



Northwestern High School Bands

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Parents:

We will begin this letter with a huge THANK YOU! If you are reading this, you are already making a huge investment – by making a commitment to support music in your child's future. Band is an enduringly great component of your student's academic, social, and artistic development. Unlike many other school activities, music touches the mind, heart, and soul. It is a vehicle to involve the total being: physically, mentally, emotionally, and artistically. Long after high school, college, and years of a chosen profession – it will be the memories made in band that linger... The performances, the moments that brought a lump to your throat or tears to your eyes, the thrill of making "real" music for the first time, or simply the friendships made that last a lifetime will provide lasting rewards for time well spent. Congratulations on being caring and supportive parents!

The 2018-2019 Northwestern High School Band has many remarkable upcoming activities next year. While the 2018 edition of the Purple Regiment is a new group of young men and women – we are confident that with your student's commitment to excellence, our program will continue to enjoy the accolades and honors it has earned in year's past. The returning members of the Purple Regiment and all our new members will again work hard to continue and enhance our standard of excellence!

We, as adults, realize that to achieve anything of great significance, or to accomplish our goals, we must first have the desire, dedication, and self-motivation to work hard. The success of our band program depends on these traits plus a certain degree of continuity. For our students to be truly successful, they must work constantly and practice to improve their individual and ensemble skills. The only way to improve ensemble skills is through daily practice and exposure to full ensemble experiences like band rehearsals.

The NHS Band firmly believes that each student should be actively involved in the program for the entire year and participate in all activities of the program. We know that from time to time, course scheduling problems arise that prohibit a student from taking band for a semester. **This is an exception and not the rule!** Students not active in both marching band and concert band do not retain the proficiency or skills to perform at the expected level. These students find it very difficult to keep up with the performance abilities of the students who have been playing all year in both ensembles. Band becomes a big "family." We hope that each student will grow musically, personally, and emotionally. We look forward to having your child take advantage of the opportunities and experiences offered through the Northwestern High School Band.

As with anything of quality, there is a financial cost to participate in marching band. For the twelfth consecutive year, the marching season fee will once again be \$500. This fee helps offset the cost for the marching show we perform, the additional staff requirements, the equipment needed to perform the show, as well as meals and snacks for students during band camp and the fall marching season. You and your student will have the opportunity and responsibility to support the financial requirements with a vast array of programs designed to help defray the cost with little, if any, out of pocket expense. Later this Spring, the NHS Band Boosters will present more information about opportunities to fundraise. Further financial assistance is available as well – please inquire by contacting a band director. **It is the policy of the Northwestern High School Band that money should never be a reason for non-participation. If you truly want to be a part of the Northwestern Purple Regiment, there is a place for you and your child! Everyone will have an opportunity to contribute and participate.**

Rising ninth grade families wishing to start working events *now* to build their Band Credit Points (BCPs) to help cover band expenses can begin working at Knights baseball games this Spring. The NHS Band Boosters operate a concession

stand and offers BCPs to those who work. This is a **GREAT WAY** to fundraise for band fees. Simply contact Heather Marr (igyygm2011@gmail.com) or Angela Markease (acmarkease@aol.com) and they will be glad to help you get started!

Enclosed you will find a copy of:

- Summer and Fall Schedules for the 2018 Purple Regiment
- Medical Permission Form (Consent Form for OTC Medication)
- Sports Physical & History Form †
- 2018 Intent Form

† A **Sports Physical** is required for all students in the marching band. Northwestern High School has partnered with Piedmont Medical Center to assist students in obtaining physicals at a discounted rate. A voucher is included with this mailing. Additional vouchers are available from the band office. This physical is the same requirement to participate in any athletic team at Northwestern High School. The information indicated on this physical form is **very important** to those charged with the care of your student during the physically arduous activities placed on our members during practice and performance. On request, the band office will submit a copy of your completed physical to be placed on file with the NHS Athletic Office for your convenience.

The Purple Regiment **Intent Form (with \$75 deposit)**, **NHS Band Medical Form**, **Physical Form**, and **Acknowledgement of Risk Form** should be turned in to Mr. Mark Yost, or mailed to his attention at Northwestern High School by **May 18, 2018**. Please make checks payable to *Northwestern High School*.

We hope you will find this information helpful as you and your child plan for next year. There are several events we would encourage you to attend this Spring. An informational parent meeting for rising ninth grade band parents will be held on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018** at 7PM in the NHS band room. We would also like to invite all rising ninth grade parents and students to be our special guests at our NHS Band Booster Meeting on **Monday, May 7, 2018** at 7PM in the band room.

Many new and exciting events for next year will be discussed including the much-anticipated unveiling of next year's competition marching show. We look forward to having you as a part of the Northwestern Bands next year! Please feel free to contact us anytime you have a question or concern.

Warmest Regards,



Mark S. Yost
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Ryan W. Tinker
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"There are countless ways of attaining greatness, but any road to reaching one's maximum potential must be built on a bedrock of respect for the individual, a commitment to excellence, and a rejection of mediocrity." - Buck Rogers