

Bands

NORMAL WEST

THE NORMAL WEST BANDS

have established a strong tradition of achievement and excellence. Normal West High School students participate in one of five concert bands, three jazz bands, competitive marching band, color guard, and a number of smaller ensembles such as flute choir, clarinet choir, saxophone choir, brass choir, and percussion ensemble.

The bands regularly appear in concerts and festivals and have performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in Chicago, the Illinois Music All State Conference, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Universal Studios, and in Los Angeles, Washington DC, and the Bahamas.



CONCERT BANDS

To enroll in band, sign up for *Concert Winds*. Each band student will play an audition to determine ensemble placement and part assignments. This process does not "cut" any student from the band program. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks. We look forward to meeting you and answering questions about band as a part of this process. Visit nwbands.org for details.

JAZZ BANDS

Normal West is home to three traditional "big bands." Sign up and auditions for these groups generally take place in November. The groups typically rehearse two nights each week and perform in concerts and festivals up until spring break. They also host an annual Jazz Night at Normal West. Those who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and drums are required to enroll in a concert band class in order to participate.



CONNECT WITH THE BANDS!



WWW.NWBANDS.ORG



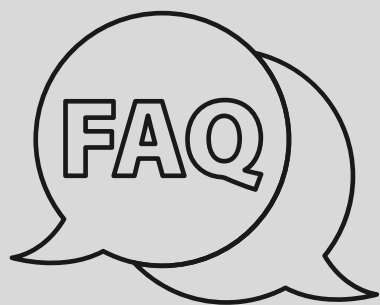
[@NORMALWESTBANDS](https://www.instagram.com/NORMALWESTBANDS)



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IS IT POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH BAND AND CHOIR?

Yes! It takes creative course scheduling. Contact your future director for assistance in developing a four year plan.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND AND SPORTS?

Yes! Rehearsals typically take place during the school day, and performances are scheduled in advance. Be sure to communicate schedule conflicts with your coach/music director as early as possible.



IS IT POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCHING BAND AND SPORTS?

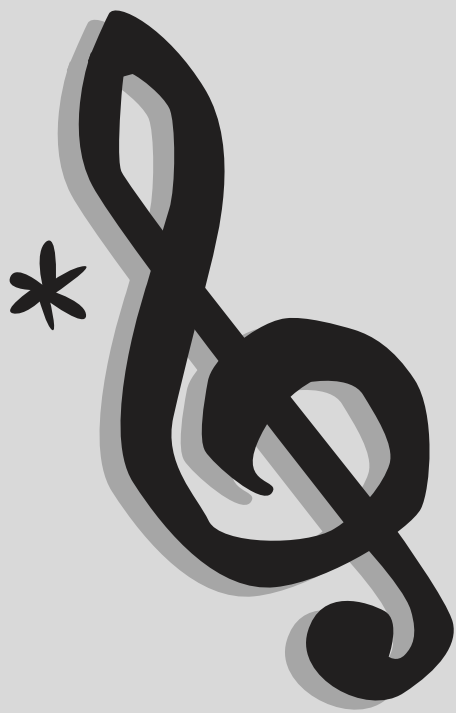
In some cases, yes. We have had many varsity sports represented in the marching band, including football, cheer, golf, and dance. These students learn to be organized and effective at managing their time. Volleyball, cross country, and boys' soccer schedules tend to conflict.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND AND THE STEM PROGRAM?

Yes! Members of the STEM cohort take fewer electives, so this also requires creative scheduling. That said, we have had STEM students participate in all levels of concert band. Consult the band directors if you have any questions.



WHAT IS THE BAND AUDITION PROCESS?



This is an opportunity for us to meet you and answer your questions about high school band! Additional information will be sent in the coming weeks. You will sign up for a time to play for one of the high school directors on Google Meet. The audition is intended for us to place you in an appropriate ensemble based on your skills. There are no "cuts," so please do not stress over this process. You will play as many major scales as you know as well as your choice of band music, ILMEA music, or solo and ensemble music. Due to the complexity of the high school scheduling process, band placements for next year will not be finalized until the end of this school year.

WHY SHOULD I STUDY MUSIC IN HIGH SCHOOL?

A multitude of research and reports acknowledge the positive impact that a music education has on predicting future successes and developing skills across a variety of disciplines. Additionally, college admissions seek those applicants who are well-rounded, active contributors in their schools and communities. Music nurtures students' skills in communication, collaboration, perseverance, discipline, and creativity. More importantly, the musical experience is not replicated in any other discipline--it is an experience all its own! We encourage students to participate in this, and other co-curricular and extracurricular activities at Normal West!



DO I NEED TO TAKE A STUDY HALL IN HIGH SCHOOL?

No, high school students are not required to take a study hall.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

THE NORMAL MARCHING BAND



The Normal Marching Band is a highlight of the rich traditions of excellence in band at Normal Community and Normal West High Schools. The group proudly represents our schools and community on the local, regional, national, and international stages. Among other recognitions, the NMB is a multiple-time Class 6A Illinois State Marching Band Champion! They have earned countless awards and received multiple Division I ratings at Bands of America Super Regional Championships. The Band is excited about its upcoming performance in the 2025 London New Year's Day Parade! Current eighth graders are eligible... Learn more at normalmb.org/london



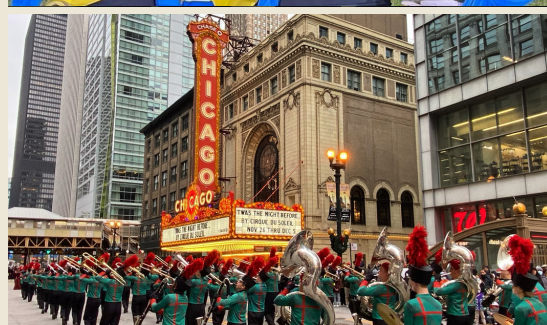
OPPORTUNITIES

We are excited about the teambuilding, collaboration, and leadership opportunities available to students in the NMB. Participating students develop self-discipline as well as musical and marching skills as a part of a high caliber band, drum line, front ensemble, and color guard.

The NMB is open to any woodwind, brass, or percussion student who fully commits to the rehearsal and performance schedules. Placement in the drum line and color guard is determined by audition. Additional information regarding these auditions will be distributed in the spring. The front ensemble (stationary percussion) is open to all students who play a percussion instrument in a high school band class.

PARTICIPATION

The NMB is a cocurricular ensemble that rehearses outside of the school day. During the summer, rehearsals/camps are held in June and late July/early August. During the school year, rehearsals are typically held two evenings weekly as well as on Saturdays, often before competitions. Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion students who play in marching band must also register for a concert band class that meets during the school day. If you play oboe, bassoon, or another instrument that is not typically found in the marching band, there are options available for you to participate. The high school band directors would be happy to answer your questions and help you decide on an instrument that will work for you!



JOINING THE NMB

The marching band will hold an informational meeting in the Normal Community High School Auditorium on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:30 PM. We feel very strongly about the quality of the young adults that participate in the marching band, and we are excited to invite you to participate! The experience will be one to remember for a lifetime!

