

2024-2025

North Gwinnett High School

Marching Band Handbook



QR for Save my Spot



QR to Get Involved

Task List

- By April 12:** Fill out the “Save My Spot” Form (Left QR above)
- Pay Fees:**
 - April 12: (nonrefundable) \$300 due *DEADLINE TO SAVE MY SPOT***
 - May 17: \$350 due**
 - July 12: \$350/\$250 for non-band Guard ONLY due**
 - August 16: \$300 due**
 - September 20: \$300 due**
- As soon as you sign up:** Put dates of all practice, games, competitions on your personal calendar (Band website calendar is always up-to-date!)
- Wednesday, May 15, 5:30-8:30pm:** Rookie Registration Night
- Thursday and Friday, May 16 & 17, 5:30-8:30pm:** Spring Band Camp
- Get a Sponsorship before May 31st to receive 30% in Band Credit
- By July 5:** Complete medical forms and upload physical (to RankOne app), forms attached
- July 8-19: Attend both weeks of band camp (*MANDATORY*)**
- PARENTS: Please let us know how you are going to get involved! (Right QR above)
- As soon as you sign up:** Download the BAND app & join the North Gwinnett High School Marching Band Parents FaceBook page, and follow North Gwinnett High School Bands on Facebook and Instagram



Student Band App



Parent Band App

Are you ready to join the North Gwinnett High School Marching Band?

Whether as a performer or as a parent, we see you as part of our Band Family. Band is a truly life-changing activity that we hope will be as good for you as it has been for so many past parents and graduates. The NGHS Marching Band is one of the largest and most recognizable organizations on campus. We pride ourselves on the rich tradition of excellence.

Like any successful organization, we work hard and follow set rules and guidelines. We hope this handbook will help familiarize you with the inner workings of our band program. Two important goals of being a band member are to learn responsibility and to honor commitments. It is to that end that we ask parents to assist their children in learning how to organize their time effectively and to fulfill the commitment of being a member of the NGHS Marching Band.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to help!

COST

Running a successful competitive Marching Band takes more than \$200,000!

- Total Individual Cost for Marching Band: **\$1,600** (Includes Band Class Fee and cost of trip)
 - **\$1,500** for Colorguard Members.
 - Sibling discount of \$100 per additional child
 - Fee Schedule:
 - **April 12: (nonrefundable) \$300 due**
DEADLINE TO SAVE MY SPOT
 - **May 17: \$350 due**
 - **July 12: \$350/\$250 for non-band Guard ONLY due**
 - **August 16: \$300 due**
 - **September 20: \$300 due**
 - New members will have additional costs, such as shoes, and colorguard warm up suits (color guard only).
- Fee Helps Cover:
 - Show Design, Music, Copyright, Drill, Production items [props, performance tops (new this year)], etc.
 - Percussion Director, Colorguard Director, Visual Director, Sectional Staff, and additional support staff
 - Ultimate Drill Book app (new this year!), approx. 20 meals, t-shirts, duffle bags, water jugs, 1 Corky Kell Ticket, uniform replacement/repair, competition fees, Transportation/Equipment needs
- There is also an additional \$60 instrument/equipment rental fee for marching band (if you need an instrument), and a \$60 instrument/equipment rental fee for concert band (if you need an instrument.)

*****Any band family in need of an amended payment schedule or assistance should contact BOTH band directors and email Leigh Carsley at treasurer@northgwinnettbands.org. Communication is essential so that we may understand any financial needs and can assist all families who need it. All financial communications are completely confidential.*****

AUDITIONS

COLOR GUARD AUDITIONS

May 13, 14 & 15, 5:00pm - 8:00pm | Auditioning students are required to attend 2 of the 3 days for consideration. We recommend and would love attendance at all 3. Auditioning students **must** attend Rookie Registration at 8:00pm on the 15th in order to be fitted for shoes, boots, and jackets.

PERCUSSION AUDITIONS

May 15, 6:00pm - 8:00pm | Auditioning students **must** attend Rookie Registration at 5:30pm to be fitted for uniforms and to take care of registration details first.

May 16 & 17, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

SPRING BAND CAMP - MANDATORY FOR EVERYONE (Brass & Winds)

Thursday, May 16 (at NGHS) 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Friday, May 17 (at NGHS) 5:30pm - 8:30pm

SUMMER BAND CAMPS

All students participating in marching band are required to attend **both** weeks of summer band camp. * Students who need to miss camp for previously scheduled commitments will need to discuss with Directors ASAP.*

WINDS/PERCUSSION/GUARD

Monday, July 8 - Friday, July 12 8:00am - 4:00pm, percussion stays until 8:00pm

Monday, July 15 - Friday, July 19 8:00am - 8:00pm

PHYSICAL REQUIRED PRIOR TO SUMMER BAND CAMP

To participate in camp and practices, a physical must be signed by a doctor and submitted through the RankOne app. Please make an appointment with a health care provider or attend the school physical day on April 20th. Take the attached forms to be completed, then upload them into the RankOne app. There are also additional forms in the RankOne app that you will need to complete electronically. **Deadline for submission is July 5th. You may not participate in band camp until forms have been submitted.**

DAILY MATERIALS FOR SUMMER BAND CAMP

- All students are required to wear a t-shirt, athletic shorts, sneakers, and socks. No sandals, boots, or open toed shoes permitted.
- Name Tag/Lanyard
- Music in 3 ring binder (this will be provided to all musicians)
- Pencil
- Instrument / Equipment
- Band Water Jug - filled with water and ice only (jugs will be given to rookies on the first day of band camp along with duffle bags and other items)
- Sunscreen and a hat

ROOKIE REGISTRATION

This event is for all rising 9th graders and students new to the marching band program at North Gwinnett. It will be held in the band room on **Wednesday, May 15 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.**

5:30-6:30 PM	Last Names A-H & All Percussion
6:30-7:30 PM	Last Names I-P
7:30-8:30 PM	Last Names Q-Z & All Colorguard

This is when you will make your second payment of \$350 (and third payment if you'd like), order shoes (for new members or if needed), order color guard warmup suits (color guard only), signup for volunteer positions, and purchase spirit wear.

VETERAN REGISTRATION

We will be fitting our returning marching band members during band class in the week or so before Rookie Registration. We will also have packages for any fees available on the website. We are currently in development of fee packages to make this process easier.

UNIFORMS

During Rookie Registration, students will be fitted for their uniforms. They will also be fitted for marching band shoes and a shako (hat). Veteran students will be fitted during band class this year. **Uniforms are owned by the band** and are stored in the uniform closet between games and competitions. Students are expected to take extreme care to not damage the uniforms while wearing them and hang them up as directed at the end of the event. If an item is lost or severely damaged, you will be assessed the amount for the damaged or lost item. Students will be provided with a pair of gloves at the start of the season. Additional pairs of gloves are available for \$5 per pair. Marching band students need tall black socks for their uniform to be complete. Your student is responsible for bringing them with them for each game and competition. If they do not have socks with them, the uniform parent can provide them at a cost to you as well as gloves.

TIME COMMITMENT

All students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. The schedule for the season is updated on the Band Website and is located in the BAND app. Please go through our schedule with your personal schedule.

- Starting **July 24**: FULL MB Practices: **Monday, 3:00-6:00 & Wednesday, 5:30-8:30**
- Percussion also on **Tuesdays, 3:00-6:00**
- Every **Friday**, all students will stay after school for rehearsal and call time for games. Dinner will be provided.

***Rehearsals are held rain or shine either on the practice field, stadium, or band room. The start time of 3:00 or 5:30 gives the students enough time to see teachers after school, attend club meetings, and adequately prepare for rehearsal.*

Required Performances

Regular Season Schedule

Aug. 17 Mill Creek HS – Mercedes Benz Stadium, 4:00 PM kickoff (Corky Kell)

****Please block off ALL DAY for Corky Kell**** *FOOD ON OWN*

Aug. 23 NO GAME (Bye Week) *We will rehearse 3-6PM*

Aug. 24 SATURDAY Mini Camp (8AM-8PM) **Dinner provided**

Aug. 30 Colquitt Away **Dinner provided**

Sept. 6 Mill Creek Away **Dinner provided**

Sept. 13 Brookwood Home **Dinner provided**

Sept. 20 Parkview Home **DL D Day* Dinner on your own!*

Sept. 21 Suwanee Fest Parade **All morning**

Sept. 27 Berkmar Away **Dinner provided**

Oct. 4 Peachtree Ridge Home **Homecoming & Pink Out!* *Dinner provided**

Oct 5 Possible BOA MB Competition (8AM-MIDNIGHT)

Oct. 18 - 19 Overnight MB Competition

Oct. 25 Norcross Home **SENIOR NIGHT* *Dinner provided**

Oct 26 Competition BOA Buford

Nov. 1 Duluth Away **Dinner provided**

Nov. 2 Possible MB Competition (8AM-MIDNIGHT)

Playoff Schedule

Nov. 8 Playoffs TBA

Nov. 15 Playoffs TBA

Nov. 22 Playoffs TBA

Nov. 29 Playoffs TBA, be prepared for a game the day after Thanksgiving

Dec. 11 Playoffs – State Championship TBA

Please understand that unpredictable situations may require us to revise the schedule. Adjustments might come from the school, the football program, weather conditions, or the band's needs. When changes happen, the board will do its best to keep you updated as quickly as possible.

Postseason Football Games

The football team at NGHS continues to be one of the best teams in Georgia. We will attend all **potential** playoff games, which are on Fridays or Saturdays after the regular season ends and through the first week of December. Students will play only stand tunes at these games.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all band functions is very important for all students. Every rehearsal involves adding content or making changes to the show. When a student is absent from rehearsal, it poses problems for the band during drill and ensemble rehearsal. If a student is absent from any performance, it hurts the group immensely. Their absence makes large, visible holes in the drill and compromises the quality of the performance. Attendance at band camp is required for any student to be in the marching band. Students moving into the area will be allowed to join the band after the beginning of the school year at the directors' discretion.

ABSENT/LATE TO REHEARSAL:

- If you miss all of a practice the day before a performance, you will not perform. If you miss part of a practice, it's at the directors' discretion if you'll perform.
- If you miss school the day of a performance for a non-school related event, you will not be allowed to perform that day.
- Absence will also jeopardize a student's qualification for a varsity letter in band.

**EARLY is on time.
On time is LATE.
Late is UNACCEPTABLE!**

CHECKING OUT FROM A PERFORMANCE:

- If you check out early from a performance, you **MUST** have prior permission from a director and you must follow the proper check out procedure of filling out the absence form by NOON the day before, go to the band room or the Uniform Lead to turn your uniform in, and **your parent must come in person** to physically sign you out with the Volunteer/Chaperone Lead.

Please refer to the absence form on the NGHS Band website for more details and information.

Unexcused Absences:

Doctor/dentist appointment
Work schedule conflict
School club meetings
Homework
Drivers test
Rock concert (or any other concert)
Family vacations
Don't have a ride (this can be worked out with prior communication)
or any other absence

Excused Absences:

Personal illness/injury
Religious holidays
Close family wedding/funeral

NG BAND PARENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our booster executive board is made up of elected volunteers that have offered to serve in each of the board positions to help make the band run smoothly. Please remember each of the board members are VOLUNTEERS and most have other jobs in addition to the board position and will try to get back with you as soon as possible. If you need to contact the boosters for any reason, please use the following emails below.

Band Director Emails:

Greg Gibson - greg.gibson@gcpsk12.org
Brandon Soloff - brandon.soloff@gcpsk12.org

Executive Board Emails:

Sarah Henness, President: president@northgwinnettbands.org
Jenny Jenkins, Vice President: vicepresident@northgwinnettbands.org
Jaime Painter, Secretary: communications@northgwinnettbands.org
Leigh Carsley, Treasurer: treasurer@northgwinnettbands.org

If you need to email Team Leads, please use the following email addresses:

Volunteer: volunteer@northgwinnettbands.org
Communications: communications@northgwinnettbands.org
Fundraising: fundraising@northgwinnettbands.org
Sponsorships: sponsorships@northgwinnettbands.org
Spirit Wear: spiritwear@northgwinnettbands.org
Uniforms: uniforms@northgwinnettbands.org

VOLUNTEERING

We have many opportunities to volunteer throughout the marching season. From chaperoning practices and games, to hauling equipment to and fro, to helping serve dinner to your students. Opportunities abound. Grandparents, siblings, or any member of your family can get involved and make a difference! We are using SignUp Genius this year to coordinate our volunteer opportunities when needed and will send out alerts through email and BandApp when we have openings that need to be filled. We have many different areas to volunteer and some Lead positions that are looking to be filled.

Vacant Lead/Co-Lead Positions

- Fundraising Co-Lead
- Uniform Lead
- Photography Lead
- Publicity/Web/Social Media Lead
- Kindness Committee Lead

Can't Lead? We still need to fill these teams:

- Fundraising Team
- Sponsorships Team
- Volunteer Team (Chaperones...)
- Photography Team
- Publicity/Web/Social Media Team
- Kindness Committee
- Spirit Wear Team
- Uniform Team
- Food Team
- Equipment Team
- Band Camp Team



The easiest way to volunteer is by signing up for teams. Use the QR code on the right on the first page of this packet to join. Sign up on the website www.northgwinnettbands.org/help when specific needs are emailed out. There will be a link provided there.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How Will My Child Have Time?

How will our students have the time to go to rehearsals two or three days a week after school, perform at Friday night football games, and compete on three or four Saturdays? How will they do all of this and keep up their grades? **Time management** will be the most important tool that your student will acquire when they become members of the NGHS band program. The students quickly learn that they must use every minute of their day wisely. If a student starts to become overwhelmed, please have them ask for help. We have many students in our program who do a great job managing their time and they are more than happy to help the younger students figure it out.

Why Should Parents Get Involved?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT = A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM

Getting involved in the band program will give you the opportunity to share with your child the last four years of their education. These years go so fast and are rarely enjoyed by many parents. Your child might say they would rather not have you around, but most parents actually learn that in reality they appreciate your involvement and will thank you in the future. The band parents are needed to support the vision of the program, and help with the details of fundraising, transporting, feeding and watering an organization of this size. The band needs parents to be able to function, it is for this reason that we urge you to get involved. Join one of the many committees; we need your help. When you are picking up your children, please don't just sit in the car; get out and ask, "How can I help?" It is fun and you meet other parents with the same interests as yours.

How Do We Keep Informed?

There are many ways that you will be informed. Please download and join the BAND app. All schedules for any event will come from the directors. You will also receive a weekly email outlining the week ahead. We have a parent Facebook group. While this is great for parents to share info, pictures, videos, etc., do not rely on Facebook for information about schedules. Always refer to the website, weekly emails, and the BAND app.

Helpful Hints

1. Make your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something should be the last! They learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
2. When we travel, we have the students call/text their parents when we are about 20 minutes from the school. Please make sure your child is communicating with you. When we return to the school we usually have to unload the trailers. All students are required to help with this. When we return to the school, all of the directors and chaperones want to get home in a timely manner too. Please make sure you are on time when picking up your child!
3. The directors will be consistent with the rehearsal times. Your student will be dismissed on time at the end of rehearsal. Rehearsals will not usually go past the ending time. The time kids take to put away instruments, props, and collect belongings will take about 10 to 15 minutes. If your child takes longer, talk with them and find out why.
4. Network - This is how we meet each other. It is also one of the best ways to get helpful hints on band parenting from others.
5. Carpool to practices and competitions when necessary. What other band students live in your neighborhood?
6. Be prepared to cheer! The band loves it when they have their own cheering section. Always stand for them after a performance! They have worked very hard to do what you see and hear.
7. Use the BAND APP and website to stay informed.

Get ready for one of the most AMAZING experiences of your child's life!

North Gwinnett High School

Marching Band Handbook

Acknowledgement of Expectations

2024-2025

Parents and Students,

Please sign this form to acknowledge that you have read, understand, and agree to all policies and responsibilities including attendance, fees, participation, and student expectations. These policies provide clear guidelines for the band and help us to operate smoothly. Furthermore, you have reviewed the calendar for the year, and understand that rehearsals and performances are mandatory activities.

I, (parent/guardian) _____ have read, understand and agree to all of the policies set forth by the North Gwinnett High School Marching Band Handbook. I understand that my student's membership in band is a privilege.

I, (student) _____ have read, understand and agree to all of the policies set forth by the North Gwinnett High School Marching Band Handbook. I understand that my membership in band is a privilege.

Parent/ Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____