



BUDZINSR@UNITS.ORG
MR. RYAN BUDZINSKI,
DIRECTOR OF BANDS



HANDBOOK

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to a great year of music-making!

MUSIC/INSTRUMENTS

Each student will be issued a folder with music, band warm up books, and other materials. Please keep your music, folder, and instrument in the locker that is assigned to you. Students are responsible for repairing/replacing any lost or damaged music, folders, or school-owned instruments/equipment. Students are encouraged to lock their locker with their own lock.

SEMESTER AUDITIONS

Students perform an audition at the end of each semester. This audition serves as the final assessment, and it also determines part assignments and ensemble placements for future semesters. Auditions include major scales and assigned musical excerpts. Auditions help directors monitor student progress, and they help students develop audition and interview skills.

PRIVATE LESSONS

We encourage all instrumentalists to study privately with a specialist on their instrument. Students who study progress at a quicker pace and have the opportunity to gain individual attention and learn instrument-specific information. Ask your band director to recommend a lesson instructor!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The CALENDAR at nwbands.org has all of the latest dates, including performances, rehearsals, and events.

We encourage you to visit the website regularly. Itineraries will be posted prior to each event. Groups are often abbreviated:

JK: Jazz Kats

JO: Jazz Orchestra

NMB: Normal Marching Band

CW/SE: Concert Winds/
Saxophone Ensemble

SB: Symphonic Band

SW: Symphonic Winds

WS: Wind Symphony

WE: Wind Ensemble

UNIFORMS/CONCERT BLACK

Students will be fitted for a tuxedo (pants/coat) or a dress. If wearing a tuxedo, students must obtain their own black bow tie, black dress socks, and black dress shoes. Tux shirt instructions will vary by band. If wearing a school-issued long, black dress, students must obtain their own black dress shoes. Please consider your appearance as part of the school's and bands' professional image when wearing concert black.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

The Normal West Bands are skill-based courses that utilize Standards-Based Grading. Standards can be found at nwbands.org under the INFORMATION pull-down menu. Grades are comprised of formal assessments and skills demonstrated in class.

Performances are used to assess a variety of performer and audience skills, and attendance at all scheduled performances is required. Excused absences include illness, family wedding/death, potentially school sports conflicts. Club/outside sporting events are not considered an excused absence. In case of a school-related conflict, please notify your coach and band director as early as possible.

JOIN THE BAND APP!

The Normal West Bands use the BAND App to share notifications, and announcements. All band students and parents are encouraged to join! Visit nwbands.org/bandapp

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