

Naugatuck High School Marching Band



Student Handbook
2026-2027

Welcome!

We are so happy to have you as a member of this program. Our vision is for the entire band and guard community to work together to develop applicable skills and lifelong memories in a safe, respectful, and engaging environment. Music inspires us. It provides us with experiences and memories that we will never forget. Add teamwork, motivation, and passion; this program will go as far as we want. The staff and I are ready to continue this fantastic journey toward success, and we want YOU to be a part of it.

Please read this handbook, which contains essential information, especially for new members. Refer to these resources as often as possible to be aware of the schedule, expectations, and more!

Register on our website: naugatuckmarchingband.com to 1) confirm your commitment to the program and 2) acknowledge understanding of the student handbook. Check out the Monthly Events Calendar on our website to ensure you have no significant conflicts. Please register before the end of the school year so that we can ensure we have up-to-date contact info over the summer and to confirm participation in the program.

I am looking forward to another successful season!

Sincerely,

Mr. Arboleda

NHS Band Director

NPS Fine Arts Coordinator

emanuel.arboleda@naugatuck.k12.ct.us

Program Commitments

Parents/Guardians

Parents are asked to volunteer in at least one major event during the season, whether it's a parade, fundraiser, concert, or competition. We have an amazing parent group called the Greyhound Performing Arts Association. We are looking for new members to join, so if you are interested in being involved in our program and contributing to important decision-making processes, please email naugatuckband@gmail.com.

Spring Training

Introduction to Marching Band and Color Guard. Here, we develop fundamental techniques for our music and visual program. Full Ensemble Spring Practices are June 2, 4, 9, 11, and 16 and run from 6pm-9pm in the NHS Music Wing. Members will have multiple opportunities to test the waters. They will meet the staff, parent volunteers, and other members, as well as receive music and other resources needed to master our competitive program. Check out the Monthly Events Calendar on our website for additional training dates and times.

Summer Practices

The NHS Music Wing and the practice lot will be available Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer from 6pm-9pm leading up to Band Camp. Members will have the option to practice every Tuesday and Thursday after 4th of July. During this time, we continue to define and refine our music and visual technique by advancing through the show music, music warm-ups, and visual exercises/choreography. **We understand summer is summer, so we ask that you please make an effort to come to practices if you are not away on vacation.** Please check the calendar for schedule updates. Some sections practice once a week, with practice times varying based on staff availability.

Regular Season Practices (post Band Camp)

These practices run from 6pm-9pm every Tuesday and Thursday. The attendance policy will be in effect from Band Camp until the end of the season. We grow together, and in this activity, one absence can negatively affect several members in a drill form and/or musical phrase.

Sectionals

Student-led practices that allow students to work on their show music or visual technique with their instrumental section one hour before the official practice starts. Sectionals are an excellent way for students to bond with their section and provide/apply individualized feedback before joining the rest of the ensemble at 6pm.

Fundraisers

Much of what our program offers, beyond instructional supplies, comes from the success of fundraisers. Fundraisers are only successful when we get full participation. Here's how our program has benefited from fundraisers in recent years:

-All props, all guard flags, all show shirts, a new winter guard floor, new drum harnesses, pizza parties, championship breakfasts, lunch at MetLife, decreased ticket costs for events like the annual Banquet, and decreased field trip costs.

****Students are required to participate in all fundraisers per ensemble that they are in (Marching Band, Winter Guard, Winter Percussion), to receive their extra NHS Fine Arts Credit and be allowed to participate in all practices and performances. This includes 8th graders. If you anticipate a scheduling conflict with fundraisers, communicate with the GPAA to find other ways to contribute.**

Football Games

We perform at every home game in the fall. On the days when the Greyhound Performing Arts Association runs the concessions booth (usually 2-3 games), the band stays for the entire game. Otherwise, we will leave right after the halftime show. We will always perform at halftime because it is an excellent way to 1) promote the activity to the community and 2) prepare for the competition the following day.

Home Game Dates: TBD

Typical Game Schedule: 6pm arrival. 7pm start (may stay until Quarter 3 or for the whole game, depending on if GPAA is running the concessions booth that night - that info will come later)

We will update the website and send a ParentSquare once we know the fall football home game schedule.

Parades

We support our community by participating in three parades each year: Veterans Day and the Ansonia (Sunday) & Naugatuck (Monday) Memorial Day Parades.

Band Camp

A successful Band Camp leads to a successful season! All members work together to learn the competitive show, musically and visually. All members must commit to this camp so we can start the season at full speed.

Schedule:

Aug. 3-7 and Aug. 10-14

- 8:30 am-12:30 pm Block 1
- 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm-5:30 pm Block 2

Advice: Eat a healthy breakfast every day. Apply sunscreen before you arrive to practice. Apply appropriate lotion for sunburn, if applicable, at night. Stretch before bed. Drink water frequently. Set two alarms. Make sure you have a ride/ask for a ride if you need one. There's a good chance someone in the program lives near you and can help you get to practice and home on time!

Here's a list to help you be prepared for all practices:

What to wear? (Appropriate for weather)

- Comfortable sneakers with socks (*No* flip flops or sandals – including pit students)
- Comfortable athletic gear (no jeans)

What to bring?

- Music – all of it – all of the time
- Instrument and accessories for maintenance (valve oil, grease, etc)
- 3-ring binder with sheet protectors (for show music/drill)
- Pencil (edit music and drill)
- Dot book – provided by Greyhound Performing Arts Association
- Water Jugs only in the band room. No “sugared” beverages are allowed. No eating in the band room. Let's keep the ants out!

Competitions (Saturdays)

Show Days

Practice Before Travel: Saturday practices typically start at 10am, depending on our afternoon or evening performance time. If a practice ever needs to start sooner or later, we will be sure to send out an update in advance via **BAND App** (email Mr. Arboleda for an invite link. This app will be used for quick, instant updates such as last-minute cancellations, emergency notifications, and important reminders. Parents/Guardians, you are also encouraged to join the parent group on Facebook: NHS Band and Guard Parent Group. Also, usbands.org has a detailed description of competition schedules.

Pre-Show:

Students should pack a lunch or have someone bring it before leaving for the show. After lunch, all members clean and service their instruments/equipment. Then, they get into “halves”. This is the halfway point before being in full Class A Uniform. Halves dress is for the musicians in the ensemble: a plain black t-shirt, black tall socks, black undergarments, the pants of the Class A uniform, and marching shoes/gloves. The Color Guard uses this time to prepare and change into their show uniform/makeup/hair. The uniform top for musicians should be hung nicely in the garment bag and brought onto the bus with the shako/headwear for that season, instrument, and a separate packed bag with the Class B uniform, extra layers, extra snacks or water, and/or money for food following the performance. More info on Class B jackets To Be Announced.

Students are expected to be on their best behavior at all times.

Under no circumstances may students leave the competition site without prior parental written/verbal request and subsequent director approval. https://naugatuckschools.formstack.com/forms/fine_arts_extracurricular_travel_release

Class A Uniform: Traditional uniform, or custom top, seen on the field during competitions and parades. All hair must be up and invisible under the shako (headwear). Each student is responsible for hair elastics, bobby pins, snap-clips, or headbands required to make this happen.

Marching shoes should have your name, in permanent marker, written on the inside of the shoe. Black socks must be plain black. No stripes, symbols, etc. Socks must be tall. Undergarments are black. Includes: T-shirts (no tank tops/cutoffs), shorts, thermals, & socks. Athletic wear works best; no jeans material is to be used. Here is the tentative competition schedule for fall 2025:

9/19 - Francis T. Maloney HS **9/26** - Trumbull HS OR NE Invitational in Mass. TBA.

10/10 - Cheshire HS **10/17** - Newtown HS **10/24** - Southington HS **10/31** - CT State

Championships (@ Naugatuck HS) **11/7** - National Championships - MetLife Stadium, NJ

Event Procedure

- The director, instructors, and volunteers will carry cell phones for necessary communication. The band director will carry emergency contact forms and medical forms. The parent volunteers will always carry a first aid kit.
- Before the performance, students must remain with their sections at all times. Percussion, guard, and winds will often be separated and designated to different areas at the warm-up site.
- Chaperones will accompany the team and assist as needed. Upon arrival at the performance site, chaperones will follow the field's end zone to the home stands for band viewing.
- The front ensemble crew will assemble the pit and will subsequently move away from the competition field to the home stands. Upon completion of the performance, the students in the front ensemble will assist the crew in loading the truck.
- After the performance, students return to the busses to change into Class B uniforms and pick up extra layers and/or money or food. Then chaperones will watch over members as they watch other bands' performances and the award ceremony.
- Students must always travel with a buddy (a "2") if they leave the area to go to the bathroom or buy a souvenir or food/drink. They cannot leave without notifying a chaperone or staff member.
- While students are watching other bands, the staff either listens to judges' tapes or talks to the judges at the feedback meeting.
- After retreat/awards, students will return to the buses, where the drum majors and chaperones will account for attendance.
- Then, we take the bus back to NHS, where parents/guardians will wait to pick up their child on time. We will have the students call/text home to notify when we are close to the high school.

Equipment Care and Maintenance

Personal Equipment

Students are responsible for the care, cleaning, and continual maintenance of their equipment. Each student's responsible for ensuring the equipment is in perfect working condition at all times. Please be sure it is oiled, cleaned, polished, and checked professionally to ensure it is in working order.

School Equipment

There is a limited number of school equipment that is loaned to students. There is also a rental fee for wind instruments that belong to the school. Any damage to equipment as a result of misuse or negligence will be billed to the student. The students are responsible for properly caring for all equipment, including purchasing reeds, oiling, cleaning, and polishing.

Reed instruments

Students are responsible for purchasing their reeds from local music retailers. All reed players (clarinets, all saxophones, and bass clarinets) should come to rehearsal with two reeds. If a student does not have a reed, they can purchase one in the band room at a cost of \$3.00. This money goes towards the Naugatuck Public Music account to support the band with more reeds and other essential items.

Brass Instruments

These instruments should have valve oil and slide grease. Instruments should be cleaned twice a year in a sink/tub. All parts should be in good working order. See Mr. A for advice on how to clean your instrument.

Percussion Instruments

The band program provides all percussion instruments, but each student is responsible for their assigned instruments and care. Students must have sticks and mallets at every rehearsal. They are part of your instrument, as they cannot be played without them. Extra sticks are provided to students at the cost of \$10 per pair. This money goes towards the Naugatuck High School Music Program account to support the band with more reeds and other essential items.

Band Room

It is everyone's responsibility to keep the band room clean and neat. Instruments must be put away in their assigned area. **Only water** is allowed in the band room. No food or drinks.

Student Leaders

Student Leaders are a great resource to students as they can assist in answering many questions you will have. (i.e. – Are we rehearsing in the band room or the parking lot? When do I get my uniform? What time will we be getting home?). These questions and many more can and should be answered by the student leaders. If a student leader can't answer a question, they will bring it to the Drum Majors or the Director. The leadership chain is set up this way: from Captain to Drum Major to Band Director, to allow rehearsals to run smoothly without interruption.

Brass, Woodwind, and Winds Captain

are responsible for taking care of an instrumental section. Students earn the right to be Leaders through an application process that considers their leadership qualities, participation in band activities, and attitude. These leaders will assist their instrumental group with show music, marching, and other administrative responsibilities.

Guard Captains

are the student leaders of the color guard. These leaders will run 'sectionals' where they assist the guard with the weapon and flag work. The captains are also responsible for ensuring that all students are prepared for rehearsals and competitions, including checking to make sure that all students have all necessary uniforms, hair, and makeup for competitions, as well as their equipment. They are also required to stop by the band room occasionally to check in with the band director for updates and check the scheduled upcoming events on the whiteboard to ensure all the information regarding events, fundraisers, rehearsals, etc., is communicated efficiently to the guard.

Drum Majors

are the marching band's student conductors. The band director/assistant band director cannot be on the field with the students while performing at competitions; student leaders must direct them. The Drum Majors are responsible for getting to rehearsal half an hour early each evening to set up the field with the podiums, cones, and field markers. Drum Majors, the director, and staff will run many elements of our rehearsals. The students must follow all instructions given by the Drum Major. The band director and the drum majors work very closely together to ensure things are operating smoothly. Students must trust that the Drum Majors will do what is in the band's best interest.

Attendance Policy

Attendance

Starting 8/3/26, Band Camp, attendance is not optional, and unexcused absences will impact a student's earned credit and/or future participation. Even if just one student is absent, it adversely affects the ensemble's ability to practice effectively. Unlike other competitive activities, we do not have subs to put in when a student is absent.

For the ensemble to be successful, all students must be present and on time every time. Some advice: arrive ten minutes before practice begins. This allows you to gather all necessary equipment/information and be ready to start practice on time.

If you have an extenuating circumstance and must be absent, a parent/guardian must fill out an absentee form on our website, and your Captain should be notified.

In the event of a last-minute unavoidable emergency, you must notify your director.

Missing multiple rehearsals and/or performances is subject to immediate dismissal from the group.

Attendance Policy:

- Students must be at all practices and performances. Performances include football games, parades, competitions, and concerts.
- Students must participate in all fundraisers.
- Excused absences may include: illness, death in the family, school-sponsored trip, game/performance in lieu of a practice. Excused absences must be preceded with the absentee form (naugatuckmarchingband.com) AND followed up with written parent/guardian confirmation via email.
- On competition days, students must be present for the rehearsal to participate in the competition to ensure individual and ensemble preparation and consistency.

Unexcused absence from a single performance or fundraiser, 3 unexcused absences from practices, or 3 unexcused late arrivals may result in:

- Sit out of a practice or competition (but still present).
- (The director can decide whether to allow a student to perform or not based on the student's level of preparation and the betterment of the ensemble leading up to the performance.)
- Temporary or permanent suspension from the program
- Denial of extra 1.0 credit if enrolled in NPS

Credit and Behavioral Policy

NHS Fine Arts Credit

NHS Students who complete a competitive season without missing a performance or 3 unexcused absences/lateness will be awarded a full fine arts credit. Moving forward, this will also include students who participate as 8th graders and continue into NHS.

Behavioral Policy

- Students must always be respectful to the staff, ensemble members, and volunteers. Students must follow all NPS Behavior Policy standards.

Guide to appropriate conduct:

- No swearing or inappropriate language
- Listen and follow directions - No talking back
- Keep away from equipment/instruments that do not belong to you
- Stay in your assigned area at all times
- Always act and sound professional
- Always represent the group in a positive way
- No phones during any educational process (Keep phones out of sight at all times. Communicate to an instructor if you need to use your phone to communicate with someone). Parents/guardians should ask Mr. A for his number in case they need to quickly reach a student or relay information to them.

Students who disrupt the learning environment or engage in behavior that is against NPS policy will incur the following repercussions:

- *First offense* - the student will receive a verbal/written warning depending on the severity of the situation and may be asked to sit out at a practice or performance
- *Second offense* - temporary suspension from the program (all rehearsals & performances) and a meeting with the student, student's parents/guardians, band director, and an administrator

- *Third offense* -The student may be dismissed from the program. Depending on the severity of the situation, this may happen before the third offense

Substance Abuse & Misconduct

Includes but is not limited to:

- the sale, purchase, or use of any tobacco or nicotine product
- the possession, sale, purchase, or use of any illegal and/or controlled substance, including drugs and alcohol
- the exhibiting of evidence or any indication having consumed/used any tobacco product or illegal substance (whether consumed on or off school premises)
- illegal gambling
- theft or vandalism
- any violation of the criminal laws of the State of CT or the U.S.

Naugatuck Board of Education Student Policy: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ct/naugy/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AG8PZK628E83>

All disciplinary consequences, as stated in the NHS student handbook, if applicable, will first be imposed on students who violate the code of conduct. As detailed below, students are also subject to additional disciplinary action as imposed by their director, which will include suspension or removal from the team and/or their leadership position.

First Offense - Suspension from team/club activities for no less than two (2) weeks and no more than one full season. However, sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol, as defined above, will defer directly to second offense status.

Second Offense - Automatic suspension from extra-curricular participation for one school year.

- It should be noted that the director reserves the right to impose performance sanctions on a student if proper and respectful behavior is not being demonstrated elsewhere in the school community.
- If a student is not in season at the time of offense, consequences will be in effect for their next season.
- A Discipline Review Committee, consisting of administrators, teachers, and coaches, may be involved in the review of particular cases of impropriety.