

NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Frequently Asked Questions About BAND CAMP

What is Band Camp?

Band Camp is a mandatory, two week training program required to prepare for the upcoming marching band competition season. During band camp, students practice the music, drill (marching) and choreography that are the foundation of their field show. While the show continues to evolve during the entire marching season (which runs from late August through mid-November), band camp is the foundation upon which the show is built. Since each day's practice builds on the prior day, it is critical that all band members are at band camp every day.

Band camp is a wonderful experience for the students. It can be exhausting, since they put in long, hot days learning the music and the drill, it is also fun. They get to know each other, learn discipline and teamwork, and perhaps most importantly, develop strong bonds as a "band family". Your incoming student will know over 100 kids across all grades by the time they walk through the NHS doors for the first time. How great is that?

Please note that band camp is mandatory, and is held rain or shine. All rehearsals and events, including band camp are posted on the calendar at (www.nhsband.com/MBICalendar.aspx).

Where is Band Camp held?

Most rehearsals are at Andrews Field (on County Street behind the County Mall on Westport Ave.), although that sometimes changes for select groups and/or in the case of inclement weather. If something does change, Mr. Rivera or the section instructors will make it clear where the students are to report the following day.

Where can I drop off, pick up and park?

Parking is available at Andrew's field, toward the left side of the parking lot; students may be dropped off and picked up there as well. Please note: parking is not allowed at the County Shopping Mall. Please do not drop off or pick up your child in the County Shopping Mall parking area (behind Bond Grill). We must leave that parking open for patrons of the mall.

What is the Band Camp Schedule?

Dates: August 15th through August 26th

Days: Monday through Friday

Students Report to Practice: 8:45 AM to stow their gear and get ready for practice

Practice Times: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Lunch: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Dinner: 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM

*To be early is to be on time!
To be on time is to be late!
To be late is unacceptable!*

What do students do for lunch?

Students can bring lunch, go home or out for lunch or have someone bring their lunch. Students may also order a deli lunch for delivery to the field. We've made arrangements for a local deli to take sandwich and drink orders each morning before rehearsal begins. Cash payment is expected upon order, so please be sure your student arrives early enough to place the deli order and still be ready to rehearse at 9:00 AM.

What do students do for dinner?

During the first week of band camp, there is no on-field dinner delivery service, so students may bring dinner, have dinner dropped off or go home or out for dinner. During the second week of camp, parent volunteers from each graduating class host dinner Monday through Thursday; on Friday, which is "Spirit Night", parent volunteers from all classes work together to provide dinner for the students. Interested in helping with the dinners during the second week of band camp? An email will be sent with instructions for volunteering at a later date.

What is Spirit Night?

The last night of band camp (Friday, August 26th) is "Spirit Night." On Spirit Night, the band parents host a dinner for the entire band. Then the band members perform the show they have been learning in band camp for the first time publicly. This is a really fun evening, with family and friends joined by school and city dignitaries. Please mark your calendars; you will not want to miss it!

What do students bring to rehearsals?

Instructors will provide information on the specific items needed, but in general, the items below are needed. Please ensure all belongings are labeled with the student's name; water jugs, hoodies, etc. often look alike.

- **All**
 - ✓ **Sunscreen**
 - ✓ Full water jug (very important!); 1.5L or ½ gallon size is recommended
 - ✓ Dot Book (spiral bound 3x5 index cards, available at Staples and drug stores)
 - ✓ Pencils

- **Musicians (in addition to above)**
 - ✓ Instrument
 - ✓ Music
 - ✓ Brass players need valve oil and a towel to put their instrument on
 - ✓ Woodwind players should bring extra reeds
 - ✓ Percussionists should bring drum sticks or mallets (specifics will be provided at rehearsal)

- **Color Guard (in addition to what is listed under ALL above)**
 - ✓ Towel big enough to lay on

What do students wear to rehearsals?

Always wear clothes that are suitable for weather conditions, sometimes we do have to practice in the rain. Please ensure all belongings are labeled with the student's name.

- **All**
 - ✓ Athletic sneakers and socks
 - ✓ Comfortable shorts (the athletic type are best in hot weather)
 - ✓ T-shirt
 - ✓ Sweatshirt or light jacket (sometimes it gets cold in the evening)
 - ✓ Hat

- **Color Guard (in addition to what is listed under ALL above)**
 - ✓ Black shorts and a white top are required during band camp

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones may not be used by students during any rehearsal, performance, competition or trip. That includes during and after school. Students are not permitted to have cell phones on their bodies at any time during rehearsal, this creates a safety concern, especially when marching outside. Students should keep their phones locked in their cars or leave them home. Norwalk High School is not responsible for any phones that are lost or stolen. **If a student has to use a phone in the case of an emergency, the director's cell phone can be made available to them.**

What is Spirit Wear?

Clothing with the Marching Band logo or the show logo is available for purchase on Spirit Night and select practices throughout the fall season. Spirit wear is a great way to show your Norwalk pride at competitions!

Be a fan!

You don't have to wait for Spirit Night to check out the show. It is truly amazing to watch the performance evolve day by day and throughout the marching season. The band does a "run through" of the show, from the beginning, each evening at the end of rehearsal. Parents, friends and families are encouraged to come about ½ hour before pickup throughout the season to see the progression and cheer the students on. The best view is from the "front" of the field (closest to the County Mall). Come join us!

Questions about Band Camp?

- Ask a parent volunteer at pre-season summer practice (look for someone with a Norwalk Marching Band name tag outside the music wing of Norwalk High School)
- Email us at AskNHSBand@gmail.com, Please include your child's name on the subject line

Eyes with Pride!