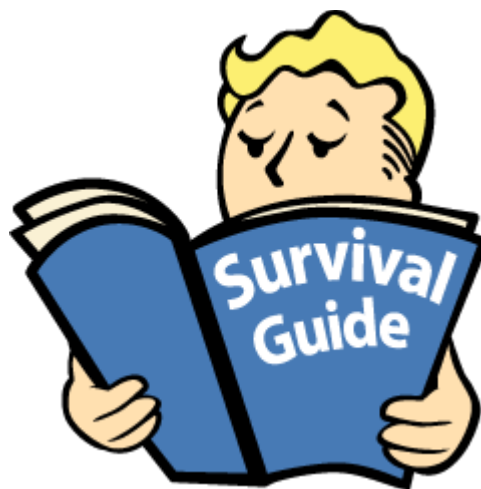




Marching Band Parent Survival Guide

TOP SECRET!
SURVIVAL



First of all, congratulations on becoming a member of North Gwinnett High School Marching Band. Whether as a performer or as a parent, we see you as part of our Band Family. Band is a truly life-changing activity that we hope will be as good for you as it has been for so many parents and graduates in the past. Many times, parents say that they don't understand what is happening around them. In turn, they found it hard to give 100% support to the band and their children. After all, the band was asking a lot of their family, especially the two things that seem most scarce in today's world: time and money. Please know that we are here to help you and your child make the most out of this experience!

The NG Band is one of the largest and most recognizable organizations on campus. We pride ourselves on the rich tradition of excellence. As with any successful organization, we work hard and follow set rules and guidelines. As a parent, your child looks to you for both answers and encouragement. We hope that this guide will help you feel more comfortable to provide them with both and familiarize you with the inner workings of our band program.

What's so great about the NG marching band?

Ask 100 parents this question, and you're likely to get 100 different answers! Every child benefits differently from membership. For some, the greatest benefit is the increase in their child's self-confidence. For others, it's the friendship network that it has helped build. Or, it could be giving their child a sense of pride and accomplishment after working hard and giving a great performance in front of an excited crowd.

Being a member of the NG High School Band will give your children a valuable educational and social experience. They will work hard and experience many triumphs, as well as some hardships and disappointments – things that will prepare them for the real world and life after high school.

For parents, marching band lets you be a part of your child's life at a time when you are feeling less and less welcome in it. Sharing the marching band experience with your child will give you memories that are precious. Through marching band, you'll see your child grow from an adolescent to a young adult...and you'll be extremely proud of their involvement and achievements in the program.

Regardless of the reasons for being a member, marching band opens a door your children will not find anywhere else, and what they experience here will be remembered fondly throughout their lives.

COST:

For the 2019 season: \$500 per member, plus some additional fees (see below). This is divided up into three payments due in April (\$150), July (\$200) and September (\$150). This fee is used to help cover the cost for custom music arrangements, custom drill, additional staff members, band equipment and trailers, busses, trucks, props, instruments, repairs, t-shirts, uniform cleanings, supplies, sound equipment, and more.

Additionally, any student using school owned instrument / equipment will pay a \$60 fee. This includes all percussionists and color guard members.

As a new member to the marching band you will have additional costs, such as, shoes, drumline jackets (percussion only), and colorguard warmup suits (color guard only).

SUMMER BAND CAMPS:

All students participating in marching band are required to attend the summer camps.

PERCUSSION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday, July 15 – Friday, July 19 | 8:00am – 8:00pm |
| Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26 | 8:00am – 8:00pm |

COLOR GUARD

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday, July 15 – Friday, July 19 | 8:00am – 8:00pm |
| Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26 | 8:00am – 8:00pm |

WIND INSTRUMENTS – NEW MEMBERS ONLY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tuesday, July 17 – Wednesday, July 18 | 8:00am – 11:30 am |
| Thursday, July 19 – Friday, July 20 | 8:00am – 3:00pm |
| Monday, July 23 – Friday, July 27 | 8:00am – 8:00pm |

WIND INSTRUMENTS – RETURNING MEMBERS ONLY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Thursday, July 19 – Friday, July 20 | 8:00am – 3:00pm |
| Monday, July 23 – Friday, July 27 | 8:00am – 8:00pm |

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SUMMER BAND CAMP:

Music

Pencil

3 ring binder/flip folder (this will be provided to all members who play the music)

Instrument / Equipment

Band Water Jug (this will be provided to new members)

Sunscreen

REHEARSAL UNIFORM:

All students are required to wear a t-shirt, athletic shorts, sneakers and socks. Sandals, boots, open toed shoes, etc are not permitted at rehearsal. Students will not be allowed to participate if they are not wearing the proper clothing and shoes. Everyone will also have a nametag and it should be worn at all times during band camp.

BAND REGISTRATION:

Sunday, July 14th

| | |
|----------|-------|
| 2 - 3 PM | A - F |
| 3 - 4 PM | G - L |
| 4 - 5 PM | M - P |
| 5 - 6 PM | R - Z |

This is when you will make your second payment of \$200, order shoes (for new members or if needed), order drumline jackets (percussion only), order color guard warmup suits (color guard only), sign up for volunteer positions, order spirit wear, receive your NG Band water jug (new members only).

TIME COMMITMENT:

All students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. The schedule for the season is currently on the band website calendar. Please go through our schedule with your personal schedule.

- Starting **Monday, August 5th** all Marching Band Members will have rehearsal every **Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:00 pm**. These rehearsals are held rain or shine either on the practice field, stadium, or band room. The start time of 2:30 gives the students enough time to see teachers after school and adequately prepare for rehearsal.
- In addition, the percussion and colorguard will rehearse on **Mondays from 2:30-5:00 in addition to Tues/Thurs**. Brass and woodwind members will have an occasional sectional on Mondays as well.

Required Performances

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Saturday, August 24 | Corky Kell game vs Colquitt County at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium |
| Friday, August 30 | Home football game vs Armwood (FL) |
| Friday, September 13 | Away football game vs Norcross |
| Friday, September 20 | Home football game vs Walton YOUTH NIGHT, 8th GRADE NIGHT |
| TBA | Suwanee Days Parade |
| Saturday, September 21 | GCPS Marching Band Exhibition |
| Friday, September 27 | Away football game vs Discovery |
| Friday, October 4 | Home football game vs Mountain View HOMECOMING |
| Friday, October 11 | Away football game vs. Mill Creek |
| Friday, October 18 | Home football game vs Collins Hill PINK OUT |
| Saturday, October 19 | Marching Contest @ Sprayberry High School, Marietta GA |
| Friday, October 25 | Away football game vs Duluth |
| Friday, November 1 | Home football game vs Peachtree Ridge SENIOR NIGHT |
| Saturday, November 2 | Marching Contest @ Milton High School, Milton GA |

Post-season Football Games: The football team at NGHS continues to be one of the best teams in Georgia. We will attend all of the potential 5 playoff games, which are on Fridays or Saturdays November 15 – December 14.

We understand that having a set schedule is very helpful and will try to make this happen. However, please be flexible as things do arise that may make schedule changes necessary. Between changes given to us by the school, football program, weather, and needs of the band to get certain things accomplished, schedules and information can change and the board will do their best to get you information as soon as possible.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at all band functions is very important for all students. Every rehearsal involves adding content to the show or making changes to the existing work. When a student is absent from rehearsal, it poses problems for the band during drill and ensemble rehearsal. If a student is absent from any performance, it hurts the group immensely. Their absence makes large, visible holes in the drill and compromises the quality of the musical performance. Attendance at band camp is required for any student to be in the marching band. Students moving into the area will be allowed to join the band after the beginning of the school year at the directors' discretion.

All members of the marching band will attend every after school rehearsal to be considered eligible for performances.

An unexcused absence from an after school rehearsal will jeopardize the student's status in that week's marching show. Absence will also jeopardize a student's qualification for a varsity letter in band. Excessive absences from rehearsals and performances will jeopardize the student's membership in the ensemble. Students will not be dismissed after halftime without prior permission from the director. Effective communication between the director and the students will usually resolve any conflicts.

Consequences for absences:

All attendance issues will be handled on a case by case basis. Effective communication between the student and the directors is the most important factor.

All students will need to submit an absence request form no later than 2 weeks prior to the absence. This form can be found on the band website. Once the directors receive your absence request form, they will determine if your absence is excused or unexcused based on the examples below. Any unexcused absence could jeopardize the student's performance participation, varsity letter status, and/or future participation in the marching band. **It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the directors following the absence request submission.**

Excused Absences:

Personal illness/injury
Religious holidays
Close family wedding/funeral

Unexcused Absences

Doctor/dentist appointment
Work schedule conflict
School club meetings
Homework
Drivers test
Rock concert (or any other concert)
Family vacations
Don't have a ride (this can be worked out with prior communication)
Not submitting a request form at least 2 weeks in advance
Any other absence

UNIFORM:

The students will be fitted at registration for a uniform. They will also be fitted for marching band shoes and a shako (hat). Uniforms will be stored in the uniform room between games and competitions and the students are expected to take extreme care to not damage the uniforms while wearing them and hang them up as directed at the end of the night. If an item is lost or severely damaged, you will be assessed the amount for the damaged or lost item. Also, each marching student needs black long socks for their uniform to be complete. If they do not have socks with them, the uniform parent can provide them at a cost to you, as well as gloves. However, your student is responsible for bringing them with them for each game and competition.

BOOSTER CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Our booster club executive board is made up of elected volunteers that have offered to serve in each of the board positions to help make the band run smoothly. Please remember each of the board are VOLUNTEERS and most have other jobs in addition to the board position and will try to get back with you as soon as possible. If you need contact the booster club for any reason, please use the following emails below:

President: president@northgwinnettband.org

Vice-President: vicepresident@northgwinnettband.org

Secretary: secretary@northgwinnettband.org

Treasurer: treasurer@northgwinnettband.org

If you need to email committee chairs, please use the following email addresses:

Chaperones: chaperones@northgwinnettband.org

Communications: communications@northgwinnettband.org

Fundraising: fundraising@northgwinnettband.org

Spirit Wear: spiritwear@northgwinnettband.org

Uniforms: uniforms@northgwinnettband.org

VOLUNTEERING:

We have many opportunities to volunteer throughout the marching season and you will be notified via email when they come up and are usually taken on a first come, first served basis. Please know that with the number of people in the band, it is easier to do it this way. That being said...know that other than chaperoning, we have many places to put your talents to good use. We will need people to help with uniforms, props (a variety of people are needed), moving equipment on and off the field at performances, loading/unloading the truck, sewing, etc. We need help in the parking lot during and after practices - which is a great way to learn where your kid is during the show! We ask that every family help us in some way as we move through the school year.

Frequently Asked Questions...

How Will My Child Have Time?

How will our children have the time to go to rehearsals three days a week after school, perform at Friday night football games, and compete on three or four Saturdays? How will they have the time to do all of this, within a three-month period, and keep up their grades??

Time Management will be the most important tool that your children will acquire when they become members of the NG band program. The students quickly learn that they must use every minute of their day wisely. The time not spent in practice has to be spent doing schoolwork, there is no other choice and they know that. At any given time you will find students in the band room, out in the hallway, or in any other space available doing homework. This is taught to them when they first join the program and it is expected of them. Remember that most band members are Honors and AP students. If a student starts to become overwhelmed then they need to ask for help. We have many students in our program who do a great job managing their time and they are more than happy to help the younger students figure it out. The majority of our graduating seniors maintain Honor Graduate status throughout their 4 years in the band.

Your student will learn how to keep a schedule, how to be punctual, and how to set priorities.

Your child will also become punctual. They will be taught the meaning of the phrase...

“Early is on time, on time is late!”

How Do Parents Get Involved?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT = A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM

Getting involved in the band program will give you the opportunity to share with your child the last four years of their education. These years go so fast and are rarely enjoyed by many parents. Your child might say they would rather not have you around, but most parents actually learn that in reality they appreciate your involvement and will thank you in the future.

The band parents are needed to support the vision of the program, and help with the details of fundraising, transporting, feeding and watering an organization of this size. The band needs parents to be able to function; it is for this reason that we urge you to get involved. Join one of the many committees; we need your help. Grandparents, siblings, or any member of your family can get involved and make a difference. Attend the band parents meetings; it is a great way to meet the parents and the kids your student will be spending much of their time with for the next few months and years together.

The easiest way to volunteer is by attending the monthly band parent meetings where you will learn more about the program and where it needs your help. Don't just sit in the car, get out and ask, "How can I help?" It is fun and you meet other parents with the same interests as yours.

How Do We Keep Informed?

There are many ways that you will be informed. All schedules for any event will come from the directors. This information is posted on the front page of the band website at the beginning of every week. You will also receive a weekly email outlining the week ahead. We do have a parent Facebook group. While this is great for parents to share info, pictures, videos, etc., do not rely on Facebook for information about schedules. Always refer to the website and weekly emails.

Helpful Hints

1. Make your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something will be the last!!! They learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
2. When we travel, we have the student's call/text their parents when we are about 20 minutes from the school. Please make sure your child is communicating with you. When we return to the school we usually have to unload the truck. All students are required to help with this. When we return to the school all of the directors and chaperones want to get home in a timely manner too. Please make sure you are on time when picking up your child.
3. The directors will be consistent with the rehearsal times. Your student will be dismissed on time at the end of rehearsal. Rehearsals will not go past the ending time, which is typically 5:00pm.
4. Network – This is how we meet each other. It is also one of the best ways to get helpful hints on band parenting from others.
5. Carpool to practices and competitions when necessary. Network – what other band students live in your neighborhood?
6. Be prepared to cheer! The band loves it when they have their own cheering section. Always stand for them after a performance!!! They have worked very hard to do what you see and hear.
7. Keep extra gloves, socks, needle & thread, etc. in your car or purse just in case.
8. Visit the band website to stay informed.

Get ready for one of the most AMAZING experiences of your child's life!!!

