardship may apply for financial aid. These forms are handled by the district and all financial relief is decided by the district. You may apply for financial aid by filling out the form in the back of the handbook.

### Audition Information

Throughout the year students have the opportunity to audition for various opportunities, which include:

All County Band - All fall semester students will be expected to audition for all county band as a requirement of their exam. Auditions for All County are usually the second weekend in December. The clinic for all county band is the last full weekend in January.

All District Band - Advanced students that wish to challenge themselves further may audition for All District Band. These are the same requirements as all county band just more competitive. There is a \$7 audition fee for this audition and these are the first weekend in January. The clinic is usually the 3rd weekend in February.

Western Regional Orchestra - instruments other than saxophone can audition for Western Regional Orchestra, although this is a highly competitive group and should only be for the most serious musicians.

All State Band - only students that successfully make the top chair placement in All District Band have the opportunity to audition for All State Band. These auditions are in March with the clinic the first weekend in May.

USC Honor Band - students may apply to be chosen for the University of South Carolina Honor Band. These students will be ranked by the director when submitted with priority given to playing ability first and seniority second. Students who are selected to attend must play a small audition upon arrival at the camp. This clinic is the second weekend in February.

### Solos and other Featured Performers

Students will be selected to perform solos or be featured in a variety of ways. Students must know that attitude and effort go a long way to getting the roles they want within performances. Sometimes music and roles are selected with specific students already in mind based on attitude, ability, and effort. In the event that a solo can be performed by numerous people we will often make recordings and have an unrelated (other band director or staff) listen to the recording and make a decision to eliminate any element of bias. This also applies to certain aspects of the drum major auditions.



### Student Leadership

Students who have been in band for at least one fall semester have the opportunity to apply for leadership positions. Full information will go out each spring. Each position may have an assistant as necessary and are chosen based on merit. The leadership positions are: Drum Major, Guard Captain, Brass Captain, Woodwind Captain, Drumline Captain, Front Ensemble Captain, Band Manager, Equipment Manager, Librarian, Secretary, Historian / Public Relations.

### Attendance Policies

All students are subject to the attendance policies of Iredell Statesville Schools.

### After School Rehearsal Policies

Due to the competitive nature of marching band, attendance at all rehearsals is crucial to the success of the group. Therefore attendance at all rehearsals is considered mandatory. The following attendance policy will be STRICTLY enforced.

1. Students must attend all rehearsals and performances. If there is a planned absence, an absence form must be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the absence. The validity of the excuse will be accepted or rejected on the basis of priorities. Students and parents may discuss the circumstances surrounding the excuse with the director but it may still be considered an unexcused absence. Excused absences are only granted for school approved reasons (death in the family, illness, etc.).
2. Students who become ill on the day of rehearsal should notify the director of the absence and bring in a doctor's note when they return to school. Parent notes will not be accepted for an illness related absence.
3. Students who show up at a rehearsal more than 5 minutes past start time will be considered late. Three tardies equals one unexcused absence.
4. All students will abide by the following consequences:
  - a. Any unexcused absence without notification - student put on probation for the remainder of the semester
  - b. Unexcused absence with notification - time must be made up outside of normal rehearsal hours.
  - c. Two unexcused absences for any reason - student put on probation for the remainder of the semester.
  - d. When a 3rd unexcused absence is reached - the student will be removed from the field show and will be given an alternate assignment for the remainder of the semester.
  - e. A student that misses a rehearsal may not be allowed to march at the next performance if they missed a significant amount of material.

### Probation Status

A student who is put on probation will be evaluated on a week by week basis on their attitude, effort levels, and communication. A student who is on probation may be removed from the field show and given an alternate assignment at any time by the director.

### Communication

It is the responsibility of the STUDENTS to know what is going on, when and where to be. There are 3 main ways in which we will communicate with parents/students throughout the school year.

1. Remind Information:
  - a. Student Remind - Text to: 81010, Message: @nihsband
  - b. Parent Remind - Text to: 81010, Message: @nihsbandpa
2. [www.nihsband.com](http://www.nihsband.com) - our band website will be updated as necessary. The front page will contain the current relevant information.
3. Social Media: follow us on our social media platforms to stay informed.
  - a. Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/nihsraiderbands/>
  - b. Twitter - [www.twitter.com/nihsband](http://www.twitter.com/nihsband)

### Concert Performances

Performances are one of the main reasons musicians are in existence today. A successful concert shows off the talents of the students and provides opportunities for confidence building. Each year, students will be involved in a number of school and community performances, depending on the ensemble/class they are enrolled.

Concerts are the results of many weeks of hard preparation by the students. A performance is the finished product and culmination of many hours of hard work and practice. Every member plays an intricate role in the overall balance and performance success of our band. Therefore, attendance at concerts is MANDATORY. An absence from a performance will result in a performance grade of "0" until the student completes the required alternate assignment. In the event there is an emergency and your child cannot make a concert, please call the band director. It is the student's responsibility to complete the alternative assignment given to them by the band director.

All audience members are asked to be very respectful to the performers on stage. Students should be in attendance for the full duration of the concert performance.

### Concert Attire

Please make sure to purchase all concert attire, well in advance of your first performance. Hairstyles should be clean and neat, avoiding extreme styles or colors. Attire for any performance, unless otherwise specified by the director, is as follows:

LADIES - Black Pants, Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes/flip flops/skirts/dresses) Black or silver jewelry is acceptable.

GENTLEMAN - Black Button-Down Dress Shirt (long sleeve), Black Dress Pants, Black Belt, Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes (no tennis shoes/flip flops) Shirt must be tucked in.

### Football Game Expectations

1. The primary function of the North Iredell High School Marching Band during football season, aside from performing at pre-game, halftime, and competitions is to provide support for the football team from the stands in conjunction with the cheerleaders.
2. Once you have been assigned a seat, you must stay there until moved by the director. All lines are to be kept straight.
3. Students will stand at attention during the National Anthem (away games).
4. Unless specifically stated by the director, nothing is to be brought into the bleachers except music and your instrument. This includes radios, noisemakers, blankets, coolers, etc.
5. Decoration of instruments is prohibited unless approved by the director.
6. The band section is off limits to non-band members.
7. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles.
8. Sit up straight and place your feet flat on the space provided for that purpose.
9. At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the halftime performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area.
10. At the conclusion of the game, remain in the stands until instructed to move. We will exit together.
11. All trips are considered academic commitments. Therefore, all school rules are in effect for the entire performance. Any student suspected to be under the influence, or in possession of alcohol or any controlled substance will be dealt with strictly in accordance with school board policy.

### Marching Band Specific Info

#### Summer Camp

Prior to the beginning of the school year starting at the end of July, a summer camp will be held for all marching band members. Summer camp attendance is extremely important. One day of summer camp is equal time to one week of practice during the regular school year. Missing any part of it effects not only the student, but all other students in the program. Every person has a part in the show. If there is a reason that a student cannot make a day of camp, the director must have an "Absence Form" in advance. Many students are involved in marching band, and written documentation will be needed in order to keep track of everyone's attendance.

#### Dress Out Attire

Students involved in classes that require physical activity must dress out (time is given at the beginning of class to change into "dress out" clothing). We require our band students to wear a NIHS P.E. Uniform for all outdoor rehearsals.

Because of the time of day class is held we strongly suggest that students wear protective gear like sunglasses (UVA/UVB protection), hats that shield sunlight, and sun-block with an appropriate SPF. We also suggest they have bug repellent. This is not new information for the students, but with everything else they have to remember for other classes, reminders can be helpful. Please help us keep your children safe.

#### Grading Rubric

25% Performances

25% In Class Preparation through daily grades

35% Playing tests

15% Homework and other in class assignments

#### Fall Semester

Winds and Percussion - the final exam grade will be a successful audition for All County Band with a score of 60 or higher at this audition. This will result in an exam grade of a 100. Students that audition but receive a score below a 60 will receive a grade of 80 with a optional assignment to make up the additional 20 points. Students that choose not to audition for All County Band will play the required solo and scales graded by Mr. Brantley based on the All County Audition Rubric and the student will receive that score as their exam grade.

#### Color Guard

The final exam for color guard will be to create a 2 minute minimum written routine to a song of their choosing and demonstrating proper technique on the chosen equipment. Students must present a written copy with the counts with written instructions prior to performance of the routine for Mr. Brantley. A guideline of techniques that must be included will be provided.

### Spring Semester

The final exam for the spring semester will be a successful performance in the solo and ensemble festival with an excellent or superior rating. Students that perform in solo and ensemble with the required rating will receive a 100 for their exam grade. Students that perform but do not receive the required rating will receive a 80 with an optional assignment to make up the additional 20 points. Students that do not perform at solo and ensemble festival must perform an assigned solo and will be graded by Mr. Brantley using the solo and ensemble performance rubric and the student will receive that score as their exam grade.

### Iredell Statesville Schools and North West District Band Association Statement

North Iredell High School is a member of the Iredell Statesville Schools Band Association and the North West District Band Directors Association. We follow all rules and regulations in accordance to the bylaws of these organizations.

### Travel Policies

The operation of the band requires travel many times during the year. All members are required to travel with the band. "Medical Information" and "Emergency Consent/Travel Permission" forms are required to be on file with the director before any student is allowed to travel with the band. Exceptions to travel are very rare, and permission to travel separately can only be given after an "Alternative Travel" form is completed and approved by the band director.

1. Any trip with the band is considered an academic commitment. As with any school activity, all school rules are in effect. Any student found in violation will be dealt with according to school policy. In severe cases, students will be referred to, law enforcement agencies or the school administration, and will be dealt with according to school board policy.
2. Students are responsible for the loading of their own instrument and equipment. For away games, large instruments will be given priority on the trailers, and all others will be carried on the bus.
3. Chaperones and bus drivers are to be treated with the utmost respect. Remember, we cannot travel without them. Please show your appreciation for the service they are providing. We want to be viewed as a classy group of young adults. Every action you make represents the face of the whole band. Think before acting. Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation, remember that "Please" and "Thank You" cost you nothing, and yet are highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.
4. Whenever we travel, whether to a football game, a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.
5. Boys and Girls will ride separate buses.
6. Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
7. Remain seated while the bus is in motion. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.

8. Food and drinks are permissible on the bus as long as all trash is disposed of by band members. Students are expected and required to clean the bus before dismissal. The director reserves the right to cancel this privilege if rules are broken.
9. Band members and/or their parents will be held financially responsible for any vandalism or destruction of property during travel. Vandalism may also result in possible expulsion from the band program.
10. Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
11. Cell phones and iPods are allowed on the bus, but for your own hearing. The volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head. Headphones only, no speakers.
12. Band members are required to follow all requests of chaperones without question (including when the chaperone is your own parent).
13. If travel includes stopping for meals, band members are required to eat at designated restaurants.
14. Failure to follow any of the above guidelines may result in suspension of travel privileges with the band.

#### Early College Policies

Sometimes, the early college schedule does not align with the Iredell Statesville School Schedule. All students are required to perform their final exam in the fall. Early college students may perform this exam at any time after the Christmas Concert, but must be performed by the last day of the NIHS Exam Schedule. In the spring, all students are required to attend all rehearsals leading up to and including the day of the Spring concert. All students must perform their final exam in the spring prior to the last day of the NIHS Exam Schedule.

#### Removal from Program Policy

Students may be removed from the NIHS Band program for violations of any of the above policy, school rules, or anything that puts the student in poor standing with the band program, directors, or staff. If a student is removed more than 10 days after the start of the semester a new class may not be available. If this is the case, the student will receive written work for the remainder of the marching or concert season in lieu of performance with the band.

A student that voluntarily removes themselves from the program will not be allowed to attend any social events or performances with the band and will be required to do written assignments for the remainder of the semester.



## **North Iredell High School**

Mr. Charlie Brantley, Director of Bands

156 Raider Road, Olin NC 28660

(704) 876-4191

charles\_brantley@iss.k12.nc.us

www.nihsband.com

### **Absence Form**

Attendance at all band rehearsals, sectionals and performances is mandatory and vital to the success of our program. However, if you must be absent, complete this form with you and your parent's signature and turn it in. If the absence is for a doctor's appointment, a doctor's note is required when you return.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) to be missed \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature/Date

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature/Date

*For Office Use Only:*

*Excused*

*Unexcused*



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charles\_brantley@iss.k12.nc.us

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### **Alternative Travel From School Event**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, request that my student, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(print parent/guardian name) (print student name)

be allowed to ride home with/by \_\_\_\_\_ following the

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that  
(name of event) (date of event)

the North Iredell High School Band is no longer responsible for their safety once they are released.

***This form must be completed and turned in within 24 hours of travel.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature/Date