



WELCOME TO THE PURPLE REGIMENT

Northwestern High School Band & Color Guard
2024 – 2025 Handbook

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Director of Bands

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Northwestern High School Bands

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Congratulations!!!

Your student has decided to join one of the best educational and lifetime experience programs available.

The Northwestern High School Purple Regiment is one of the most highly rated and respected music programs in South Carolina.

Band is a great way to backup everything you are teaching them at home about discipline, commitment, and dedication. In addition to teaching music, **BAND TEACHES LIFE!** Unlike most regular school classes – in band everything the student does has an impact on the entire group. They know that their actions and effort go to a greater cause. In this era of “It’s all about me - all the time,” it is good for students to participate in an activity where they have to get along and work with others for the common good.

HIGH SCHOOL ONLY HAPPENS ONCE! In a blink of an eye these short four years will be over. What students choose to participate in will impact the rest of their life. Students today desperately need to be part of a group such as band. If their time is not filled with something productive, they can end up running with the wrong crowd and making bad associations. They will find something to occupy their time. Band is a great way to fill that time and make them better and more productive young students.

I encourage each and every parent to get involved in our program too. The students may be “too cool” to tell you, but it means more to them than you will ever know to see you in the stands or the concert hall supporting them. It’s not just your kids that need support. We have 130 kids that need all kinds of parental support – from fundraising to cheering in the stands. We need parental involvement! Come and be a part of what makes Northwestern a **GREAT PLACE!** Make sure you and your child do not miss out on this chance of a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Scot McGuire
Director of Bands



Northwestern HS Band Booster Club, Inc.

PO BOX 37183
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year again when school is getting ready to start and band activities are cranking up quickly. We would like to welcome back returning families and welcome all of our new families to the program. We are excited for you to join us in support of all the NHS Bands and Color Guard.

The Purple Regiment Boosters are the support system for all of the band and color guard activities at Northwestern HS. We would like to offer you an opportunity to help support an activity that helps your child be the best that they truly can be. We need YOU – ALL OF YOU – to make this year the best yet for these students!

We know that everyone has a very busy schedule, but we want to ask that you consider volunteering a little time for the band program. You will not find a more rewarding way to be involved in your child's high school years than through the Purple Regiment. We believe that if you take this challenge and spend a little time with the band and color guard, you will see how rewarding it is for everyone involved. Don't let this opportunity pass you by! Join with us now and help all of our band families make this a year to remember.

Ask any of the Band/Guard staff or Booster Board member how you can get involved today!

Sincerely,

The Purple Regiment Booster Club
Board of Directors

Welcome to the PURPLE REGIMENT – the official name of the Northwestern High School Band and Color Guard – an honored name of pride and distinction. The Northwestern High School Purple Regiment strives to be a model of excellence in concert, jazz, chamber, percussion, marching band, and color guard programs through the state of South Carolina. Being a member of an organization with such a great tradition of excellence can be fun, challenging, and very rewarding. Please read through this handbook thoroughly. It is designed to help you understand the policies, procedures, and philosophy of the Purple Regiment. These guidelines are very important and help in making our goals of excellence a reality.

If there is any information you feel is not covered in this guidebook, please ask the band directors for guidance and assistance.

THIS HANDBOOK IS APPROVED BY THE NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

Realizing that every situation cannot be anticipated, the Northwestern High School Band faculty, school administration, and the leadership of the York School District No. 3 reserve the right to determine consequences for actions and behaviors not included in this handbook.

Contact Information

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NHS BANDS ONLINE:

Website: www.purpleregiment.com

NHS Band on Twitter:

@NHSBands

NHS Band on Facebook:

Northwestern High School Bands

Band Booster Officers

Ken Nodes	Kristy Rae	Michelle Gaissert	Christina Pipgras
<i>President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Senior Treasurer</i>	<i>Junior Treasurer</i>
president@purpleregiment.com	vicepresident@purpleregiment.com	seniortreasurer@purpleregiment.com	juniortreasurer@purpleregiment.com

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General Band Information

POLICY STATEMENT

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the NHS Purple Regiment.

We firmly believe that students should improve through regular practice. In the NHS band program, we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve themselves or make a better contribution to the band, they are wasting the time and efforts of their fellow band members and the community by continuing in this program. The happiest student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. They must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. They must develop a high sense of purpose toward which they are willing to work. Responsibility is the focus behind any level of achievement within our program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in the learning process and, in turn, better themselves.

OBJECTIVES AND ADVOCACY OF THE PURPLE REGIMENT

- To teach instrumental music through performance
- To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments, dance, and/or color guard
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and community
- To develop discrimination with regard to the selection and performance of music
- To acquaint the students with music theory and history – while exhibiting how history and musical compositions relate to students' current life and musical experiences
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self expression, and a healthy social experience
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop *Espirit de Corps*
- To foster leadership skills within each student
- To uphold the vision and mission of Northwestern High School:

Working together with the student, the parent, and the community, Northwestern High School will stability a strong foundation for lifelong learning by nurturing, challenging, and guiding all students toward their maximum academic, vocational, artistic, physical, social, and emotional potential.

In order to achieve these goals, it is important to have well-established guidelines which apply to each member of the band program. The purpose of this handbook is to define those guidelines, in order to continue the tradition of excellence established by the Northwestern High School Purple Regiment.

Great bands are the result of great students contributing towards a common goal. Each student has an obligation to the entire membership of contributing in a positive manner to every rehearsal. This includes individual practice outside of rehearsal times. Remember the difference in rehearsal and practice:

Practice your part individually so that you can play it correctly in Rehearsal!

GRADING POLICY

Grading for band classes are based on playing/performance exams, written assessments, assigned projects, participation in band events, conduct, attitude, effort, attendance, punctuality to rehearsal and performances, and prompt return of documents/paperwork. Additional requirements are required for students enrolled in Honors Symphonic Band during second semester. A detailed syllabus will be available at the beginning of each school year with specific grading procedures. Additional copies of these documents may be found in your child's Canvas course page.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A full calendar of events is available on CutTime and the band website. Band members and their parents should familiarize themselves with the below policies concerning attendance:

All band members are expected to be at every rehearsal and performance of the groups to which they participate. Only cases of extreme illness, a death in the immediate family, or an emergency situation will be considered a valid excuse. If an emergency situation arises – notify the Director of Bands immediately. School conflicts, religious observances, or college visitation are other examples of excusable absences for rehearsals. If a member knows in advance that he/she must miss a rehearsal or a performance, the Director of Bands should be notified **in advance**. Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency for the Director of Bands.

Un-excused absences will affect band awards, grades, and/or performance eligibility. A parent-teacher conference may be requested for any student accumulating excessive absences from rehearsals or for any absence from a performance. Excessive absenteeism is considered grounds for dismissal from the band. *Please remember that it takes all of us to make a BAND.* Your commitment to be at all rehearsals and performances is important and required.

Late arrival and early dismissal from rehearsals should be cleared in advance with the band director. Un-excused late arrivals to rehearsals will merit consequences as designated by the band director and the NHS Student Handbook.

If you are a “No Show” to rehearsal...

A “no show” is defined as an absent student that cannot be accounted for due to lack of a phone call, e-mail, or simply cutting rehearsal. In such case, the student may lose the opportunity to participate in the next performance by the band.

If you must miss a rehearsal...

1. Notify the Director of Bands in advance.
2. Submit documentation (parent note/medical excuse/notice of other school activity) to the school.
3. Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day should be brought to the attention of the Director of Bands as well - **please call the band office at 803.981.1225 or e-mail Mr. McGuire at smcguire@rhmail.org.**
4. Follow-up is the responsibility of the student and parents.

If you miss a performance...

Students will lose one letter grade on their quarter average for missing a performance un-excused. Performance absences will only be excused under extreme circumstances outlined above. Excessive absences from performances will result in failure and/or removal from the band program at the discretion of the Director of Bands. Make-up assignments may be assigned by the Director of Bands for excused absences from a performance.

If you have a conflict...

Conflicts between band and other activities are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are distributed in advance so that adequate arrangements can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that may excessively conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, the student should consult with the Director of Bands about possible alternatives.

It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band's schedule. *Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.* Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. *To be early is to be on time.*

WITHDRAWAL/DISMISSAL POLICY

The Director of Bands reserves the right to dismiss any person from the band who poses a constant behavior problem, but only after all other courses of action are pursued. A student may be recommended for dismissal from an ensemble or the entire band program for excessive attendance violations, attitude problems, poor performance level, poor or failing grades in band classes, poor or failing grades in academic classes, destruction of property, school discipline problems, continual violation of band rules and regulations, or other poor conduct unbecoming to the NHS Purple Regiment.

The Director of Bands also claims the right to refuse membership to any student who fails to meet the minimum standards for musicianship, or who has outstanding financial obligations to the band.

ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE POLICY

Any band member found under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will be subject to the policies set forth by the Northwestern High School Administration and York School District No. 3, with the potential removal from the band program. Legal authorities will also be notified of the violation should the situation warrant such action.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

Instruments owned by the Northwestern High School Band are available for student use. Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is responsible for the care of the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student will be responsible for the entire cost of the repair or replacement. Malicious damage to any instrument will be addressed under appropriate NHS and RHSD3 policies. If there is a problem with a school-owned instrument – notify either the Director of Bands or staff member immediately. All instruments and equipment should be properly stored when not in use. Instruments should be stored in their case and inside their assigned locked instrument storage locker or other designated area.

Personal instruments may also be brought to the band room where instrument lockers are available for student use. Combination locks are provided by the band program for use on instrument lockers. Rock Hill School District #3 is not responsible for loss of property when stored in our facilities. Students are responsible for having their instrument available and ready to play on a daily basis unless told otherwise!

STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Members of the NHS Band Program are expected to adhere to the guidelines set forth in the NHS Student Handbook concerning appropriate dress.

COMMUNICATIONS

Websites

The official band website may be accessed by directing your internet browser to **www.purpleregiment.com**

Twitter

The official Twitter feed of the Purple Regiment is **@NHSBands** and may be accessed by directing your internet browser to <https://twitter.com/NHSBands>.

Facebook

The official Facebook page for the Northwestern High School Bands may be accessed by directing your internet browser to <https://www.facebook.com/NorthwesternHSBands>.

CutTime Access Information

While much of the general information about the band will be available through the NHS band website, the NHS Band Program uses an additional cloud-based application called CutTime to host information intended for members and parents only. This platform replaces our previous management system, CHARMS, used by the band program between 2012-2023.

CutTime allows you to view up-to-date calendars, event lists, volunteer opportunities, finance information (band credit points, etc). Clicking on calendar events bring up details about the event like times, attendance requirements, and equipment/uniform specifications. You can even subscribe to our calendar electronically. The band office will also utilize this system to send communications to families regarding the band program. Our posted announcements come from our CutTime system and deliver via SMS or Email.

Look out for the 'Welcome to CutTime' notification from the band office that we will send to your mobile device via a personalized SMS Magic Link. If you need assistance or need a new magic link, email Mr. McGuire at smcguire@rhmail.org.

BAND FACILITY USE POLICY

The use of band facilities before, during, and after school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. As stated previously, any abuse or damage to band facilities or equipment will be considered vandalism. The following regulations are in place governing our facility use:

- **No outside students (not in the program) are permitted in the band room except for business with the directors.**
- There will be no horseplay (wrestling, running, throwing anything, etc.) in and around the band room.
- All percussion and guard equipment are off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.
- Instruments and equipment must be stored (inside their case) and in a locked locker or designated storage area when not in use.
- Please do not store any personal/non-band related belongings in the band facility. NHS is not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- No student should be in a band office without a staff member present or without received prior approval to do work-related activities for the directors.
- Students are not to use any band computers, sound system, copiers, or phone without permission from a staff member.
- The band office is a place of business. If the door is shut, please knock. Office telephone use should be kept to a minimum and is not for personal use.
- Students may practice in the band room, strings room, and small ensemble room only if staff are present.
- Students are expected to maintain the facility in a clean and orderly fashion.

BAND LOCKERS

All band students will be assigned an instrument storage locker. This locker is used to store your instrument, band music, and small personal items DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. Instruments should not be left in lockers over night. The lockers are not to take the place of your school locker. The lockers are the property of the school and are subject to inspection and search at any time. The band/school may not be held responsible for loss of a student's personal property – keep your locker locked at all times! A combination lock will be provided for every locker. Lockers must be kept locked and secure at all times. Replacement cost for a missing lock is \$10.00 each.

TRAVEL POLICIES

The band uses school district activity buses for traveling to away football games, band competitions, and other band events. Occasionally, the band may hire charter buses to transport the band on spring trips and other long distance travel. The band also uses 53' semi-trailer and enclosed cargo trailer for carrying uniforms, instruments, and equipment to events. Only band staff, students, drivers, and **qualified** chaperones may ride on the buses. School district approved parents and booster members that attended the volunteer training session are eligible to chaperone. Booster members and parents may also drive activity busses, pending successful CDL licensure (to operate school district busses).

Please drop off and pick up students for band events in the side parking lot, but do not block sidewalk access for bus pull-up and tractor trailer maneuverability.

Parents wishing to provide their own transportation for their student from out-of-town events to home must turn in a completed travel waiver form to the band director or head chaperone before every event to which this situation pertains. In addition, your student **will not be able to leave any out-of-town event with anyone other than the band** unless this form has been turned into the director or head chaperone. **Students with completed travel waivers are only permitted to leave the event with a parent or guardian.**

For your convenience, a copy of the travel waiver form is in the back of this handbook. Travel waivers are to be turned in on the day of travel. Additional forms are also available in the band room and on the band website.

Student Guidelines for Trips

- All band members must travel to each away event as designated by the Director of Bands. A student may ride home from an event with his/her parents or guardians if a travel waiver is presented to the director or head chaperone prior to departure.
- Prior to band trips, each student will be assigned a specific bus. Students are not allowed to change buses.

- Band members will demonstrate proper respect to staff, chaperones, bus drivers, guests, and other band members at all times.
- Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Students will not place body parts or objects outside of the windows.
- Noise must be kept at moderate levels. Students will be called to “All Quiet” when crossing railroad tracks and during other critical travel times.
- Neither the school district, school, band, or band boosters are responsible for loss or damage to personal property. Students are encouraged from possessing non-essential items of value during band related activities.
- Music, video, and other content should be appropriate for school events and should only be used with headphones or earbuds if sound is desired.
- Profanity is not part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
- Proper social behavior is required at all times. Chaperones will not be expected to teach morals.
- Parents/Students should notify the director and their bus chaperone of any medical condition prior to any band activity.
- No disorderly conduct (e.g. screaming, throwing anything) will be tolerated.
- Members must remain on the bus until instructed to by staff to exit
- Members should close windows and remove all personal items and trash from the bus after a trip.
- All school rules and guidelines set forth within the NHS Student Handbook will be enforced.
- No perfume or cologne is to be used during any band event or function and *nothing* is to be sprayed in the bus.
- Never be alone; stay in groups of three or more. Chaperones will escort students to restrooms except during breaks or free time. During breaks, chaperones will be visible at all areas of student access.
- Students are to sit two to a seat, starting from the back of the bus.
- Bottled water and snacks are allowed on the bus, as long as the bus is kept clean. (No other kinds of drinks are allowed on the bus!)

Hotel/Overnight Trip Guidelines

- Parents and students will be responsible for paying for any incurred charges, including lost room keys.
- **There will be no one of the opposite sex in member rooms – no exceptions.**
- Please refrain from playing your instruments in the room.
- No one is to leave the hotel alone... ever. Any student found leaving the premises without permission and supervision will be dealt with severely.
- Students are to be in their assigned rooms at the specified time. Please make sure you get anything you need before time to be in rooms.
- Chaperones will do a final check at lights out.
- No one is allowed to change rooms.
- Only NHS band students are allowed in hotel rooms and areas assigned to our group. Students are not allowed in other hotel rooms or areas of the hotel.

Note: While students are with the band, they are no longer individuals; they are a group representing Northwestern High School and the Purple Regiment and should act accordingly. All students should realize that any personal desires or uniqueness may have to be put aside for the duration of the trip in order to facilitate large group management.

The Director of Bands and Trip Coordinator usually publish a “Trip Handbook” prior to any major travel event that will include these policies and other required of the specific travel arrangements. These trip guidelines will include specific travel information, itineraries, and if necessary, additional Student/Parent contract agreements.

FOOTBALL GAMES

Home Football Games

These are played at District Three Stadium on S. Cherry Rd. Each band student is responsible for his or her own transportation to and from the stadium. The band meets on the south side of the stadium at a time designated by the director. Dress consists of either the summer uniform or full uniform as designated by the Director of Bands. Remember that while in full uniform at football games, long hair must be up and under the helmet for performances (males and females!) Jewelry, gum, or scented products are also not allowed while in uniform.

Band members must sit together in the reserved section for the band (at the south end of the Home Side). Only assigned chaperones may sit with the band. Parents and friends of the band can sit near the band but not in the band section. Students are to stay in their given spot while in the band block.

After our half-time performance, the band will return to the band block to their designated spot. A band director will dismiss them for the third quarter restroom and concession stand break. Students are not allowed to go to the opposite side of the stadium. **No food or drink is allowed in the band block.** All uniform guidelines are to be strictly followed while the band is performing and when the band is on break.

During the football games, members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or directors. Members may not play their instrument except when instructed to do so by a staff member or drum major. **Individual playing is prohibited.**

Away Football Games

The entire band occasionally travels to away games on district activity buses. You will receive a schedule showing the games the band will perform. Additionally, our performance calendar is available on CutTime and on the band website. At times, the director may designate a “pep band” to travel to the away games instead of the entire band. This is usually a small amount of band members, some recruited and volunteers.

For away football games, the band members will meet at NHS at a specified time by the Director of Bands. Students are responsible for loading their instrument and equipment on the truck or bus. As with home games, the band members must sit in the designated reserved section with assigned chaperones. Parents and chaperones can sit nearby but not in the band block. The students will return to Northwestern after the game to be picked up (please use side lot or front loop).

Please remember that band students **cannot** leave an away event (including an away football game) with anyone except their parent or legal guardian. A **completed travel waiver is required** for any student wishing to leave with their parent or legal guardian instead of returning after the conclusion of an event. Estimated arrival times back to NHS will be posted on our website, and if significantly different than published - texted to all members/families via CutTime SMS announcement.

MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS

Competitions are special events where the band gets to perform for a sophisticated audience and competent adjudicators. Generally, these events are held on Saturdays in September and October. Our band performs their competitive field show for judging and placement against other schools. Transportation is provided by the school district to and from the event. Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure times, and anticipated return times. **It is very important that student be present at the designated CALL TIME.** Schedules must be met and those students not on time will be left behind. Performance schedule times will dictate whether students will wear your uniform on the bus or load it on the equipment truck.

Simply stated: *We are there to do our very best!* **All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band.** Rehearsals may be held prior to the departure for a competition.

Students are to pre-arrange their ride home. Students will be instructed to text their rides once an ETA is established on our return trip to Northwestern High School. Parents, please pick up your student(s) on time! Announcements during travel and estimated time of arrival back from events will be made via the band’s twitter feed, website. Students will also be asked to text parents an updated ETA during the trip home.

The **SCBDA State Marching Band Championship**, held each year on the last Saturday of October is the pinnacle performance for the Purple Regiment.

CONCERTS

Christmas Concert

Each December, the Purple Regiment presents a holiday concert in the auditorium to usher in the season. The concert is free and open to the public. Come out to enjoy some of your favorite holiday favorites and a special unique indoor performance of the Purple Regiment's competitive marching band show.

Pre-Assessment Concert and Concert Performance Assessment

The Concert Performance Assessment is held each March in conjunction with the South Carolina Band Directors Association. Each performing ensemble (Symphonic Band and Concert Band) prepare concert repertoire of serious artistic merit and perform for a panel of adjudicators for a rating. The quality of performance and degree of difficulty of selected music, combined with an assessment of the ensemble's ability to sight-read music, determine a rating of Superior, Excellent, Good, or Fair. A **Pre-Assessment Concert** will be given in early March and provides an excellent opportunity for our students to receive feedback and perform the literature. If the NHS Concert Band or NHS Symphonic Band earn straight superior ratings from the adjudicators during the March CPA event, they may attend the State Concert Festival held in May.

Spring Concert

Held each May in the NHS Auditorium, this concert is free and open to the public. All concert bands will perform in addition to selected chamber ensembles. The event concludes with our annual tribute to the Senior Class. A separate *Jazz and Percussion Gala* concert is held in May, which features a guest artist, our talented jazz ensembles, and select middle school students.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Olde English Festival of Bands

The Olde English Festival of Bands is a marching band competition sponsored each year by the Northwestern and Rock Hill High School Bands & Booster Clubs. This event is held at Rock Hill School District Three Stadium. Marching bands from around the Carolinas come and perform their programs. Judges determine prize placements. The Rock Hill and Northwestern Bands perform for exhibition only. As hosts, the band booster organizations are responsible for a variety of support functions during the Competition. These include concessions, ticket sales, parking, guides (for visiting bands), hospitality (for visiting band directors), and many other functions. All proceeds from the event are divided equally between the two high school booster clubs. Usually, this is a big money making project. **All band students/parents are expected to work at least one four-hour shift at the Olde English Festival of Bands.**

Winter Guard

The NHS Winter Guard program is held from December through April each school year. Winter Guard consists of color guard members and others, including other band and non-band students. The guard focuses on exciting performances based on dance, movements with rifles, sabers, and flags to recorded music. Special costuming and props are also used. This group competes weekly around the Carolinas at Carolina Winter Ensemble Association (CWEA) and Winter Guard International (WGI) competitions. The winter guard program allows students to expand their dance and movement skills – which in turn improve the quality of performance of the marching band's color guard year after year. A fee is assessed to each student to offset the costs of conducting this extracurricular activity.

Winter Percussion Ensemble

The NHS Winter Percussion Ensemble program is held from December through April each school year. Winter Percussion Ensemble is a competitive group of students performing ensemble literature composed distinctly for percussion instruments. This ensemble competes in CWEA and WGI competitions. This program allows percussion and non-percussion students to expand their musical, performance, and technique skills. A fee is assessed to each student to offset the costs of this activity.

All-State and Region Band

During January and February, band students can play selected music for judges, competing against other students from schools around the region. The top students are selected for the SCBDA All-State Band and will perform a concert in

March at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Students may qualify for Region Band, if their score is high enough. The Region Band performs a concert at Nation Ford High School in February. Students earning All-State and Region seats receive special recognition at the awards night.

Jazz Ensemble

Once marching band season is over, band students have the opportunity to try out for one of the two jazz bands. These bands learn various jazz techniques and styles. They perform at the SCBDA Jazz Festival and the Spring Jazz Gala Concert in May. High school jazz bands are judged based on their musical abilities - similar to State Concert Performance Assessment. Ratings are Superior, Excellent, Good, and Fair. A fee is assessed to each student to offset the costs of conducting this extracurricular activity.

Solo & Ensemble

Held in late April, this event is sponsored by the SCBDA. Students select approved music to play as a solo or in a small chamber ensemble and perform for a judge for rating. Students receiving a Superior rating are given awards at the band awards night.

Spring Trip

Most years, the band takes a trip to a location somewhere around the Eastern U.S. In recent years, the band has gone to Orlando, New York City, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. Any band student who chooses to travel with the band must pay those expenses by personal funds or funds available in their student ledger. Only students paying in full will be allowed to travel. There are no exceptions to this policy. **Band related fees from prior school years must be paid in full before students are eligible to participate in the Spring Trip.** During the year, students can earn money from various fundraisers and have it deposited in their student ledger to help with the cost. Spring trips are not mandatory.

NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL PRIVATE LESSON ACADEMY

The **NUMBER ONE** way to improve your level of musicianship, the Northwestern High School Private Lesson Academy consists of professional musicians in the area who provide private, one-on-one instruction opportunities for our students each semester on campus at Northwestern High School. If your student would like to further improve their skills in music, please enroll in the Private Lesson Academy.

UNIFORMS AND PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

The Summer Uniform

During the late summer/early fall when outside temperature are considerably warm, the Purple Regiment wears a “summer uniform” for performances. The summer uniform consists of the current year’s marching band show t-shirt, khaki shorts, and tennis shoes. Two marching band show t-shirts are provided to each marching band student and are included in the band fee. Khaki shorts are the responsibility of the student and must meet school dress code.

The Full Uniform

The wearing of the Purple Regiment uniform is a *privilege*. Members should be aware of their responsibility to the organization when in uniform. **The full uniform for all wind and percussion students consists of the following:** black helmet and plume, black bibber pants, purple and white jacket, gauntlets, black gloves, marching show t-shirt, solid black uniform socks (crew length), and clean black uniform marching shoes with black laces. Color guard and winter guard uniforms change every year for programming considerations; however, the same expectations of character and care for their uniform are required. Wind and percussion students may be issued a program-specific uniform. Remember the No. 1 rule – Always look good! ***Marching shoes and gloves will be available for purchase at band camp and are not included in the Marching Season Fee.***

Note: Percussionists do not wear gloves or gauntlets. Sousaphones and front ensemble members do not wear black helmets. Flute and clarinet players are permitted to cut the fingertips off their gloves to aid in performance.

Dressing rooms are available at all competitions. If you wish to wear clothes on the bus that are not acceptable for underneath the full uniform, you must change in the dressing rooms (not in the bus or parking lot).

Uniform Jacket: The uniform jacket is to be hung, folded, or worn correctly as instructed to do so by staff.

Uniform Bibber Pants: When in full uniform or half uniform (no jacket), the straps and zipper on the pants must be up at all times. There are no exceptions to this rule! The marching band t-shirt is always worn under the bibber pants. As weather turns colder later in the season, thermal tops (i.e. UnderArmor or similar) may be worn *under* the marching t-shirt. No turtleneck, mock turtleneck, or other clothing seen at the neckline may be worn.

Acceptable bottoms to wear under bibber pants include: soccer/basketball/bike shorts during warm weather and thermals during colder weather. Yoga pants, sophie shorts, or leggings are also acceptable. Denim, cargo shorts, pants, or generally any other type of clothing that would cause lumps, bulges, or bumps in the uniform are not permitted. Any clothing with brads, sequins, studs, zippers, chains, etc. are also not permitted in uniform.

Hair, Makeup, Jewelry, and Accessories: Long hair should be french braided or put up in a high bun (preferred). Spirit ribbons are acceptable in school colors during football games but not at competitions. The use of makeup should be limited and conservative. The only jewelry permitted are small stud earrings. Hoop or dangle earrings, watches, wristbands, or bracelets are not permitted. Necklaces must go under clothing and are not to be visible while in uniform. No hats, sunglasses, hoodies, are electronic devices of any kind are permitted while in full uniform.

The Plume: Never pick up your helmet by the plume! Uniform volunteers will attach and detach your plumes as needed.

While in Uniform: At performances when you are instructed to get into two lines for warm-ups, you should be wearing your shoes, socks, bibs, and show shirt. You should fold your coat neatly and carry it, your gauntlets, gloves, and plumed helmet stacked on your left forearm (palm up and helmet facing forward). Hold the front of the helmet with your left hand for balance and carry your instrument in your right hand. Percussion and tuba sections, check with your section leader about your specific variation to this rule.

During football game third quarter breaks, you will fold your jacket and stack it with gauntlets and helmet at your seat in the stands. *Do not leave any part of your uniform lying on the ground.*

Uniform Storage: Uniforms will be stored at school at all times. Uniforms travel to football games and competitions on the equipment truck. After wearing the uniform, members are to fold their bibs neatly (match crease) and hang them with the jacket inside their uniform bag. Uniform bags should be hung on their section's assigned rack and **in numerical order**. Gauntlets go in a labeled storage bag at the front of the rack. You may keep your gloves in either your helmet case or in the pocket of your uniform bag. Helmets are stored *upside down* in the helmet case. Leave the foam insert in the bottom of the case. Please take care of closing the helmet case gently to prevent damage to the brim of the helmet. Marching shoes are to be kept by the member. Shoe bags are available for purchase from the uniform committee.

Uniform Emergencies: Spot cleaning for accidental spills, mud, or grass stains should be handled immediately. If a member gets something on their uniform during a game or competition, they should see a uniform volunteer right away! Supplies for dealing with such emergencies such as lost buttons, stubborn zippers, broken shoe laces, etc. are available. Safety pins, needle and thread, and hairbands are also kept in supply by uniform volunteers. **If you have a problem or need something - find a uniform volunteer!**

Cleaning: All uniforms will have scheduled cleanings at cost to the band. If the uniform becomes soiled due to the negligence and requires an unscheduled cleaning, the student will assume the cost.

Damage and Loss: In the event that the uniform or any of the components parts are lost or damaged due to negligence, the student will assume the cost of replacement.

Concert Attire

Specific concert attire will be designated in advance of each band concert by the band director.

BAND BANQUET AND AWARDS NIGHT

Each year in May, the band hosts a banquet and awards night. The band presents awards based on achievement, leadership, and dedication to the program. The *Band Letter* will also be awarded to eligible students. The hospitality chairperson(s) will coordinate a reception. All students and their families are invited and encouraged to attend this special event for our members.

The NHS Band Program presents several awards at the end of each academic school year to members who go far beyond their call of duty to ensure the success of the band program. Some of the honors are described below:

The Alice Masone Scholarship Award recognizes one senior band member for their uncompromising work ethic, dedication to the band, and overall character. This scholarship is named after the late Alice Masone, a beloved former band parent and band booster.

The National School Marching Award recognizes the member of the Purple Regiment who best represents what it is to be an ideal marching band member, including musicianship, leadership, preparedness, dedication, and all out enthuses for marching at NHS.

The National School Color Guard Award honors the outstanding contributions of members of the color guard. It honors the contributions and dedication of student leaders in the Color Guard whose example inspires others.

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award recognizes a member of the NHS Jazz Ensemble who demonstrates outstanding musical achievement in jazz and an incredible dedication to the jazz band program.

The Director's Award is conferred to students who go above and beyond the call of duty, in all of their dealings with the NHS Band Program. These students consistently give the extra effort in putting in extra time working tirelessly for the band.

The Patrick S. Gilmore Award for Band honors one student with exemplary qualities in both musicianship, leadership, and dedication. Introduced in 1994, this national award is named for the legendary bandmaster and impresario, Patrick S. Gilmore (1829-1892).

The John Philip Sousa Award for Band is the most prestigious award a band member can receive at Northwestern High School. This award honors a senior student who exemplifies exceptional talent and passion for music, a willingness to grow and forever continue learning, uncompromising personal integrity in all situations, and a desire for creating excelling in performance within the band program as a whole.

Lettering in Band

Band students receive a **Letter** in band (like in varsity sports) for achieving the following:

- Participating as a member of marching band
- Participating in a concert band second semester or participating in a winter guard
- Earning an "A" or "B" average in band
- Participating in auditions for Region/All-State Bands (minimum score of 75) or participating in the SCBDA Solo & Ensemble Festival with a Superior or Excellent rating
- Consistently exhibiting qualities of a responsible band student as determined in this handbook and the director

Graduation Cords

Single Cord: To receive a single cord one must have been in the marching band program, concert band or participated in winter guard for at least 4 semesters, one of those being a semester during your senior year.

Double Cord: To receive a double cord one must have been in the marching band program, concert band or participated in winter guard for 7 to 8 semesters, one of those being a semester during your senior year.

Disclaimer: Some members will have more than 8 credits if they participated in guard as a middle schooler. They will still be presented a double cord. Also at least one of these semesters must be during their senior year. If someone from band or guard quits before senior year then they have not qualified.

Transfer Students: Will need to indicate how many semesters they participated in marching and concert season at their previous school to qualify for the corresponding cord. Again, they must participate at Northwestern High School their senior year.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD (OPA)

This award is given to high school bands by the South Carolina Band Directors Association that meet certain requirements including: Superior ratings at the State Marching Band Championships, Concert Performance Assessment, and a required number of Superior ratings at Solo & Ensemble Performance Assessment. Northwestern is one of the few high school bands in the state to consistently win this award year after year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leaders each year are entrusted with a tremendous amount of responsibility and are critical to our success as a program. While a student leader is sometimes seen as someone who tells his or her section what to do, the true role of a student leader is quite the opposite. Student leaders SERVE their sections and ensure the best possible experience for EVERYONE! It is a difficult but very rewarding responsibility.

Each May, students interested in serving on our leadership team attend a leadership workshop and fill out an application for review by the band directors. Students must have auditioned for region band to be considered for a role of section leader the following year. **Students that have Level 2 (L2) or greater offenses via administrative referrals in the current school year will not be considered for a leadership position the following year.**

BAND CURRICULUM IN BRIEF

Students must meet the following requirements to participate in the high school band program: successfully complete a middle school band program, be recommended by the middle school band director; and demonstrate instrumental proficiency in an audition for the NHS Band Directors.

Marching Band

First Semester - Requires advanced technical skill in music. The band performs at football games, exhibitions, competitions, and parades. By enrolling, the student agrees to attend all rehearsal and activities as required by the band director including summer band camp.

Marching Band with PE

First Semester - Marching Band with PE features a curriculum geared primarily to the performance of our field show as well as individual musical and physical development. Grading of the class involves a mixture of group performance-based grades, individual performance-based grades* (pass-offs), testing, and class participation. The course will provide opportunities for marching band students to become competent and proficient in two movement forms that are integrated with participation in the marching band activity. Students will participate regularly in health-enhancing physical activity, design and develop a personalized physical fitness program, and meet the gender and age group health-related physical fitness standards. Students will be required to complete the Pre and Post FITNESSGRAM Test to provide evidence that standards are being met. This course requires advanced technical skills in music. The band performs at football games, exhibitions, competitions, and parades. By enrolling, the students agree to attend all rehearsals and activities as required by the band director, including summer band camp.

Instrumental Ensemble & Concert Band

Second Semester - Requires advanced technical skill in music. This course emphasizes a variety of musical styles and technical facility consistent with grade 3-4 band literature and is designed to prepare students to

participate in Symphonic Band. By enrolling, the student agrees to attend all rehearsals and activities as required by the band directors.

Symphonic Band

Second Semester - The Northwestern High School Symphonic Band is the flagship performing organization in the band program during the winter and spring. The ensemble performs at the State Concert Performance Assessment and other community and school events as required by the band directors. This course emphasizes a variety of musical styles and technical facility consistent with grades 5 and 6 band literature. By enrolling, the student agrees to attend all rehearsals and activities as required by the band directors.

Membership in the NHS Symphonic Band and NHS Symphonic Band Honors courses will require successful completion of the following requirements/prerequisites:

- Complete a successful audition for the NHS Band Directors. Rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders may audition for Symphonic Band.
- Students must be enrolled in band all year long* (Fall & Spring Semesters)

*It is understood that under rare cases, juniors and seniors may encounter unavoidable scheduling conflicts, in which case the band directors and school administration will review these conflicts on an individual basis. The option for taking one semester of band to resolve a scheduling conflict will be considered with preference for students taking spring band.

BAND FEES AND EXPENSES

While the NHS Band receives monetary support from the school district, additional membership fees are required of our members to offset the costs of the program. These accessed fees are approved by the NHS Administration and the Rock Hill School District 3 School Board.

Marching Season Fee

This year's **Marching Season Fee** is \$500. The following payment schedule is suggested:

May 17	\$100 (initial deposit during band registration)
August 1	\$100
September 1	\$100
October 1	\$100
November 1	\$100

The Marching Season Fee must be paid in full before the end of the semester or the school will consider the fee delinquent. Any family that experiences hardship should consider applying for financial aid through the NHS Band Booster Club. A scholarship form may be obtained from the band office or band website. We make every effort to provide financial assistance for a family truly in need. Please note that no member or family will ever be denied the opportunity to participate in the Northwestern High School Band as a result of financial hardship. **By taking part in our fundraising opportunities, no family should have to pay for band fees entirely out-of-pocket.**

As in year's past, if a family has more than one child in the band simultaneously, the second sibling's marching season fee is reduced to \$250.

All payments for the Marching Season Fee should be made payable to *Northwestern High School Bands*. Payment of this fee can be made via cash, check, money order, from funds available in your student ledger, or online. If paying from funds available in your student ledger, the band booster treasurer will transfer these funds to credit your school account by request through a *BCP Authorization Form*.

To Make a Payment: Place payments in the NHS Band Room Purple Box or mail them to the school (to the attention of NHS Bands). Please do not mail cash. A receipt will be written by the band office and given to your student for all payments made to Northwestern High School for fees. Additionally, BCP transactions may be tracked in your student's CutTime account.

To Make a Payment Online: Visit <https://rockhillsc.csiepay.com/Views/Payment/Pay.aspx> Make sure to select Northwestern High School and Purple Regiment to ensure funds are applied correctly.

Additional Fees

Winter Guard, Jazz Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble members will also have fees assigned to cover music, equipment, uniforms, staff, and travel. These fees will be shared at the start of the winter season.

Please understand that the Northwestern High School Bands have never denied any student participation in band because of financial hardship. If you encounter financial difficulty in paying these fees – please contact our Director of Bands, Scot McGuire.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Encourage your student to take advantage of fundraising opportunities.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for daily practice.
- Insure that instruments stay in good repair and that students keep at least three reeds (if applicable) in their case.
- Provide students with a metronome and tuner.
- Encourage students to be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide the means for private instruction if possible.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Keep this handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the director in advance if the student is to be absent for a rehearsal.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally to watch your students and band working hard!
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.

Get The Facts First!

When a band question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves and the band family when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods but consider them facts. If you have any questions, please visit CutTime, the band website, or contact a band director.

NHS BAND BOOSTERS INFORMATION

The role of the NHS Band Booster Club is to support all students who choose to participate in the band program at Northwestern High School. Over the years, our booster organization has done an excellent job making sure all students have the opportunity to participate in the NHS Purple Regiment. The boosters are an incorporated, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission and vision is to provide necessary manpower and financial support to the Northwestern High School Bands to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in band.

Meetings

The Northwestern High School Band Booster Club meets the first Monday night of each month (except June & July) at 6:30PM in the band room to discuss band and color guard activities – and most importantly how the boosters can support these endeavors. *Most parents find it extremely helpful and informative to attend these meetings! Even the most conscientious student can forget to pass on certain information to their parents.*

Executive Board

An **Executive Board** guides the booster activities and consists of officers and committee chairpersons. The booster members elect officers each May. Officers and committee chairpersons serve from July 1-June 30, with the exception of treasurer (a two year commitment). The positions of band officers are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Booster committees exist to ensure the various activities of the band and boosters are properly coordinated and executed. Booster members are encouraged to participate in committees. A list detailing the various committees to serve can be found on the band website.

Fundraisers

The NHS Band Boosters work tirelessly to provide opportunities for all members and their family members to raise money for band. These fundraising events are made available to parents and students to raise funds for their student's individual band credit point (BCP) accounts to help defer the costs of participation in the band program. All families are highly encouraged to participate in the numerous opportunities to raise money for themselves and the band!

Example fundraisers throughout the year have included working Bank Of America Stadium Event Concessions, selling fruit, mattresses, cookie dough, and more! Please watch for communications from the booster club about upcoming fundraisers.

Band Credit Points (BCP)

Each active band student has a Band Credit Points account. As a student (and or their parents and family members) participate in various fundraisers, points are recorded in their account. These points can be used by the band student to offset the cost associated with being a member of the band. Examples include: band fees, trip payments, marching shoes or gloves, supplies (reeds, oil, folios, lyres etc.), SCBDA registration fees for auditions and Solo & Ensemble events, or any other expense by the booster club or school. BCPs cannot be used for instruments or instrument repair expenses.

At the end of the school year, any remaining points in the account are rolled over into the next school year. Parents of graduating seniors will have the choice of donating their unused points into the *Alice Masone Scholarship Account*, transferring the amount to a younger sibling in band, or someone else of their choosing. If a future sibling will enter the band program from middle school within the next two years, the balance can be held in an account for them. If the parent of the graduating student fails to communicate a designation of their remaining points to one of the selections mentioned above, the balance from this account will be placed in the General Operating Fund of the NHS Band Boosters.

Please contact the junior band booster treasurer for questions or concerns relating to your BCP account. A current financial statement of your BCP activity is available in CutTime by accessing your students account and clicking the Finances icon.

Donations

Any donations are welcome and encouraged to the NHS Band Booster Club. Our organization is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. A donation to our school's band boosters is tax deductible!

Travel Waiver

It is Rock Hill School District #3 policy to only allow a student to leave a school activity (away ballgame, contest, field trip, concert, band camp, etc.) with their parent or an adult legal guardian, **not** other family members, friends, students, or neighbors.

To avoid any confusion, any student wishing to leave an away event (with their parent or guardian) must have this form filled out and signed by a parent or guardian.

No student will be allowed to leave unless they have this form filled out and signed. **BAND STUDENTS SHOULD TURN THIS FORM IN TO MR. MCGUIRE OR THEIR ASSIGNED BUS CHAPERONE THE DAY OF THE EVENT.** Additional forms will be available in the band room, on the band website, CutTime, or from the chaperone assigned your student's bus.

My Student, _____,
(print full name)

will be leaving the _____.
(event)

I understand that by signing this form, I release Northwestern High School, the Northwestern High School Band, and Rock Hill School District #3 from any liability or responsibility.

Parent or Guardian _____
(print full name)

Parent or Guardian _____
(signature)

Date ____ / ____ / ____

Handbook Agreement & Travel Permission Form

STUDENT CONTRACT

As a member of the Northwestern High School Band, I understand that participation in this program is privilege that requires commitment and carries with it responsibilities. I have read and understand the expectations for all Northwestern High School Band members as they are listed in both the NHS Bands Handbook and the NHS Student Handbook. As a member of this ensemble, I understand that I personally contribute to the overall success of the ensemble, the school, and the NHS community. As such, I will abide by the following terms of this contract:

- I will demonstrate esprit de corps at all times.
- I will behave in a way that will bring respect to me, my teachers, my instructors, and my school.
- I will not use foul language or inappropriate gestures at any time.
- I will not fight or bully other students.
- I will learn and follow the disciplinary components required of a strong and meaningful musical performance.
- I will learn and apply all techniques as it pertains to musical performance, marching (if applicable), and ensemble effect.
- I will listen to my teachers and instructors, and will ask questions when I do not understand.
- I will listen and respect the decisions of all administrators, teachers, instructors, and adjudicators.
- I will never use the band program as an excuse for not completing an assignment for another class.
- I will behave in a respectful manner in all of my classes, both music related, and non-music related.
- I will always give 100% to every rehearsal, run-through, and performance.

I understand that if I violate the terms of this contract I may be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including suspension from the Northwestern High School Band program.

Print Name of the NHS Band Member _____

Signature of NHS Band Member _____ Date Signed _____

PARENT CONTRACT

I have read the Northwestern High School Band Handbook and understand the rules and expectations contained therein. I reviewed the handbook with my child. I understand that my child is expected to fulfill all obligations to the band program including by not limited to performance, rehearsals, attendance, fundraising, and financial matters.

I understand my child's involvement with the band program will be governed by the rules and regulations established in this handbook and agree to support the enforcement of the policies contained within this document. I understand that part of my student's band grade depends on the signing of these contracts and specifically affirm our understanding that our failure to pay all band fees will result in the school withholding privileges such as prom tickets and parking passes.

I give permission for my student to travel on school activity buses to all band events required by the band director for the 2023-2024 school year.

Finally, I agree to be a proud and active band parent!

Print Name of the NHS Band Parent or Guardian _____

Signature of NHS Band Parent/Guardian _____ Date Signed _____