

**Northern York County School District
Music Department Handbook
2024-2025**



“Intellectually Prepared, Civically Engaged, Personally Responsible”

Table of Contents

Table of Contents Page 2

Music Department Introduction and Philosophy Pages 3-4

NYCSD Student Activities Handbook Pages 5-11

Directors Code of Conduct Page 12

Parental Expectations Pages 13-14

Student Expectations Page 14-18

Activities and Ensembles Pages 19-43

Northern York County School District

Music Department Handbook

We believe...

- Students share the responsibility for their education and development of life-long goals.
- Family responsibility and community involvement are essential to each child's educational success.
- Students benefit from and are encouraged to participate in a diverse offering of programs that enhance their educational experience.
- In a comprehensive curriculum.

Music Department Philosophy

The following core values represent the guiding principles of the Northern Music Department. Together they embody the essence and identity of our program.

Access: Access to all of our programs, K to 12, is an important quality of our curriculum.

Quality: In all of our teaching and performance activities, Northern seeks the highest level of excellence. We strive to present all of our concerts at the highest level of achievement possible.

Community: The partnership between our school music department and community is an important ingredient to the success of our program.

Creativity and Innovation: We foster the creative process and encourage innovation in music activities at all levels. We utilize effective technologies and new media to enhance the learning process.

Performing: Music is a performing art and we believe that students at all levels should be encouraged to play or sing music for others. All of our music ensembles have a variety of performance opportunities.

Challenge and Support: We believe that every student should be challenged to do the best work he or she possibly can. We also believe that students should be encouraged and supported, regardless of their level of ability or achievement. Parents and teachers need to be partners in this support.

Music Literacy: Reading music is a fundamental part of learning music at all levels. We believe that knowledge of the elements of music theory --- notation, scales, keys, intervals, and basic harmony --- is essential to a quality music education.

Family Support: We believe that parental and family support and involvement in our students' music education will provide the best results for our students.

Practice and Commitment: Regular practice is vital to learning how to sing or play a musical instrument. Learning music is a process that takes time; results will be achieved through consistent commitment and patience over time.

Playing Music Together: We believe that making music with other people is the best way to realize its full potential as a social and artistic endeavor.

Music Department Staff

Mrs. Jessica Zampelli – Elementary Band Director
Mr. Chad McCartney – Middle School Band Director, Music Teacher; Department Chair
Mr. Andrew Sheffer – High School Band Director
Mrs. Jillian Szabo – Elementary Orchestra Director
Mrs. Geneva Sheffer – Middle School and High School Orchestra Director
Ms. Keely McCune – Elementary Chorus Director and Music Teacher (NES, SME)
Mrs. Karla Silbaugh – Elementary Chorus Director and Music Teacher (DES, WES)
Mrs. Allison Ometz – Middle School Chorus Director, Music Teacher
Mrs. Laura Bissell – High School Chorus Director, Music Teacher
Department Website - <https://www.northernpolarbears.com/link-1/music-department/home>

Activities Offered

Co-Curricular Ensembles

High School

Concert Band
Wind Ensemble
Mixed Chorus
Orchestra

Middle School

Concert Band
Chorus
Orchestra

Elementary

Band
Chorus
Orchestra

Extracurricular Ensembles

High School

Marching Band
Indoor Guard
Dance Team
Jazz Band
Pep Band
Tri-M Music Honor Society
Bear Singers
Musical
Pit Orchestra
String Quartet
Small Music Ensembles

Middle School

Wind Ensemble (78)
Jazz Band (678)
Indoor Guard (78)
Dance Team (78)
Select Choir (78)
Musical (678)
Small Music Ensembles

Definitions

Extracurricular Activities - those activities, which are approved by the Board, but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall be available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate.

Co-Curricular Activities - those activities that are approved by the Board, are offered for credit towards graduation, and have components of their program that include attendance at and participation in activities scheduled during non-school hours.

Student Activity Clubs/Organizations - those extracurricular activities that seek to meet the interests of students that are not provided by the curricular program of the school. As is the case with all extracurricular activities, Student Activity Clubs/Organizations must be sponsored by or approved by the Board. These clubs/organizations are marked by student participation in the process of initiating, planning, organizing, and executing the mission and purpose of the club/organization.

Procedures

The following procedures shall be followed in regard to extracurricular and co-curricular activities of the Northern York County School District.

Co-Curricular Activities

Philosophy

The primary purpose of Co-Curricular Activities is to support the curricular program of the school and to provide a well-rounded educational program that offers opportunities for students based on talents, interests, and abilities. While the initiation and organization of Co-Curricular Activities is conducted by the staff member responsible for that program, the following should be considered during the implementation of the co-curricular program:

- Students should learn leadership skills and be given the opportunity to display those skills.
- Student interest and need should be considered in the development of the goals of the co-curricular activity.
- Students should be provided with the opportunity to evaluate the worth and effectiveness of the activity and adult leaders should be responsive to those evaluations.

Staff Responsibilities

The staff member responsible for oversight of the Co-Curricular Activity has a great deal of influence on its success. The following criteria are the responsibility of the staff member who oversees the activity.

- Provide leadership opportunities for students.
- Promote positive student interest, enthusiasm, and leadership.
- Obtain approval of the school administration for all activities.
- Discuss pros and cons of all projects with students.
- Be present at all meetings and activities for the duration of the event.
- Supervise the collection and processing of funds to the Business Office according to Board Policy and the Principal.
- Sign all purchase orders and check requests.
- Follow-up with students to make sure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.

- Adhere to the eligibility requirements established for the program and communicated to the administration.
- Obtain administrative approval for all activities.
- Account for all uniforms, supplies and equipment used during the school year.

Procedures for Establishing a New Co-Curricular Activity

Requests for the addition of a new Co-Curricular Activity must be submitted in writing to the Assistant Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent will:

- Review the request in terms of its benefit and alignment with the curricular program of the school and District.
- Assess the financial impact of the new activity.
- Make a recommendation during the next budget development cycle as to the inclusion of the new activity. This recommendation may be for status as a “pilot” program; a “probationary” program; or a “permanent” program.
 - Pilot programs will operate for one year and will be assessed as to the curricular value, impact on students, and financial impact on the district. After a review of a pilot program, a determination by the board will be made for continuation. The program may then be assigned probationary or permanent status.
 - Probationary programs shall operate for a period of two (2) years with the cost assumed by the district. Six (6) months prior to the conclusion of the two-year probationary period, the club or organization shall be notified of the opportunity to submit a formal request to the Board for permanent status. The Board’s decision shall be made prior to the end of the two-year probationary period, allowing for continuity of the program. The Board’s decision shall be final. If approved by the Board, the district shall provide full financial support for the new activity.
 - Permanent programs are those activities approved by the Board and for which the Board has assumed full financial support.
- The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in co-curricular activity.

Inclusion of All Students

Any student who has an interest in a Co-Curricular Activity and who meets the curricular requirements, prerequisites, and/or eligibility requirements will be allowed to participate in Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities. Students may be excluded in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures established by the administration.

Extracurricular Activities:

Philosophy

The Northern York County School District offers numerous activities that are an extension of the classroom. The goal and purpose of Extracurricular Activities is to TEACH students the meaning and understanding of sportsmanship, commitment, fairness, sacrifice, teamwork and hard work. Additional goals include knowing how to win and lose with class and grace, increasing the knowledge of the activity, realizing potential, and developing a healthy lifestyle and skill development. The activities are laboratories for learning.

Staff Responsibilities

The staff member responsible for oversight of the Extracurricular Activity has a great deal of influence on its success. The following criteria are the responsibility of the staff member who oversees the activity.

- Provide leadership opportunities for students.
- Promote positive student interest, enthusiasm, and leadership.
- Obtain approval of the school administration for all activities.
- Discuss pros and cons of all projects with the students.
- Be present at all meetings and activities for the duration of the event.
- Supervise the collection and processing of funds to the Business Office according to Board Policy and the Principal.
- Sign all purchase orders and check requests.
- Follow-up with students to make sure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.
- Adhere to the eligibility requirements established for the program and communicated to the administration.
- Obtain administrative approval for all activities.
- Account for all uniforms, supplies and equipment used during the school year.

Procedures for Establishing a New Extracurricular Activity

- Requests for the addition of a new Extracurricular Activity must be submitted in writing to the Director of Athletics (for interscholastic athletics) or the building Principal (for non-athletic activities).
- The administration will review the request and make a recommendation to the Board within thirty (30) days as to whether such a program or team should be granted probationary approval for review purposes.
- If granted probationary approval by the Board, the new team or program shall operate as a probationary intramural program or team at the cost of the activity being established for a period of two (2) years.
- Six (6) months prior to the conclusion of the two-year probationary period, the staff member responsible for the activity shall be notified of the opportunity to submit a formal request to the Board for permanent status. The Board's decision shall be made prior to the end of the two-year probationary period, allowing for continuity of the program. The Board's decision shall be final.
- If approved by the Board, the district shall provide full financial support for the new activity or team.

Inclusion of Students

Extracurricular Activities shall ordinarily be available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate, except that where eligibility requirements are necessary or desirable, the Board shall be so informed and must approve the establishment of eligibility standards before they may be operable. Such standards may require that each student be covered by student accident insurance, be free of injury; and undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician.

Student Activity Clubs/Organizations

Philosophy

The primary purpose of Student Activities is to meet school-related interests and the needs of students that are not provided by the curricular program of the school. The activities program refers to clubs, classes, intramural, fine arts and interscholastic programs. The following is a list of objectives for the activities for students:

- Help all students to learn how to constructively use their leisure time.
- Help all students to increase and productively use their unique talents and skills.
- Help all students to develop new vocational and recreational interests and skills.
- Help all students to develop skills to be used after graduating in vocational institutes, universities, colleges, technical schools, and the workforce.
- Help all students to increase their knowledge of and skill in functioning as leaders and /or as members of a group and team.
- Help all students to develop a more realistic and positive attitude towards themselves and others.
- Help all students develop and enhance personal attributes such as self-discipline, teamwork, self-worth, commitment and responsibility.

Advisor Responsibilities

The Advisor has a great deal of influence on the success of student groups and activities. The following criteria are the responsibility of the Advisor of all Northern York County School District clubs or activities. The Advisor will:

- Provide leadership opportunities for students.
- Promote positive student interest, enthusiasm, and leadership.
- Obtain approval of the school administration for all activities.
- Discuss pros and cons of all projects with the students.
- Be present at all meetings and activities for the duration of the event.
- Supervise the collection and processing of funds to the Business Office according to Board Policy and the Principal.
- Sign all purchase orders and check requests.
- Follow-up with students to make sure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.
- Encourage good academic standing and ethical behavior for all members of the organization.
- Obtain administrative approval for posters and bulletin announcements. Posters, bulletins, fliers, promotions or display must not depict alcohol or drugs or their use unless they are a part of an administration-approved drug/alcohol prevention program.
- Account for all uniforms, supplies and equipment used during the school year.

Procedures for Establishing a New Student Club

All new Student Activity Clubs/Organizations, and the associated accounts, must be approved by the School Board. To start a new activity,

- The advisor and initial student officers will fill out and submit a New Club Application to the Principal, which will include the statement of purpose, bylaws, budget, and the advisor and student representative signatures.
- If the Principal consents, the club and the New Club Application is complete, she/he will submit this completed application to the Superintendent for probationary approval.

- The Superintendent will notify the Principal whether the club’s probationary status request was approved or denied and will return the new club application to the Principal.
- If approved, the Principal will sign and date the probationary approval section of the New Club Application and the new club may begin operating under probationary status. The probationary period must be no less than one semester (90 school days).
- At the end of the probationary period, the advisor will submit to the Principal evidence that
 - the club has met regularly,
 - student attendance and interest were strong, and
 - Student leadership has emerged for sustaining the club in future years (examples: meeting agendas, dates, and attendance).
- If evidence supports the continuation of the club, the Principal and advisor will review the previously submitted New Club Application and make any necessary adjustments.
- At this point, the Principal will sign, date, and submit the application to the Superintendent, who may sign and submit the application to the school board for approval at the next August school board meeting following the satisfactory completion of the probationary period.
- If board approved, the new club will be added to the student activity list posted on the website.

Inclusion of All Students

No student who has an interest in a student activity shall be excluded so long as the by-laws of the organization are followed and the student does not pose a threat to the safety of other members or to the ability of the club to adhere to its by-laws.

A listing of all Student Activity Clubs/Organizations will be presented to the School Board in August of each year.

Travel

The Board recognizes that approved school trips, when used as a strategy for teaching and learning integral to the curriculum, are an educationally sound and important ingredient in the instruction program of the school. ***As a condition of participating in a trip, participants shall be required to purchase travel insurance covering cancellation costs of the trip, if such insurance is available through the organizer.***

Approval Steps for Travel:

1. Obtain permission and approval from the building Principal, Superintendent, and transportation department via the Trip Direct system.
2. If the trip spans more than one day or if the round-trip mileage for the trip is greater than 50 miles, approval from the School Board is needed.
3. Obtain parental permission forms for all trips. (See Appendix D).

Finances

Clubs and organizations may raise and expend funds to promote the welfare of students and to finance the activities of the club. Monies should be used to finance a program of activities not part of the regular curriculum. These funds are to be earned by the students and used for student activities. Accordingly, these funds are restricted for those students currently in school.

Initiating Accounts/Terminating Accounts

As new clubs or organizations are formed, Principals may request the establishment of new accounts with the Business Office. This request should be in writing and occur only after a need for a new financial account is determined. Final approval of a new account is the responsibility of the Board of School Directors. Existing accounts may be terminated by written request from the appropriate advisor to the Principal. Principals should then request the business office to terminate the inactive account. This request should be in writing and should state the planned disposition of any remaining money in the account.

Annually, the student officers and advisor will reconcile funds with the Business Office.

All student-associated funds must be deposited within the District's student activity account. You are not authorized under school code to use the District's federal EIN or to have any separate accounts. These procedures are meant to protect the students, advisors, Principals, and District.

Receipts (Deposits)

All money collected from any source must be substantiated by receipts, pre-numbered class receipts records, pre-numbered tickets, or other auditable records. Cash and checks received by an officer or advisor should be forwarded to the Business Office the same day as received. The Business Office will deposit this money into the bank on a daily or as needed basis. Cash should never be held at a building. Also, there should be no use of petty cash accounts.

Purchasing

All student organization purchases in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) must be made upon solicitation of quotations or bids from three or more vendors. All purchases shall be made from the lowest responsible bidder on the basis of price, quality and service. All material and supply purchases must otherwise adhere to the bidding procedures as outlined in the School Code and be made via approved school district purchase orders.

Disbursements

Student Activity funds are raised by the students and therefore students must be involved in how the funds are spent. To meet this audit requirement, our policy is that each and all activities must have elected student officers and one of these officers must sign the purchase order.

Purchases should be initiated by a purchase order. This purchase order is a pre-printed and pre-numbered form which should include the delivery address, date, quantity, description of item(s) or service(s), unit cost, total cost, and signatures of the 1.) Treasurer or other officer, 2.) Faculty advisor and 3.) Building Principal.

After the purchase order is approved with the three signatures, the purchase can be made. Once an invoice is received, a Treasurer's Order Request should be attached to the invoice and sent to the Business Office for payment. The Business Office will ensure accuracy of all items prior to payment and checks will be cut under the same procedures as General Fund disbursements but out of the Student Activity account. Payments should only be made via check and never with cash. There shall be no petty cash funds.

Sales Tax

Purchase of property or services for use by school organizations in connection with its activities are tax exempt under the school's tax exemption number. However, when a student activity class or club purchases taxable property for resale to raise funds, then they must pay the applicable sales tax at the time of purchase or collect the sales tax from the customer when the item is resold. If the school organization elects to collect the tax at the time of sale to the public, they are required to collect and remit sales tax directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

Fundraising

All fundraising activities must be approved by the Board of School Directors. All students, parents, and staff involved in fundraising activities shall be aware that all funds raised by the participants shall revert to the activity account.

Class Accounts

Students are able to participate in deciding the use of funds. For the graduating class, it is mandatory that students take action on the final disposition before graduation. Graduating classes may not transfer unexpended funds into an outside account. Any remaining monies as of June 30th will be transferred to the Student Council account after the account is reconciled. Leaving a balance for reunion purposes is not acceptable.

Music Directors / Advisors Code of Conduct

The Northern York County School District believes that music is an integral part of the total educational program. Our directors play an important role in teaching our students the meaning and understanding of musicianship, leadership, commitment, fairness, sacrifice, teamwork, and hard work. The directors must ensure that a balanced, musical, and educational curriculum is designed for student success in learning and performance.

The director should:

1. Have a fair, unprejudiced, respectful relationship with the students.
2. Utilize effective and respectful communication skills.
3. Not use and discourage the use of profanity and obscene language.
4. Maintain effective and educational rehearsal etiquette and provide proper supervision.
5. Work with other music directors of the school district to ensure effective facility use and scheduling.
6. Set goals and visions for the ensembles.
7. Project a positive image as a role model at all times.
8. Allow students time to develop skills and interests in other non-music areas provided by the school and community.
9. Be willing to listen to student and parental concerns while trying to resolve issues in a professional and timely manner.
10. Dress in a manner that will reflect positively on the school and community.
11. Be professional and courteous to the media.

DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

DIRECTOR'S PRINTED NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Parental Expectations

Parent-teacher communication is a key ingredient in a successful music program. We will make every effort to inform parents of our concerns and progress throughout each year. Please contact your respective music teacher via their requested chain of communication if you have any questions or concerns. Our music programs can be successful only through a partnership with you, so we need your support!

Suggestions for a supportive music parent:

- Be sincerely interested.
- Listen to at-home practice.
- Always acknowledge progress.
- Keep your young musician supplied with important accessories- extra reeds, strings, lubrications, cleaning equipment.
- Provide a suitable time and place for your child's practice.
- Always attend concerts.
- Communicate with the music staff via their preferred method (email, phone).
- Mark a calendar with lesson & rehearsal dates (just as a reminder).

Parental support is necessary for the child's musical growth. Parents must provide constant encouragement, help, and support and must show interest and enthusiasm for their child's musical accomplishments. Parents of instrumental students must make sure that the child has access to a quality instrument, a well-lit practice area, supportive seating, and uninterrupted practice time. Young students will need help with their practice scheduling. Parents are responsible for ensuring that instruments are transported safely to and from school.

Performance Etiquette

Music students work diligently throughout the year in lessons and rehearsals to prepare music for your enjoyment. We know the students will give their best effort as performers and expect that audience members will help provide the students with a professional concert atmosphere.

In order to heighten the experience for the performers and audience members, the following points of concert etiquette are crucial:

- Plan to arrive on time. It is important that everyone is in their seat before the downbeat of the first selection. If you do happen to run a little late, please wait and enter the concert area between selections **during applause**.
- Enjoy the music! During performances, audience members should give their undivided attention to the performance.
- Avoid extraneous noise. Cell phones should be silenced and **not in use** during a performance. Do not open packaging to candy and other foods that may produce distracting noises. Do not talk while the students are performing.
- Remain seated. If you must leave during the concert, please try to wait and do so only between selections during applause.
- If bringing small children, sit near an exit. Small children often become restless during the course of the concert and can become distracting to the performers on stage. By sitting near an exit, you can minimize the distraction by slipping out as quietly as possible.

- Be courteous while taking pictures. Flash photography is discouraged while the students are performing.
- When our ensembles are performing with or against other schools, please be courteous and respectful of all ensembles. Negative reactions and responses toward other school groups are disrespectful.

Students

Academic Eligibility

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular music ensembles are subject to academic eligibility requirements. Being declared academically ineligible due to poor grades is unacceptable. Students in music are statistically some of the brightest students in the school district and will need to work hard, manage their time wisely, and stay on top of all schoolwork!

1. A student may not participate or practice for any Co/Extracurricular Activity unless he or she is in school by 9:00am the day of the scheduled contest or practice. On a two-hour delay student must be in school by 9:40 a.m. This rule may be waived by the Principal for extenuating circumstances. If a student leaves school before the end of the school day and does not return to school, he /she must provide a medical excuse in order to be eligible to participate in any contest/ practice.
2. Students must demonstrate academic eligibility in order to participate in interscholastic athletics and Co/Extracurricular activities. The student must be passing four and one-third (4.33) credits on a weekly cumulative basis, starting with the beginning of the marking period. If students do not meet this standard, they become ineligible for the following week (Monday through Saturday). Students must also be passing four and one-third (4.33) credits at the end of each grading period. If not, they will become ineligible for the first fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period. The first time a student is ineligible he/she may practice but not compete during the time of ineligibility. For the second and subsequent periods of ineligibility (of that season), students may not practice or compete.

Discipline

1. **Controlled Substance Violation** – Participation in and attendance at Extracurricular, Co-Curricular, and athletic activities is a privilege, not a right. As such, school districts are afforded broader discretion to enforce “good citizen” standards against students participating in Extracurricular Activities.

Students participating in Extracurricular, Co-Curricular, or athletic activities are required to abide by the applicable Code of Conduct at all times (24 hours day, 7 days week, 52 weeks per year) regardless of location of incident and whether the student is actively engaged in the activity or not.

The following conduct shall constitute grounds for suspension from participating in Extracurricular, Co-Curricular or athletic activities including but not limited to all competitions, performances, and practices:

- Use, possession, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of any drug, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol as defined in Board Policy #227.

- First Offense = 21 Calendar Day Suspension (If the student is not actively engaged in the activity at the time of the violation, the extracurricular suspension will be enacted during her/his next historically participated season).
- Second & Subsequent Offense = 1 Calendar year suspension

In order to return to competition and practice at the end of the suspension, the student must have successfully completed a Student Assistance Program evaluation, or a comparable evaluation completed by an outside agency that has been approved by the school.

2. **Tobacco Policy Violation** - An activity participant who violates the tobacco policy of the school district will be suspended from participation for three (3) weeks. A second offense will result in an eight (8) week suspension, a third offense will result in a one (1) year suspension from the date of the third (3rd) violation. Vaping will carry the same consequences as tobacco usage.
3. **Other Circumstances** – In circumstances where an activity participant:
 - Engages in any activity forbidden by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (theft, weapon, assault, etc.)
 - Conducts himself/herself in a manner inconsistent with the mission of the District
 - Engages in any other offenses of the Student Code of Conduct whether in school or out of school, and whether in season or out of season, a committee consisting of the building Principal, athletic director, advisor, and/or head coach will review the individual situation and take appropriate action. The student will have an opportunity, if desired, to appear before the committee before final action is taken.
4. **Hazing** – According to Board Policy #247, **hazing is defined as** “any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person, or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization. The term shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding.
 2. Forced calisthenics.
 3. Exposure to the elements.
 4. Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drugs or other substances.
 5. Any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which is intended to or could result in humiliation, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or
 6. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.”

Any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.

Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Ensemble Rehearsal Decorum

Each director has specific ensemble expectations that must be adhered to. However, the following guidelines can be applied to all ensembles:

- Be on time for all rehearsals and performances.
- Do not disrupt rehearsal with extraneous talking or playing/singing.
- Have a pencil with you at all times.
- Have your music (and instrument) with you for all rehearsals.
- Come prepared; be able to sing or play your part accurately.
- Instrumental students should be sure to have all necessary peripherals (valve oil, slide grease, reeds, etc.) and an instrument that is functioning correctly.
- Be respectful of the instructor and other members of the ensemble.

Code of Conduct

The Northern York County School District offers numerous activities which are an extension of the classroom. Participants of these activities must keep in mind that they are often in the public eye and that their personal conduct must always be above reproach. They have an obligation to create a favorable image and to gain the respect of their peers and adult citizens of the community.

The following rules have been developed for participants in music activities:

1. Students are the responsibility of the directors/advisors until the organization returns to the school. When returning from an event, students are expected to leave the premises immediately. No student may be released by an advisor prior to returning to the school unless it would be to a parent or guardian with written notification at least 1 day in advanced. Participants are strongly encouraged to travel with their organization at all times. We are striving to promote ensemble unity and loyalty.
2. Students will not practice or participate in any activity during a period of in-school/out-of-school suspension. Students will be dismissed from the organization for a second in-school/out-of-school suspension.
3. Stealing will not be tolerated and will result in immediate expulsion from the activity.
4. The only excusable absence from rehearsals or performances is an emergency situation. The following are considered emergency situations:
 - a. A Death in the family
 - b. Automobile accidents
 - c. Illness and not in school
 - d. Any other situation that may arise that the director would consider an emergency.Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will not be tolerated. An unexcused absence is any missing of rehearsal or performances in which the director/advisor did not have prior knowledge of the absence. An emergency situation would be an exception to this rule.

5. Equipment should be cared for properly. Loss or failure to turn in equipment at the end of the year will result in payment to replace it.
6. It is the student's responsibility to keep all facilities as neat and clean as possible. This includes the student's personal locker and property.
7. The Northern participant must understand that their actions are representative not only of themselves, but also the entire activities program and every other individual involved. Students are expected to represent NYCSD, the community, and yourself in a positive manner. You are expected to show respect for all in authority as well as proper care for all school facilities, property, equipment, and uniforms. Disrespect towards any members of the coach, faculty, and administration will not be tolerated.
8. Use of profanity is forbidden and will not be tolerated.
9. **Vehicle Travel** – you are expected to sit in your seat and get up only if necessary. The purpose of the bus/van ride is to get you to an event or performance.
- 10.) Participation in all activities is a privilege; teachers have the right to prohibit any student from leaving classes on an early dismissal policy due to unacceptable academic performance. Teachers will determine individually their policy on unacceptable academic performance.

Code of Conduct Signature Form

We have read the Music Department Code of Conduct. We understand the guidelines, rules and philosophy of the activity program. In understanding that our signature does not signify agreement with all areas, it does signify that we will do all we are capable of to help follow and enforce these stipulations. Therefore, we are attaching our signatures below on this page:

Participant's Name: _____

Activity: _____

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

High School Concert Band

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Description

The High School Concert Band is comprised of students in grades 9-12 and meets daily throughout the school year. Focusing on fundamentals of music (rhythm and note reading, ensemble skills, sight reading skills, etc.), the Concert Band plays standard High School repertoire that is fun and enjoyable, and develops the basic skills of an instrumental musician. Typically, students need to complete a year or two in the Concert Band before they are ready for the higher-level Wind Ensemble.

Students who participate in Chorus will attend Concert Band for three days and Chorus for three days of the six-day cycle.

Students who participate in Orchestra will attend Concert Band for three days and Orchestra for three days of the six-day cycle.

Students who participate in Chorus and Orchestra will attend Concert Band for two days, Chorus for two days, and Orchestra for two days of the six-day cycle.

Performances

The Concert Band typically performs three concerts every school year. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – November or December

All-District Band Concert – March or April (Alternating with Chorus)

Spring Concert – April or May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School Wind Ensemble

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Description

The High School Wind Ensemble is comprised of students in grades 9-12 and meets daily throughout the school year. Most of these students are juniors and seniors, and have more advanced skills on their instruments. The repertoire played by the Wind Ensemble is more difficult and intricate, and requires a higher level of musicianship and dedication. This ensemble is perfect for students wishing to push their musical skills to a more advanced stage. Students must qualify in the annual February Bands Auditions to participate in the Wind Ensemble during the following school year.

Performances

The Wind Ensemble typically performs in three concerts every school year. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – November December

All-District Band Concert – March or April (alternating with Chorus)

Spring Concert – April or May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School Mixed Chorus

Contact Information

Mrs. Laura Bissell

lbissell@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/link-1/music-department/chorus-bear-singers>

Description

The High School Mixed Chorus is comprised of students in grades 9-12 and meets daily throughout the school year. Focusing on fundamentals of music and the art of singing (rhythm and note reading, ensemble skills, sight reading skills, vocal health, proper breath support, posture, tone production, musicality, expression, etc.), the Mixed Chorus sings a variety of standard and intermediate High School repertoire that is fun and enjoyable, and develops the basic skills of a vocal musician.

Students who participate in Concert Band will attend Chorus for three days and Concert Band for three days of the six-day cycle.

Students who participate in Orchestra will attend Chorus for three days and Orchestra for three days of the six-day cycle.

Students who participate in Concert Band and Orchestra will attend Chorus for two days, Concert Band for two days, and Orchestra for two days of the six-day cycle.

Performances

The Chorus typically performs two concerts every school year. *Attendance at concerts and mandatory rehearsals is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

All District Chorus Concert – March or April (alternating with Band and Orchestra)

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors is very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School Orchestra

Contact Information

Mrs. Geneva Sheffer

growader@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/1447>

Description

The High School Orchestra is comprised of students in grades 9-12 and meets daily throughout the school year. Focusing on fundamentals of music (rhythm and note reading, ensemble skills, sight reading skills, etc.), the High School Orchestra plays standard High School repertoire that is fun and enjoyable, and develops the basic skills of an instrumental musician. Exceptionally talented members of the Orchestra will be considered for participation in the High School String Quartet.

Students who participate in Chorus will attend Orchestra for three days and Chorus for three days of the six-day cycle.

Students who participate in Concert Band will attend Orchestra for three days and Concert Band for three days of the six-day cycle.

Students who participate in Chorus and Concert Band will attend Orchestra for two days, Chorus for two days, and Concert Band for two days of the six-day cycle.

Performances

The Orchestra typically performs in two concerts every school year. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Middle School Concert Band

Contact Information

Mr. Chad McCartney

cmccartney@northernYork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/5028>

Description

The Middle School Concert Bands are a place for young musicians to refine the skills gained as an Elementary student and improve both as an individual musician, and as part of a larger ensemble. There is a good deal of emphasis on rehearsal etiquette and individual growth, while at the same time harnessing the excitement of playing some fun and challenging literature in a very friendly educational environment.

Middle School Concert Band is available to any student in grades six through eight. While a majority of the Middle School Band students have prior experience playing their instrument, there are a handful of students that successfully start their musical careers at the Middle School level. Contact Mr. McCartney for details.

Rehearsals: Concert Band currently rehearses twice during a six-day cycle for 40 minutes.

Lessons: In addition, students are expected to attend one small-group lesson every six-day cycle.

Performances

Traditionally, the Concert Bands perform 2-3 concerts every year. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert (all bands) - December

All-District Band Concert (all bands) – March or April (alternating with Chorus and Orchestra)

Spring Concert (all bands) – April

Typical Additional performances:

Farmer's Fair Parade (8th grade; some 7th invited) – October

PMEA Youth Honors Band (6th-grade), Early November

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Middle School Chorus

Contact Information

Mrs. Allison Ometz

aometz@northernnyork.org

Description

The Middle School Chorus is comprised of students in grades 6, 7 and 8 and meets twice a cycle throughout the school year. The NMS Chorus is typically split into two separate performing groups: The 6th Grade Chorus, and the 7th & 8th Grade Chorus, to account for age and vocal development differences. Students in chorus will also be required to attend 3-4 chorus sectionals per marking period, for small group instruction. Focusing on the fundamentals of music and the art of singing (rhythm and note reading, ensemble skills, sight reading skills, vocal health, proper breath support, posture, tone production, musicality, expression, etc.), the Middle School Choruses are exposed to a variety of standard Middle School choral literature that is fun and enjoyable, and develops the basic skills of a vocal musician.

Performances

The NMS Chorus performs two concerts every school year. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

All District Chorus Concert – March or April (every 3rd year)

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Middle School Orchestra

Contact Information

Ms. Geneva Rowader

growader@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/1447>

Description

The Middle School Orchestra is comprised of students in grades 6-8, with each grade level meeting at separate times on Days 1 and 4 throughout the school year. Focusing on fundamentals of music (rhythm and note reading, ensemble skills, sight reading skills, etc.), the Middle School Orchestra plays standard Middle School repertoire that is fun and enjoyable, and develops the basic skills of an instrumental musician.

Performances

The Middle School Orchestra typically performs in two concerts every school year. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Elementary Band

Contact Information

Mrs. Jessica Zampelli

jzampelli@northernnyork.org

[Music Website](#)

Description

The Elementary Band program is comprised of first- and second-year students in 4th and 5th grade. The program is divided into two important activities: lessons and Full Band Rehearsals. The lessons are small group instruction times scheduled in 20- to 30-minute segments. The Full Band Rehearsals include the entire group of musicians and are 30 minutes in length. Each student attends a lesson and a Rehearsal during each six-day cycle. Students are required to attend both sessions each cycle, as they receive grades on their report cards each marking period.

Performances

Second-year players typically perform in two concerts every school year. The first-year players typically perform in one concert every school year. The concerts are combined concerts with musicians from all four elementary buildings. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December (second-year students only)

All-District Band Concert – March or April (all Band students, alternating years with Chorus and Orchestra)

Spring Concert – April or May (all Band students)

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Elementary Chorus

Contact Information

DES, WES

Mrs. Karla Silbaugh

ksilbaugh@northernYork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/10648>

NES, SME

Ms. Keeley McCune

kmccune@northernYork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/3722>

Description

The Fifth Grade Elementary Chorus is comprised of interested Fifth Graders from each building. The Chorus rehearses once per cycle for 30 minutes. Students in chorus learn vocal singing skills and music score reading. They experience part singing and performing as part of a large performing group.

Performances

The Fifth Grade Chorus performs in two or three concerts every school year. The performances are combined concerts with singers from all 4 elementary buildings. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

All-District Chorus Concert – March or April (alternating with Band and Orchestra)

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors is very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Elementary Orchestra

Contact Information

Mrs. Jillian Szabo

jszabo@northernnyork.org

Description

The Elementary Orchestra program is comprised of first-year and second-year students in 4th and 5th grade. The program is divided into two important activities: lessons and rehearsals. The lessons are small group instruction times scheduled in 30-minute segments. First year and second year players will meet separately for a 30-minute rehearsal. Each student attends a lesson and a rehearsal during each six-day cycle. Students are required to attend both sessions each cycle. There will be two levels of orchestra. Beginner is first-year students, and Advanced is second-year students. While there is no grade for Elementary Orchestra, parents will receive progress updates periodically throughout the school year.

Performances

The Elementary Orchestra typically performs in two concerts every school year. The concerts are combined concerts with musicians from all 4 elementary buildings. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Winter Concert – December (Advanced)

All-District Concert – March or April (alternating with Band and Chorus)

Spring Concert – April or May (Beginner and Advanced)

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

High School Marching Band

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/13245>

Description

The Marching Band is oftentimes considered the face of the Northern High School music department. The NHS Marching Band is known all over the state for its advanced level of performance, intricate show design, and award-winning Color Guard. The Marching Band is an incredible opportunity for High School students, and a great way for incoming 9th graders to get acquainted with the High School, meet new friends before school starts, and *drastically* improve their instrumental skills.

Rehearsals

The Marching Band is an Extracurricular Activity that does not rehearse during the school day. Typically, Percussion rehearsals begin in the Spring, Color Guard rehearsals begin in June, and Wind rehearsals begin in July. Full ensemble rehearsals are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the Summer and Fall. All members are required to attend both mini-camp and band camp during the summer. Student attendance at all rehearsals is vital to the success of the whole program.

Performances

The Marching Band performs at:

- All home and away football games
- Various competitions throughout September, October, and November
- Farmers' Fair Parade
- Memorial Day Parade
- Community Events upon request

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School and Middle School Indoor Guard and Dance Teams

Contact Information

Mrs. Carrie Allen

callen@northernnyork.org

Description

The mission of the Indoor Guard and Dance Teams is to serve as an extracurricular visual performance opportunity for students to develop the creative and physical aspects of their beings. The teams will also help create and nurture student development and growth, widen student experience that relates to the instructional curriculum, and provide leadership opportunity. Membership in the Indoor Guard and Dance Teams is open to all students in 6th-12th grade.

Rehearsals

The Indoor Guard and Dance Teams are extracurricular ensembles that rehearse outside of the school day. Their rehearsal schedule varies depending on their competitive performances.

Performances

The Indoor Guard and Dance Teams perform a rigorous competition schedule from January through May.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

High School Jazz Band

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Description

The purpose of the Jazz Band is to expose music students to Jazz music. Jazz is a necessary component in a well-rounded music education. It is the preeminent indigenous American art form. Studying Jazz presents invaluable aesthetic opportunities for students – opportunities to improvise, to perform as part of an ensemble, and, most importantly, to discern the sounds and elements that make Jazz sound like Jazz in its many unique stylistic, cultural, and historical contexts.

Membership

Auditions for Jazz Band are held in early September for each school year. Students must be enrolled in Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, or Percussion Ensemble in order to be considered for membership (guitar, bass, and piano are exceptions).

Rehearsals

The High School Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble that rehearses outside of the school day. Typically, the Jazz Band rehearses as an ensemble for two hours each week with additional sectionals and rehearsals scheduled as needed. Student attendance at all rehearsals is vital to the success of the whole program.

Performances

The Jazz Band typically performs in two concerts at Northern High School every school year, plus a variety of other festivals and clinics. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School Pep Band

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Description

The mission of the Pep Band is to serve as an extracurricular instrumental ensemble opportunity for students to use their musicianship skills in order to provide musical entertainment for winter sports. The ensemble will also help create and nurture student development and growth, widen student experience that relates to the instructional curriculum, and provide leadership opportunity.

Membership

Students must be members of Marching Band in order to participate in Pep Band.

Rehearsals

The Pep Band does not have a regular rehearsal schedule. As needed rehearsals are scheduled by the student-director each year prior to performances.

Performances

The Pep Band performs at many home boys and girls basketball games throughout the Winter season, and at pep rallies and school functions as requested.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Description

The purpose of this organization is to inspire music participation, create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, and promote leadership in music students. Tri-M is under the sponsorship and supervision of NAFME (National Association for Music Education). The title Tri-M refers to the original name of the society, "Modern Music Masters." Tri-M meets monthly or on an as-needed basis.

Membership

Students in grades 11 and 12 will be considered for membership in the society. Induction of new members is scheduled during the 1st semester of each school year.

- Members must be members of the Band, Chorus, or Orchestra at NHS.
- Students will be selected by the music staff.
- Students will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - Musicianship
 - Service
 - Leadership
 - Cooperation
 - Academic achievement
 - Students must maintain an A in all music classes and a B grade overall.

The Society membership is limited to approximately 10-12% of the total number of students in the Music Department. Currently, the Society inducts approximately 7 juniors and 7 seniors each fall.

Performances

Tri-M typically coordinates one sponsored event each year.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Bear Singers

Contact Information

Mrs. Laura Bissell

lbissell@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/link-1/music-department/chorus-bear-singers>

Description

The Bear Singers a cappella vocal group is comprised of students in grades 9-12 enrolled in the Mixed Chorus, who are selected by audition, and make a commitment to the group for the duration of the school year. The repertoire for Bear Singers is more difficult and intricate and requires a higher level of musicianship and dedication. This ensemble is perfect for students wishing to push their musical skills to a more advanced stage.

Rehearsals

The Bear Singers a cappella group is an extracurricular ensemble that rehearses outside of the school day. Typically, the Bear Singers rehearse as an ensemble for two hours each week with additional sectionals and rehearsals scheduled as needed. Student attendance at all rehearsals is vital to the success of the whole program.

Performances

The Bear Singers perform in two concerts; and several community and school related functions every school year. *Attendance at all performances is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Graduation - Ceremony in June

National Anthem - Ballgame

Community Events - Holiday and Spring - TBD

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors is very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School Musical

Contact Information

Mrs. Laura Bissell

lbissell@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/link-1/music-department/hs-musical>

Description

The High School Musical is comprised of students in grades 9-12 who successfully audition to perform a professional Broadway-type musical annually. The High School Musical is an extracurricular musical and visual performance giving students the opportunity to develop the creative, physical, and musical aspects of performing a full-length Broadway-type musical, including spoken dialogue, singing, choreography, costumes, sets, and props. Students interested in stage crew, tech crew and set design do not need to audition for the High School Musical to take part in the musical.

Rehearsals

The High School Musical rehearses the months of January and February; four, five or six days a week typically on weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Additional rehearsals are added as needed. Dress rehearsals are scheduled the entire week of the performances.

Performances

The High School Musical performances are a Friday and Saturday evening, and a Sunday afternoon generally the first full weekend of March, and before the Spring sports season begins.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors is very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a page on the school district website. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Pit Orchestra

Contact Information

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Description

The Pit Orchestra provides music annually for the High School Musical. Although many of the musicians in the pit orchestra are professional, some are selected by the director from Wind Ensemble.

Rehearsals

The Pit Orchestra rehearses with the musical cast during the week of the shows. Additional rehearsals are scheduled as needed.

Performances

The Pit Orchestra performs at all three performances of the High School Musical.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

High School String Quartet

Contact Information

Ms. Geneva Rowader

growader@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/1447>

Description

The purpose of the String Quartet is to expose students to high caliber chamber music and to promote and challenge students' growth as musicians and leaders. Students in the String Quartet have the privilege of being part of a small ensemble, which allows them to be musically independent and competent on their part. Students must qualify in an audition at the beginning of the school year in order to be a member of the String Quartet.

Performances

The String Quartet typically performs in two concerts every school year, plus a variety of performances within the surrounding communities throughout the school year. *Attendance at all performances is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Various High School Small Ensembles

Contact Information

Band

Mr. Andrew Sheffer

asheffer@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/9825>

Chorus

Mrs. Laura Bissell

lbissell@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/link-1/music-department/home>

Orchestra

Ms. Geneva Rowader

growader@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/1447>

Description

Each year, the music staff members of Northern High School create small ensembles comprised of music students. These ensembles vary each year depending on student talent, interest, and schedules. Performance opportunities for these groups also vary each year.

Examples of these ensembles are (but not limited to):

- Brass Quintet
- Saxophone Quartet
- Concert Percussion Ensemble
- Women's Chorus
- Men's Chorus

Membership

Students in these ensembles are members of the core music ensembles (Band, Chorus, Orchestra). Each ensemble's membership requirements vary at the discretion of the director.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Middle School Wind Ensemble

Contact Information

Mr. Chad McCartney

cmccartney@northernYork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/5028>

Description

The purpose of the Middle School wind ensemble is two-fold:

1. To perform as the wind section for the Middle School Orchestra
2. To challenge talented young musicians by performing advanced Middle School literature.

Membership

Students are selected for this ensemble from the Middle School Bands (grades 6-8), based primarily on the results of their Spring evaluations from the previous year. Qualifying students from each section are invited to perform in the Wind Ensemble until the section (limited instrumentation) is filled.

Rehearsals

The Middle School Wind Ensemble rehearses once each week after school from 2:45-3:45.

Performances

The Middle School Wind Ensemble typically performs in three to four concerts every school year.
Attendance at all concerts is required.

Holiday Band concert – December

Holiday Orchestra concert – December

Spring Band concert – April

Spring Orchestra concert – May

Additional performances may be scheduled, depending on availability.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Middle School Jazz Band

Contact Information

Mr. Chad McCartney

cmccartney@northernYork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/5028>

Description

The Middle School Jazz Band introduces students to Jazz and many of its neighbors.

Members

While this ensemble is open to any student, there are some prerequisites to ensure a successful and enjoyable first impression of this important style of music.

Wind players: any saxophone, trombone, trumpet player with at least two years of experience. In addition, the following instruments may be added at the discretion of the director: flute, clarinet, baritone, mellophone, and tuba.

Rhythm section: bass, guitar, piano and drum set players are welcome. It is again recommended that guitar and bass players have a fundamental knowledge of notation, or at least are capable of reading Tab notation. Drum set players should have at least two years of concert band before being considered for the Jazz Band.

Open auditions typically begin in October. During these first two rehearsals, any interested students may come to rehearsal. During that time they will be evaluated on how they play in a group and on their own. A final personnel list is posted after the first two open rehearsals.

Rehearsals

The Jazz Band traditionally rehearses from 7-8:30 on Monday evenings. This time/day is subject to change at the discretion of the director. Additional practices may be scheduled, based on the availability of the students.

Performances

The jazz band typically performs several times every school year*. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Jazz festival – April or May

High School Jazz concert (as an opening act) – May

Spring Concert – May

*Other performances and concerts may be added at the discretion of the director, based on the availability of funds, time and transportation.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Northern Middle School Select Choir

Contact Information

Mrs. Allison Ometz

aometz@northernnyork.org

Description

The Northern Middle School Select Choir is a small chamber choir typically around 25 students, and is open to any 7th and 8th grade chorus student through an audition process. The purpose of the NMS Select Choir is for students to experience, study, rehearse, and perform advanced Middle School choral repertoire.

Rehearsals

The NMS Select Choir rehearses after school once a week.

Performances

The NMS Select Choir performs three to four times per year. These performances include our Holiday and Spring Chorus concerts, other performances-tbd, and singing the National Anthem at local sporting events. *Attendance at all concerts is required.*

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Other performance - TBD

National Anthem Performance – Spring

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Middle School Musical

Contact Information

Mrs. Allison Ometz

aometz@northernnyork.org

Description

The Middle School Musical is comprised of approximately 50 students in grades 6-8 who successfully audition to perform a junior version of a Broadway-type musical annually. The Middle School Musical is an extracurricular musical and visual performance giving students the opportunity to develop the creative, physical, and musical aspects of performing a musical production including singing, acting skills, choreography and blocking, costumes, sets, and props.

Auditions/Rehearsals

The Middle School musical auditions are held during October. Once the cast is finalized, the rehearsals take place during October-January. These rehearsals take place 4-6 days a week, typically on weekdays after school and Saturday mornings. Additional rehearsals are added as needed. Dress rehearsals are scheduled the week of the performances.

Performances

The Middle School Musical has two performances, which are held on Friday and Saturday evenings, during the third or fourth weekend of January.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors is very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the directors of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Various Middle School Small Ensembles

Contact Information

Band

Mr. Chad McCartney

cmccartney@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/5028>

Chorus

Mrs. Allison Ometz

aometz@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/5901>

Orchestra

Ms. Geneva Rowader

growader@northernnyork.org

<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/1447>

Description

Each year, the music staff members of Northern Middle School create small ensembles comprised of music students. These ensembles vary each year depending on student talent, interest, and schedules. Performance opportunities for these groups also vary each year.

Examples of these ensembles are (but not limited to):

- Brass Quintet
- Saxophone Quartet
- Concert Percussion Ensemble
- Women's Chorus
- Men's Chorus

Membership

Students in these ensembles are members of the core music ensembles (Band, Chorus, Orchestra). Each ensemble's membership requirements vary at the discretion of the director.

Parent-Teacher Communications

Communication between the parents and directors are very important to the success of the students. Parents should contact the director of the ensemble at the email address listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Each director also maintains a page on the school district website. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.