



Northwestern High School Bands

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Thursday, May 6, 2021

Parents,

We will begin this letter hoping that you and your family are in good health and have not had to endure too many hardships over the past year. We know it has been difficult navigating this past school year and, although we can't say with any degree of certainty, it looks like the worst is behind us. Hopefully, we can start to get back to a routine this summer that is closer to what we experienced before last March. Next, we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to you! If you are reading this, you have already made a considerable investment – by committing to support music in your child's future. The band is an enduringly significant 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 the band that lingers. 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 merely the friendships made that last a lifetime will provide lasting rewards for time well spent. Congratulations on being caring and supportive parents!

One of the few bright spots we have come to enjoy is how music has helped so many people through the last several months, and we feel it can be a big part of helping us return to some sense of normalcy. We are confident that the Northwestern High School Band program will provide a meaningful and memorable experience that will accelerate this return to greatness! While the 2021 edition of the Purple Regiment is a new group of young men and women, we remain confident that our program will continue to enjoy the accolades and honors it annually earns with your child's commitment to excellence. 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. To be truly successful, they must always work and practice to improve their individual and ensemble skills. The only way to enhance 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. We know that course scheduling problems arise that prohibit a student from taking band for a semester from time to time. This scenario is an exception and not the rule! Students not active in both the marching and concert band do not have the proficiency or skills to perform at the expected level. These students find it very difficult to keep up with the other students' performance abilities who have been playing all year in both ensembles. 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 the marching band. For over fifteen years, the marching season fee has been \$500. This charge is necessary, as it helps offset the marching show we perform, the additional staffing requirements, the equipment needed to complete the show, and 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 and fundraisers designed to help defray the cost with little, if any, out of the pocket expense.

Likewise, as has been the case for the past thirty years, a family's financial situation should not be a reason to drop the band. We have several scholarships and assistance programs in place to help students. If you genuinely 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.

Enclosed you will find a copy of:

- **Tentative** Summer and Fall Schedules for the 2021 Purple Regiment
- Sports Physical & History Form †
- Online Band Registration Instructions

† A Sports Physical is required for all students in the marching band. Northwestern High School partners with local medical professionals to assist students in obtaining physicals at a discounted rate. *Doctor's Care* on Cherry Rd. is providing this service for \$20.00 through July 31. This physical is the exact requirement to participate in any athletic team at Northwestern High School. The information indicated in this physical form is critical to those charged with the care of your student during the physically strenuous activities placed on our members during practice and performance. On request, the band office will submit a copy of your completed physical to the NHS Athletic Office for your convenience.

We have moved the remainder of our marching band registration forms to an online format. Please complete the **Online Band Registration Form by June 11, 2021**, by using the instructions found within this mailing (yellow sheet).

Please note that we do have some activities scheduled during June. Typically, these would be in July, but we felt that it would be better to have them in June since the students are still in school with the short summer. These include:

- We will hold **Optional Tuesday Evening Rehearsals** on June 1, 8, & 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 in the band room. These are for all instrumentalists – woodwind, brass, & percussion.
- We will hold a **Rising 9th Grade Parent Meeting** on Tuesday, June 1, from 6:30 to 7:30 in the NHS Media Center. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to meet the parents who will be caring for your child while they are with the band, how the band operates, the many fundraising opportunities, and ways to help and get involved with the band program at Northwestern.
- We will hold **Chaperone Training Sessions** on Tuesday, June 8 & 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 in the NHS Media Center. This meeting is required for any parent that wishes to chaperone any trip during the 2021-22 school year. We will hold additional sessions later in August, but these will be the only sessions available before band camp starts on July 26.

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,



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**TO ALL THOSE WHO ENTER
YOU ARE SUBJECT TO THE RELENTLESS
REFINING PROCESS OF MUSIC THROUGH
UNCOMPROMISING STANDARDS**