North Rock Creek Schools

Band Handbook

2018–2019

Randy Goodnight
Band Director

Email: rgoodnight@nrcps.org

“Who we are tomorrow, begins with what we do today”
-Tim Fargo
PURPOSE
The purpose of the North Rock Creek School band handbook is to inform band members and their parents of the expectations of the NRC band programs. The following guidelines are designed to promote the constructive teaching and learning environment needed to develop and maintain a successful program at the highest level of excellence.

OUR PHILOSOPHY
The North Rock Creek Band program is dedicated to helping students become responsible adults through participation in musical ensembles. The band program is an important part of the total school life. This band represents a large, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school groups. Being a member of the North Rock Creek band requires commitment, responsibility, and organization. Members are given the opportunity to develop self-esteem, poise, and confidence in addition to strengthening their musical abilities. The band director considers these personal traits vital to the success in adult occupations and professions. It is our goal to give every student the finest musical experiences available.

GENERAL RULES
- No gum, candy, food, or drink is allowed in the band room.
- No talking when the director is in front of the class.
- If you are not early, you are late.
- When in doubt, don’t.
- If it is not yours, leave it alone.
- Leave the room in a neat and orderly condition.
- Return items to their proper place.
- Be responsible with school and personal equipment.
- Respect our band, our goals, and our members.
- We are and always will be a first class organization.
- Always do your best.
- Always be prepared musically and mentally.

Discipline
- First offense: Verbal Warning
- Second offense: Meeting between teacher and student/Call home
- Third offense: After or before school detention with director
- Fourth offense: Meeting between teacher, student, parent and principal

If additional offenses continue after the fourth offense then the director will decide if the student should be removed from band.

The band director may use any of the above discipline at any time based upon the offense that occurs.
DAILY CLASSROOM MATERIALS
Instrument, sheet music/book, pencil, 1/2 inch binder, page protectors, Essential Elements Book 1 (5th grade), Essential Elements Book 1 & 2 (6th grade), and a positive attitude.

PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS
All band students are expected to participate in rehearsals, concerts, and any other school function in which the band takes part throughout the school year.
Missing a performance will be reflected in the student's grade.
Personal illness, family death, unsafe road conditions, or conflicts with other school-sponsored activities may be considered excused absences from rehearsals and performances.

Parents and students should notify the band director well in advance of any possible scheduling conflict.
A director may exclude a student from a performance for inappropriate dress, excessive absences, or lack of individual preparation.
Once a student has chosen band as an elective, the expectation is for the student to remain in band for the duration of the school year.
Rehearsals outside of the normal school day may need to be scheduled in preparation for concerts and contests. These rehearsals will be announced well in advance.

ELIGIBILITY
The standards mandated by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association and those of the North Rock Creek School District will be used to determine a student's eligibility for performances. Students must maintain a passing grade of at least a 60% or above in all classes (not just band). Students with a grade lower than a 60% are considered ineligible and will not be able to participate in contests or trips.

GRADING
Grades in band reflect the student's performance in all aspects of being a responsible member of an organization. Every band member will be held accountable for his/her attendance, materials, and preparation.
School policies for tardiness and absences will be observed. Excessive tardies and/or absences may affect a student's eligibility and participation in band.
Tests will be given at the discretion of the director. Students are held accountable for any material covered in a previous lesson. Tests and tryouts for chair placement will usually be announced in advance. Students who miss a chair test will go to the last chair of their section, but will have the opportunity to make up the grade.
Performances are required and are graded as multiple tests. An unexcused absence from a performance will lower a student's grade.
Band members are expected to take their instruments home and practice each evening. Occasionally, material and maintenance grades will be taken to ensure that students have all of their required items for the band class, and that they are caring for the instruments properly.

**SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS AND FEES**
Some school-owned instruments and equipment will be checked out to students during the year. A $50.00 fee will be required per year from students using school-owned instruments/equipment and is due by the end of the school year. This fee will be used for the normal upkeep and repair of the instruments. Students are expected to properly care for and maintain school instruments while it is their possession. Any damage, loss, or neglect of an instrument that is not considered normal will be the responsibility of the student and their parents.

Students must complete an instrument rental form before checking out any instrument from North Rock Creek.

**CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**
Musical equipment is very expensive and hard to replace. Anyone found mistreating school property will be held responsible for all damages. The privilege of using a school horn will also be taken away if this occurs.

**GUIDELINES FOR TURNING IN FUNDS**
1. Always place funds in an envelope labeled with student's name, what it is for, and amount turned in. (I will not take funds unless labeled.)
2. If writing a check, please put the student's name in the bottom left hand corner of check. (First and Last)

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION**
http://www.nrcps.org/

The band will be utilizing a section of the school website to post information and important documents. Students will be held responsible for dates and information posted on the web site. It is highly recommended students and family members “like” the North Rock Creek Band Facebook page. This page is a great way to communicate with each other. Remind is a group texting app that is going to be used by the band and is necessary for parents and students to enroll. These instructions will be given in class and on Facebook.

**PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**
The uniform worn by the 5th-9th grade student in band are a visible symbol of our groups as legitimate school organizations. When in uniform, each student is a representative of the band program, our school district and our community. Therefore, the uniform should be worn and kept in a respectful manner.
No contest medals, buttons or pins are worn on the uniform and jewelry should be conservative in nature. The designated concert uniform needed for the 7th through 9th grade band students are as follows:

- Black, long-sleeved, collared dress shirt
- Black dress slacks (no jeans)
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)
- The uniform will be worn at the Christmas Concert, the Pre-Contest Concert, OSSAA District Contest and the Spring Concert.

All band students will be required to purchase a band t-shirt. This shirt will be worn with pants, socks, and shoes at pep assemblies, pep band performances, spring trips, social events and by 5th & 6th grade band students for all performances.

Students who disregard any of the performance attire may not be allowed to participate in the concert.

Students who are unable to provide any part of their own uniform parts need to speak with the band director for assistance.

**HONOR BAND AUDITIONS**

6th through 9th grade band members are strongly encouraged to audition for membership in honor bands. Membership in the East Central Oklahoma Band Directors Association Honor Band is a great honor and holds much significance for university officials when distributing scholarship offers. Preparation for these auditions requires a great deal of initiative and self-discipline, as most of the practice is done out of class. Students auditioning for E.C.O.B.D.A. are strongly encouraged to include sight-reading as part of their preparation for the audition. Sight-reading is a major portion of the audition process and has a direct impact on whether a student makes the honor band and how high they place. Students are also highly encouraged to study with a private lesson instructor. Honor Band fees will be covered for individuals that meet the fundraising goals for the semester. Those that do not meet the fundraising goals will be responsible for their honor band fees. (Audition required for band achievement consideration)

**SOLOS & ENSEMBLES**

Another opportunity for musical growth is through participation in solo and ensemble contests. It provides exposure to challenging music of various styles on an individual basis or through a smaller group. Students will have the opportunity to compete at the NRC Solo and Ensemble contest as well as the OSSAA Solo and Ensemble contest. As with honor bands, a great deal of initiative and preparation is done outside of class. Regular rehearsals with accompanists or ensembles will be scheduled in the spring. Students will pay a set fee for the accompanist. Students that do not meet their fundraising goal will also be responsible for their entry fee to solo and ensemble contest. Those that meet their fundraising goal will not have to pay their entry fee. Students are highly encouraged to study with a private lesson instructor. (Superior/Excellent rating required for band achievement consideration)
**PRIVATE LESSONS**

Students are highly encouraged to study privately on their instrument. This gives the student the opportunity to study with a person who specializes on their particular instrument. A list of teachers and contact information is available on the website. Those who wish to compete in the OSSAA solo competition are highly encouraged to study privately.

**BEHAVIOR ON TRIPS**

At the Middle School level, students will begin to take out-of-town and possibly out-of-state trips for various concerts, contests, or festivals. The following is the proper etiquette expected on these trips:

- We are and always will be a first class organization.
- When you are with our band, you are representing our school, our community, and our state. Every band member should be conscious of their behavior and the impressions that it makes. Your words and actions will be heard, seen, and interpreted by many people.
- Do not draw attention to yourself.
- Represent this program in the manner that it should be represented.
- Take pride in what you do and how you do it.
- Bus drivers, directors, and chaperones have disciplinary authority.
- School policies will be observed at all times.
- No student will exit a bus before the entire bus is determined to be clean by the chaperones on board. The responsibility of cleaning the bus is yours not anyone else’s.

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT/ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Students will be recognized for their hard work they exhibit throughout the year. To receive recognition students must:

- maintain a A average or higher in band all year,
- attend all performances,
- receive a superior or excellent rating on a solo,
- receive a superior rating on an ensemble,
- audition for an honor band,
- and no disciplinary action school wide.
I acknowledge that ____________________________ (student's name printed) is a student in the North Rock Creek Band for the 2018-2019 school year and is responsible for all the expectations outlined in the band handbook. Being a member of the North Rock Creek Band is a year long commitment and a student may not drop out of band during the school year.

Student's Signature______________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature______________________________

Date____________

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to thank you for allowing your child to be in the North Rock Creek Band program. I wholeheartedly believe that being involved in music does many great things for the student. Not only do we have evidence that learning music improves test scores, but I believe that it shapes them into productive citizens.

We have many exciting things happening this year! For the first time in North Rock Creek history we will be attending the OSSAA band competition and we will also have a full jazz band this year! As we continue to grow and push ourselves to a new level of excellence, there will be many opportunities for parents to get involved and help out! Watch the North Rock Creek Facebook page for information!

I am honored to teach your children and look forward to an exciting school year.

Sincerely,

Randy Goodnight
Band Director
Elementary Music Teacher
North Rock Creek Public Schools