



Northern High School
653 South Baltimore Street
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Music Department Handbook

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Northern York County School District Student Activities Handbook

Introduction

“Excellence in Education”

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.

Definition and Purpose

According to the Northern York County School District Policy #122 on Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities, Student Activity Clubs/Organizations are those extra-curricular activities that seek to meet the interests of students that are not provided by the curricular program of the school. 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.

These Student Activity Clubs/Organizations will be referred to throughout this handbook as *Student Activities*. The purpose of this *Student Activities Handbook* is to familiarize advisors and student officers with the policies and procedures to be followed in the Northern York County School District Student Activities Program.

A listing of the Student Activities that have been approved by the NYCSD Board of School Directors for the current school year can be found in the Appendix.

Student Activities 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:

1. Help all students to learn how to constructively use their leisure time.
2. Help all students to increase and productively use their unique talents and skills.
3. Help all students to develop new vocational and recreational interests and skills.

4. Help all students to develop skills to be used after graduating in vocational institutes, universities, colleges, technical schools, and the work force.
5. Help all students to increase their knowledge of and skill in functioning as leaders and /or as members of a group and team.
6. Help all students to develop a more realistic and positive attitude towards themselves and others.
7. Help all students develop and enhance personal attributes such as self-discipline, team work, 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:

1. Provide leadership opportunities for students.
2. Promote positive student interest, enthusiasm, and leadership.
3. Obtain approval of the school administration for all activities.
4. Discuss with the students pros and cons of all projects.
5. Be present at all meetings and activities for the duration of the event.
6. Supervise proper accounting of funds according to Board Policy and the Principal.
7. Sign all purchase order and check requests.
8. Follow-up with students to make sure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.
9. Encourage good academic standing and ethical behavior for all members of the organization.
10. 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 apart of an administration-approved drug/alcohol prevention program.
11. Account for all uniforms, supplies and equipment used during the school year.

New Club Procedures

All new student activity clubs/organizations, and the associated accounts, must be approved by the School Board. The start a new activity, the advisor should submit the following to the principal:

- Submit a statement of purpose to the principal. (See Appendix A)
- Submit proposed by-laws to the principal. These are to be developed by the advisor(s) and initial/existing student officers. (For an example, see Appendix B).
- Submit a draft budget (draft income statement) and anticipated annual expenses and fund raising initiatives to the principal and business office. (See Appendix C)

Student Government

Each middle and high school has a student government or council, which is established and organized through its constitution and by-laws. The student government will represent the concerns and suggestions of the student body. Student government will be responsible for conveying information to the administration. Some of the responsibilities may include but are not limited to:

1. Homecoming
2. Student Dances
3. Assemblies
4. Special Projects Funding
5. Recommendations to administration, Staff, and Students

Student Activity 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.

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 90 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 fund raising 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.

**Northern York County School District
Department of Music**

The Northern York County School District Music Department provides a comprehensive curriculum and a variety of performing ensembles to our students.

Staff

Mrs. Rachel Sherman – Elementary Chorus Director and Music Teacher (SME, WES)

Mrs. Karla Silbaugh – Elementary Chorus Director and Music Teacher (NES, DES)

Mrs. Dorcas Eaken – Elementary Strings Director (WES, DES, SME)

Miss Courtney Durlin – Elementary, MS, and HS Strings Director (NES)

Mr. Joe Nebistinsky – Elementary Band Director (DES, SME, WES)

Mr. Daryl Balseiro – Elementary and HS Band Director (NES)

Mrs. Heidi Kenyon – Middle School Chorus Director

Mr. Chad McCartney – Middle School Band Director

Mrs. Laura Bissell – High School Chorus Director

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.

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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 his or her 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

Extra-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 school work!

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

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Music Department

STUDENT 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 emergencyUnexcused 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 he/she is his/her actions are representative not only of him/her self, 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 the 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.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility – A student may not participate or practice for any ensemble or activity unless he or she is in school by 9:00am the day of the scheduled contest or practice. If the event is on a Saturday or school holiday, the student must be in school by 9:00am of the preceding school day. This rule may be waived by the Director or Principal for extenuating circumstances. If a student leaves school before 12:30pm for a medical appointment, he or she must return to school by 2:40pm in order to be eligible to participate.

Students must demonstrate academic eligibility in order to participate in extra-curricular music activities. The student must be passing five (5) 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 five (5) 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. Exception – if a student is passing four (4) credits he/she will be given a one week eligibility warning that will permit practices and participation. Each student will be given only one warning per season. Anyone who has been ineligible for a week after passing fewer than four credits will not receive a subsequent warning period that season. Students will not be able to practice or ride with the ensemble/group to events during the ineligibility period.

DISCIPLINE

1. **Controlled Substance Policy Violation** – The Districts Controlled Substance Policy, #227 defines controlled substances as follows: all dangerous controlled substances prohibited by law, all look alike drugs, all alcoholic beverages, anabolic steroids, any drug paraphernalia, and any prescription or patent drug, except for those for which permission for use has been granted pursuant to Board policy. Students will be suspended from participation for a minimum of four (4) weeks. The participant may be suspended for up to three seasons depending on the severity of the violation. A second offense will result in a one- (1) calendar year suspension from the date of the violation. In order to return to competition and practice a student must successfully complete a student assistance program evaluation for the first and second offenses of this policy.
2. **Tobacco Policy Violation** - An activity participant who violates the tobacco policy of the school district will be suspended from participation for four (4) 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.
3. **Other Circumstances** - Whenever other offenses occur pertaining to participants out of school and out of season, a committee consisting of the building principal and director/ advisor 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** - Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the group for the remainder of the season. Hazing is defined as any action or situation, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student.

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:

Participants Name _____

Activity _____

Participants Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Extra-curricular vs. Co-curricular Ensembles

Co-curricular activities – those activities that are sponsored or 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 nonschool hours.

Extracurricular activities – those activities, which are sponsored or approved by the Board, administration, Athletic Director, or principal, but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such 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.

<u>Co-Curricular Ensembles</u>	<u>Extra-Curricular Ensembles</u>
<u>High School</u>	<u>High School</u>
Concert Band	Marching Band
Wind Ensemble	Pep Band
Percussion Ensemble	Pit Orchestra
Mixed Chorus	Jazz Band
Orchestra	Tri-M Music Honor Society
	Bear Singers
<u>Middle School</u>	Indoor Guard
Concert Band	Dance Team
Chorus	Musical
Orchestra	Small Music Ensembles
<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Middle School</u>
Band	Jazz Band
Chorus	Wind Ensemble
Orchestra	Indoor Guard
	Dance Team
	Musical
	Small Music Ensembles
	Select Choir
	<u>Elementary</u>
	Musical

High School Concert Band

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 in three concerts every school year.
Attendance at all concerts is required.

Holiday Concert – December
All-District Band Concert – March-April
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 or phone extension 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

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 – December
All-District Band Concert – March-April
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 or phone extension 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 Percussion Ensemble

Description

The High School Percussion Ensemble is the ensemble that 9th grade percussionists will perform with during their freshman year in high school, rather than Concert Band or Wind Ensemble. Percussion Ensemble rehearses daily, and allows 9th grade percussionists to receive more individual attention and instruction than those students in the other ensembles. Students in Percussion Ensemble learn rhythm and note reading skills, refine techniques on all percussion instruments, including mallet percussion, and develop ensemble skills that will better prepare them for success in Concert Band or Wind Ensemble their following year.

Performances

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

Holiday Concert – December
All-District Band Concert – March-April
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 or phone extension 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

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
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 or phone extension 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

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 or phone extension 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

Description

The Middle school band 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 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 three concerts every year.

Attendance at all concerts is required.

Holiday Concert (all bands) - December

All-District Band Concert (all bands) - March/April

Spring Concert (all bands) – April

Additional performances:

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

Northern Lights Band competition pre-show performance (7th and 8th grade) – October

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 or phone extension 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

Description

The middle school jazz band introduces students to jazz and many of its neighbors. 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-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 or phone extension listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

Middle School Chorus

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, in order to account for age and vocal development differences. Students in chorus will also be required to attend five 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
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 or phone extension 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.

Northern Middle School Select Choir

Description

The Northern Middle School Select Choir is a small chamber choir-- typically around 30 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.

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, performances at local churches, and singing the National Anthem at local sporting events.

Attendance at all concerts is required.

Holiday Concert – December

Spring Concert – May

Church Performance—April/May

National Anthem Performance—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 or phone extension 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 Orchestra

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 or phone extension 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

Description

The Elementary Band program is comprised of beginners 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 25-minute segments, and the full band rehearsals are for 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 a grade (O, S, U) on their report cards each marking period.

Performances

The Level 2 students (second-year players) typically perform in three concerts every school year.

The Level 1 students (first-year players) typically perform in two concerts every school year.

Attendance at all concerts is required.

Holiday Concert – December (Level 2 only)

All-District Band Concert – March-April (Level 1 and Level 2)

Spring Concert – May (Level 1 and Level 2)

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 or phone extension 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.

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Middle School Wind Ensemble

Description

The purpose of the middle school wind ensemble is two-fold:

- 1.) To perform as the wind section for the middle school symphonic orchestra
- 2.) To challenge talented young musicians by performing advanced middle school literature

Students are selected for this ensemble are selected 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.

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 or phone extension 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

Description

The Fifth Grade Elementary Chorus is comprised of interested Fifth Graders from each building. The Chorus rehearses once per cycle for 40 or 45 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 typically performs in two concerts every school year. The concerts are combined concerts with singers from all 4 elementary buildings. 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 or phone extension 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

Description

The Elementary Orchestra program is comprised of beginners and second-year students in 4th and 5th grade. The program is divided into two important activities: lessons and full orchestra rehearsals. The lessons are small group instruction times scheduled in 25-minute segments, and the full orchestra rehearsals are for 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 a grade (O, S, U) on their report cards each marking period.

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.

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 or phone extension 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 Marching Band

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 or phone extension 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

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 or phone extension 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.

Pit Orchestra

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 or phone extension 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 Jazz Band

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 or phone extension 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

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 or phone extension 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

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

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 or phone extension 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

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 or phone extension listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

High School 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 beginning of March.

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 or phone extension 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

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 or phone extension 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

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 or phone extension 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 Musical

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 the last two weeks in November. Once the cast is finalized, the rehearsals take place during the months of January, February and March. These rehearsals take place 4-6 days week, typically on weekdays after school and Saturday mornings. Additional rehearsals are added as needed. Dress rehearsals are scheduled the entire 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 March.

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 or phone extension listed above if they have any questions or concerns.

The Middle School Musical website can be accessed via the school district website that is listed above. Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on these websites.

Various Middle School Small Ensembles

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 or phone extension 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 Musical

Description

The Elementary Musical is open to students in 3rd-5th grades in the 4 elementary schools at Northern York County School District. Students rehearse on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings before school. They learn lines, songs, and dances to make up the complete musical performance. The sets are painted by elementary Art Enrichment students at the 4 elementary schools under the direction of the elementary Art teachers.

Performances

The final three weeks of rehearsal in November take place after school on the High School stage.

The Wednesday of Show Week is the Dress Rehearsal.

The first performance is on the Thursday of Show Week at 4:15pm. This is a free show.

The final performance is on the Friday of Show Week. Tickets are sold for this show.

Auditions occur in August.

Show Week is in November.

Parent-Teacher Communications

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

The director also maintains a school district website that is listed above.

Schedules and other pertinent information are posted on the website.