

Northern
Lebanon
Viking
Band
Handbook
2023

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Overview

Welcome to marching band! I'm glad you decided to be a part of the group this year. We have some exciting things planned and I hope you enjoy your time as a member of the Viking Band! This handbook will provide you with a lot of important information about the season. Please review the information and keep this handbook in a convenient place so you can reference it when you have questions.

Staff

Kevin Poole	Director/Drill Designer
Jason Getz	Assistant Director
Lynnette Shirk	Visual Instructor
Megan Troup	Color Guard Instructor
Ed Bolles	Drumline Instructor
David Lauver	Percussion Instructor
Mike Arena	Marching Technician
Arthur Shirk	Marching Technician

The staff is very knowledgeable and wants you to succeed. Feel free to contact any staff member with questions or concerns.

Section Leaders

Each section has a section leader, who is your section's student representative. They should be the first person you go to with a question or concern. The section leader can then bring up the concern with the staff if they are not able to address it. The section leaders are experienced marchers and can help if you need help with marching or music. Section leaders will meet regularly with the staff.

Website

There is a website specifically for the marching band that contains the updated schedule. Please check the website regularly for updates:

<http://nlvikingmb.weebly.com>

Attendance

It is extremely important that you attend all practices and performances. Unlike sports, we have no bench, and there is no second string to come in and take your place. Every member is important to the success of the entire band. Of course, things come up and you cannot predict emergency situations. That is understood, and you will of course be excused in certain situations. However, excuses such as homework, lack of a ride, or "tired" are not good reasons to miss a practice. If you do need to miss a practice or performance, please contact Mr. Poole immediately. It is also recommended that you inform your section leader if you will not be at practice.

Important! Please be ON TIME for all report times. This means you are ready to start, not just getting out of your car.

Required Equipment

Every Practice you will need the following:

- Instrument or guard equipment
- Drill
- Pencil
- Extra reeds (woodwinds)
- Valve oil (brass)
- Drumsticks/Mallets (percussion)
- Water bottle
- Sneakers (NO flip flops, crocs, or open-toed shoes)
- Weather-appropriate clothing

Uniforms

All band members are fitted for a uniform, usually during band camp. Once you are fitted, that same uniform is yours for the rest of the season. We hang up the uniforms and keep them at school in garment bags. You should not be taking it home. These uniforms are used year after year, and they are expensive, so it is important that you properly care for your uniform. You will be issued the following parts of the uniform:

- Pants
- Jacket
- Gauntlets (except percussion)
- Shako--hat (except pit)
- Gloves (except percussion)

You are responsible for purchasing Dinkles (band shoes). An order form will be distributed with your other band forms. You will be fitted for new shoes during band camp. The shoes tend to run small, so you'll want to make sure you actually try them on. If you will have trouble affording new shoes, we have some used Dinkles available. See Mr. Poole or one of the chaperones if you'd like a used pair.

Every time we wear our band uniform, you will need:

- Tall black socks
- Dinkles

You may wear whatever is comfortable underneath the uniform. Most students choose to wear a pair of shorts or athletic pants underneath. As it gets colder, you'll want to layer your clothes a bit more.

When eating food at a football game, please be careful to not spill anything on the uniform!!! We do get the uniforms dry-cleaned several times a year, but spills add extra cost to our already high expenses. If you do spill, or otherwise mess the uniform, please let a staff member or chaperone know immediately.

Instrument Care

Whether you play a school-owned instrument or your own, it is expected that you will take the utmost care of your instrument. Any student observed damaging instruments or equipment through negligence or improper use will be disciplined and may be charged for repairs.

Memorization

Often, new members are intimidated by the thought of memorizing music for an entire show. However, we play the music so much that it shouldn't seem like a big deal. It is expected that everyone will have all the music memorized at our first practice. Start to memorize on your own at home.

Some tips for memorizing music:

- Take small sections at a time
- Read it first, then flip the music; double check the music afterwards
- Listen to recordings of the music as much as possible
- As we learn drill, label the sets in your music
- Practice with a metronome

Physicality

Much of what we do is very physical, often just as much as sports. We will be working together on stretching and building up our endurance in order to safely and comfortably perform a variety of maneuvers. It is recommended that you continue to work on these things at home as well for continuity and increased strength-building.

Basics

After we stretch, we work on “basics” in a block. These are specific marching maneuvers and techniques used throughout the show. It is like learning your ABCs and learning how to spell before writing a book. Early in the season, these are very simple moves, but as the season progresses the moves become more complicated. If you ever struggle with anything in basics, let your section leader know, and they can help you outside of practice, or direct your concerns to a staff member who can also help you. You should be practicing basics at home in addition to your music.

Band Camp

Band camp will take place August 14-18, 2023 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This is the time when we will learn drill for our show. We will spend a few hours in the afternoon inside, refining music during sectionals and ensemble rehearsals. You should pack a lunch for band camp. Other things to pack:

- Lunch
- Instrument
- Music
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Snacks

Football Games

The marching band attends NL football games. We perform a variety of pep songs in the stands during the game, as well as our field show during either pregame or during halftime. We wear our band uniforms for the football games, but sometimes depending on weather we may remove jackets, or add raincoats or heavier coats. The band gets 3rd quarter off to relax and get food from the concession stand. It is expected that all band members are back in the stands and ready to play by the end of the 3rd quarter.

Football game guidelines:

- Have fun!
- Band members sit with their section in the stands
- Only water is allowed in the stands, no other food or drink
- Band members may not eat during the game (except during the 3rd quarter)
- Be ready to play
- Cheer for the team--stay involved in the game
- No cell phones in the stands
- No PDA
- No visitors to the stands--chat with your friends during your 3rd quarter break
- Be careful of instruments!
- Clean up after yourself
- Leave your uniform on unless instructed otherwise
- All normal school rules apply

Band Parents

We have a fantastic booster organization--the Northern Lebanon Band Parents Association. They support the marching band in many ways throughout the season, such as providing water at events and snacks at parties, helping to load and unload equipment, fitting uniforms, chaperoning events, and organizing fundraisers. The Band Parents typically meet the fourth Monday of each month, but meetings can vary. A schedule will be released at the beginning of the marching season. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend the meetings.

2023 Band Parent Officers:

- President: Missy Swoyer
- Vice President: Melissa Gruber
- Treasurer: Amanda Welsh
- Secretary: Kristen Boltz

Chaperones

For all events, we will have several chaperones. It is important that all band members treat our chaperones with respect. The chaperones oversee your safety, so follow all directions given by them. Make sure to thank them for volunteering their time to help the group! If any parents would like to become a chaperone, you will need your clearances submitted to the district office. See Mr. Poole or any of the Band Parent officers for more information.

Fundraisers

We hold several fundraisers throughout the year. It is recommended that all students participate. Not only do we raise funds for the band, but you can also raise funds for your individual account. You can use the funds from your account to pay for things like your band fee, Dinkles, or toward the band trip every four years to Florida. It is possible to pay for your entire trip through fundraising if you participate in the fundraisers over the four years.

Even if you are not planning on going on the trip, the band has significant operating expenses that must be met, including but not limited to: dry cleaning uniforms, show props, instrument purchases, instrument maintenance, and the end-of-season banquet.

Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Event	Notes
8/11	Friday	6:30-9	Practice	Mandatory--all music should be memorized
8/14	Monday	9-5	Band Camp	
8/15	Tuesday	9-5	Band Camp	
8/16	Wednesday	9-5	Band Camp	
8/17	Thursday	9-5	Band Camp	
8/18	Friday	9-5	Band Camp	
8/22	Tuesday	6:30-9	Practice	
8/24	Thursday	6:30-9	Practice	Family and Friends Show at 8:00
8/25	Friday		Football Game	Away at Pine Grove
8/29	Tuesday	6:30-9	Practice	
8/31	Thursday	6:30-9	Practice	
9/1	Friday		Football Game	Home versus Susquehanna Township
9/15	Friday		Football Game	Away at Pequea Valley
9/22	Friday		Football Game	Home versus Lancaster Catholic
9/29	Friday		Football Game	Away at Schuylkill Valley

10/6	Friday		Football Game	Away at Kutztown
10/13	Friday		Football Game	Home versus Columbia (Homecoming)
10/21	Saturday		Exhibition	Lebanon County Exhibition at Palmyra
10/27	Friday		Football Game	Home versus Annville-Cleona (Senior Night)