



Noblesville High School Marching Millers Student/Parent Handbook 2020-2021

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(click on band, then click on marching band)

Sponsored by:
Noblesville Band Boosters, INC
Leslie Crandall, President

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 a Semi-State Finish for our first year competing in ISSMA Field Show! 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 march. The budget is used to purchase supplies, pay staff, purchase awards, pay for music, drill, props, uniform cleaning, show shirts, shorts, and more.

*Any previous outstanding balances must be paid to participate in this current season. Also, this current season must be paid in full to receive any awards, purchase a band jacket or attend trips. If any family needs assistance, you may contact the Band Director to explore several options: an alternative payment plan, scholarships, or payment assistance. No student will be turned away for financial difficulty. The key is communication!

~~This year each student is responsible for raising or paying \$650 (or \$800 if your family does not fulfill the volunteer commitment).~~

~~Parents should pay in full, or make \$100.00 payments on these dates:~~

~~April 15 (non refundable deposit)/May 15/June 15/July 15/Aug 15/Sept 15/Oct 15(\$50).~~

**Updated for the 2020 season: \$450, with \$100 payments due May 1/June 1/July 1, and \$50 payments due Aug 1/Sept 1/Oct 1.*

Fundraising Opportunities

The Band Boosters coordinate three types of Fundraisers throughout the year.

1. Student Fundraisers

We offer opportunities for your child to raise funds for their Student Account. This account can only be used to pay for Concert Attire, Letter Jackets, Marching/Winter Fees and 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 may ask for a flat donation. All money collected will go toward the student's band fees!

Patron Drive – In the fall, we will kick off a sponsorship campaign.

Students can ask family, friends and neighbors to support them this band season. Sponsors will receive various benefits based on their Sponsorship level. Donations will fund the Boosters general fund but 50% will go to your student account!

Black & Gold Program Ad sales - Your child will receive 50% of each ad they sell for the Black & Gold Invitational program.

2. Scholarship Fundraisers

Community Band events such as restaurant nights raise funds for the Boosters Scholarship fund. In addition, they help to build camaraderie amongst our families and support local businesses. We hope you will join us.

3. 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 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 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. Enroll at www.kroger.com. Click on the Community tab then select Community Rewards. Create an account and select *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.*

Parent Volunteers

It really does take a village to pull off a successful marching season. About volunteering ... no experience necessary. No, REALLY! There are some tasks that require specific skills, but most opportunities do not. If you can pull a 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. To get involved, select the volunteer jobs you are interested in on the Volunteer google form (see website), and a Committee Chair may contact you with details, or opportunities will be sent out via email/Facebook for online sign up. 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:

- 1 shift at Black & Gold Invitational
 - 2 shifts at a MB event: practices, props, uniforms, contests, games, etc.
 - 2 food donations, 2 drink donations (rehearsals/camp/games/banquet, etc).
- If you are unable or unwilling to fulfill these commitments, there will be an additional \$150 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 \$800.*
- *updated for 2020 season, total fee with \$150 opt-out is \$600.*

- Step 1: Fill Out the Parent Volunteer Google Form (MB webpage)
- Step 2: Fill out level 3 background check (good for 2 years)
- Step 3: Watch for volunteer opportunities throughout season (FB/email)

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, scholarships, or payment assistance. No student will be turned away for financial difficulty. The key is communication!
3. Students must be enrolled in a fall band class (concert, percussion, jazz, 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.

Color Guard

The Color Guard includes flags, rifles, sabres, 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 to 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 (flags, rifles, and sabres). 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 eye shadow 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 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 positions on the line, but throughout the season, the directors reserve the right to move kids around as necessary. Here are some specific differences for the percussion section than the rest of the band:

1. Uniforms – no percussionist needs gloves, and pit members do not wear shakos.
2. Equipment – all 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 and pit mallets/beaters.
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 with the rest of 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 may apply to 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, and students must attend summer AND fall rehearsals and performances to be eligible.

Health & Safety

Marching band is hard physical work, often times 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?

*Marching Band Website: www.noblesvillemusic.org

*Remind: Sign up to receive informational text message alerts

The “phone number” is 81010

In the message portion, put @marchingmi and send to receive notices

*Facebook: Noblesville High School Bands

*Twitter: @NoblesvilleBand

*Noblesville Band Current Members on Facebook: 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. *The Beat – Notes from the Band Boosters: A monthly digital newsletter published by the Band Boosters, emailed by the director. Please take the time to read this as it contains up to date and important information.

Band Directors

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Jeffrey Welsh, Color Guard Director – Jeffrey_welsh@nobl.k12.in.us
Corey Denham, Percussion Director – Corey_denham@nobl.k12.in.us

Band Boosters Executive Board

Leslie Crandall, President- lrcrandall@comcast.net
Regina May, Treasurer- NBBTreasurer@gmail.com
Barb Michael, Student Accounts- chuckbarbaram@aol.com

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 with instrument in hand. Students late to the rehearsal start time will run laps.
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.

Instrument/Locker Care

Renters/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.

All Students: at rehearsal and contests, instruments should be treated as if in Drum Corps (always lined up, cases always put away or neatly lined up 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 Uniform Shorts/Performance T-Shirt/Show T-Shirt
- Black 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 on Tuesday (game night), Wednesday (swimming night), and a special student-only ceremony (passing the torch from seniors to freshman) on Thursday. See current calendar plus more information to come via email and FB the week before band camp.

*Dress Code

Students must adhere to school dress codes and use common sense for rehearsal attire. No halter tops, exposed midriffs or exposed sides below armpits, or strapless shirts (including large sleeve holes cut out of t-shirts). Students should wear comfortable athletic shorts at school dress code length. Do not wear jeans or dark clothing on hot days. Light cotton t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shorts should be worn each day. Students in violation of the dress policy will 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 at the FRONT of NHS, Gate 1. The back drive is too narrow for large amounts of traffic, and this is also the path for all of the students to walk to and from rehearsal. *If you would like to pick up your student in the back, please utilize the old Armory parking lot and have your child walk to that parking lot, just north of the marching field.*

*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 old Armory parking lot and bring a lawn chair for the last 15 minutes of rehearsal to see the progress being made.

*Cost of Attending Marching Contests for Spectators

Generally, the entry cost to attend a marching contest for non-performing family members is around \$8 a person. Not every contest has the ability to take credit card, so cash is always good to have on hand. Depending on the contest, there may be a small fee for parking. Contests also have concession stands for food purchase.

*Etiquette at Contests

Parents & Students! Whether you are representing the Noblesville Marching Millers at our home Black & Gold contest or away at another marching invitational, you are always representing Noblesville Band and our community. We insist that you speak not only highly of our band, but of all the bands you see. Someone from other schools will always be around to hear what you say about other schools. Say only kind things, and clap for every band performance you see!

*Typical Performance Day

Performance days generally start in the morning with 2 hours of rehearsal, time to load and drive to contest, unload and warm up, then band performs, attends awards, loads bus, and returns to NHS. Usually this is a morning to very late-night day, and students will want to bring a meal before we leave, and money for dinner.

Required Forms for Marching Band Eligibility

- Google Online Sign Up Form/Parent Volunteer Google Form
- Deposit- Paypal or Check to Noblesville Band Boosters, INC
- Medical Form (Turn-In Paper Copy During first week of rehearsals)