



North Garner MS Band Handbook 2024-25 School Year

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North Garner Middle School Band 2024-25 SY Handbook

July 29, 2024

Hello, Trojan Band Families!

My name is Ms. Mitchell, and I am so excited to be your student's band teacher this year! I know that we will learn a lot, play a lot of music, and have so much fun along the way. Please find enclosed our expectations for the year – calendar dates, necessary supplies, what you and your student can expect from me, and what I expect from your students in class. Open communication is of the utmost importance to me, so please reach out to me with any questions or concerns throughout the year. I am always happy to help!

Please sign and return the back page of this handbook by **August 5, 2024**. By signing and returning this page, you show that you have read and understand the content in this handbook.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year! Go Trojans!

Musically yours,

Ms. Haley Mitchell



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2024-25 Band Calendar (**bolded** events are *required*)

July 29, 2024: First Day of School ☺

December 10, 2024: Winter Band Concert (Grades 6-8 REQUIRED)

7pm, South Garner High School - 8228 Hebron Church Rd, Garner

January 2025 – All-District Band Auditions (exact date TBA)

January 2025 – All-District Band Clinic (exact date TBA)

March 8, 2025 – All-State Honors Band Auditions

Aikens High School, Winston-Salem NC

March 2025 – Middle School MPA (7th/8th Grade REQUIRED) – exact date TBA

Location TBA

May 2-4, 2025 - All-State Honors Band Clinic

UNC Greensboro, Greensboro NC

June 2, 2025 – Spring Concert (Grades 6-8 REQUIRED)

7pm, South Garner HS – 8228 Hebron Church Rd, Garner

June 26, 2025 – Last Day of School ☺

Some dates (including MPA) have not been set yet. Updated calendars will be sent home with your student as soon as those dates are available.

7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to perform at football games, basketball games, and other athletic events throughout the year. These dates and more information will be communicated as soon as they are available. (Optional, but *highly recommended*)



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Receiving Information about the NGMS Band:

Join our Remind! Text the code for your class to 81010

6th Grade Band: @7cbk9gb

7th Grade Band: @436k9f

8th Grade Band: @hf49kb6

This is one of the many ways I will send important information to you and your student throughout the school year.

Facebook Page: facebook.com/ngmsband

Band Website: ngmsband.com

Instagram: @ngmsbandnc



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Course Descriptions:

6th Grade Band is for students who have never played a wind or percussion instrument before and are learning the building block skills of excellent musicianship. Students will learn essential concepts such as posture, embouchure, breathing, musical literacy, music theory, and music history from around the world. Sixth grade students will perform in 2 concerts throughout the school year to demonstrate their growth.

7th Grade Band is for second-year students who have grasped the basic concepts of wind or percussion playing and are working to refine their skills and sounds. Students will continue to learn about musical and expressive concepts applied to a wide variety of repertoire. Seventh grade students have the opportunity to audition for the All-District Honor Band and have multiple performance opportunities within the community.

8th Grade Band is for third-year students who are preparing for continuation into high school band. Students will be learning more advanced musicianship topics, delving deeper into music theory and history, and performing more advanced repertoire. Students will have the opportunity to audition for the All-District and All-State Honor Bands and are given multiple performance opportunities within the community.



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Expectations:

What You Can Expect from Me:

- Ongoing, open communication through weekly newsletters, emails/calls home for good behavior and consistent improvement, and updates to the band website/social media pages!
- Compassionate instruction that emphasizes structure and discipline – two very important skills that you need in learning music!
- Respect for and dedication to students, families, and community members in the North Garner family.

What I Expect from You:

- **Respect** for yourselves, your teacher, fellow students, equipment, and the band room space.
- **Willingness to learn and collaborate** with others at all times.
- **Responsibility** by coming to class prepared with all necessary supplies.
- *In the Band Hallway:*
 - Entering and exiting the classroom in a quiet and organized manner.
 - If there is another class exiting the classroom, lining up under the laminated sign in the hallway and waiting quietly.
- *In the Band Room:*
 - Having the following supplies with you at your seat when the timer on the screen runs out:
 - Instrument and Equipment (reeds, sticks, etc.)
 - Stand
 - Binder, Method Book, PENCIL
 - Being attentive and focused during instructional time.
 - Putting your instruments AND stands away at the end of class and ensuring that the chairs are correctly organized into rows.
- NO horseplay, shouting, crude language, or behaviors that distract from your fellow musicians' learning. We follow all policies outlined in the WCPSS student handbook.



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Corrective Action:

If students do not follow expectations, the following framework will be used for behavior management. Ms. Mitchell deeply cares about each student and will work with them to find sustainable solutions for behaviors that are not within the expectations.

1. Warning and discussion with teacher: A verbal warning will be provided and a plan will be made to correct behavior in the future and learn from the experience.
2. Communication to Family: If a student persists with the behavior after a plan has been made, the student's family will be contacted in order to work collaboratively to find a solution.
3. Referral to School Administration: If the student's behavior continues after creating and editing a plan and contacting family, a referral will be made to school administration for additional support and corrective action.

Concert/Event Expectations:

Dress (unless explicitly stated otherwise): Conservative, Dressy black clothing – black top, bottoms, socks/stockings, and shoes (jeans are not permitted). Skirts and dresses must hit below the knee, and tops must be short-sleeve or longer. WCPSS Dress Code is applicable to performance dress. See Ms. Mitchell if you need assistance obtaining performance wear.

At performances and other band events, you are representing yourself, the NGMS Band Program, and the school. Please behave responsibly and with pride for your community!

Concert Attendance Policy:

The following situations will allow for a student to receive an *excused absence* from a concert or other performance:

- Hospitalization of the student
- Death in the family
- Religious Holiday
- Other reason as cleared by the director



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If your student is not present at a concert and it has not been cleared by Ms. Mitchell *at least 1 month in advance (other than true emergency situations)*, **the student will receive an unexcused absence and a grade of 0 for the concert.**

Grading Policy:

All classes will follow this grading policy:

20% Classwork (including *Weekly Participation Grades*)

35% Performance Quizzes and Written Assignments

45% Concert/Required Event Attendance and Tests

Weekly Participation Grades are a measure of a student's effort displayed in class each week. This includes having required supplies every class meeting, actively participating in class discussion, and showing dedication and improvement on their instrument. Pencil/Book checks and cubby checks will occur randomly, and unorganized spaces/missing materials will result in a lowered weekly grade.

Performance Quizzes and Written Assignments include recorded assessments of individual exercises within students' method books or other materials to check student growth. Written Assignments will cover topics such as music theory and music history as discussed in class.

Concert and Other Required Event Attendance is a necessary demonstration of students' growth throughout the school year. Much like a sports team, our band needs every player in performance – if we are missing even one person, the entire band is put at a disadvantage. Performances serve as cumulative tests in band class. Students will be graded based on attendance and behavior.

Instrument Care Policy:

Students are taught how to and expected to take proper care of their instruments. If a student is playing a school-owned instrument and it is purposely damaged, **the student and family are responsible for covering the cost of repairs.**



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Required Supplies for ALL STUDENTS:

- Sound Innovations for Concert Band, Book 1 (for your instrument)
- 1 box of pencils (you must have a pencil at all times!)
- 1” three-ring binder with at least 10 page protectors

Instrument Supply Lists and Recommended Brands of Instruments for Rent/Purchase:

Flute (Recommended Brands: Jupiter, Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Pearl, Armstrong)

- Cleaning Rod/Swab (for cleaning the inside of the flute)
- Polishing cloth to clean the outside of the flute

Clarinet (Recommended Brands: Buffet, Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, Vito)

- Clarinet Swab (to clean the inside of the clarinet)
- AT LEAST 3 reeds at all times
 - Recommended Brands: Vandoren and Rico
 - Beginners: 2 ½ strength
 - Intermediate/Advanced: 3 strength
- Cork Grease

Saxophones (Recommended Brands: Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, Conn-Selmer)

- AT LEAST 3 reeds at all times
 - Recommended Brands: Vandoren and Rico
 - Beginners: 2 ½ strength
 - Intermediate/Advanced: 3 strength
- Cork Grease

Trumpet (Recommended Brands: Jupiter, Bach, Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Blessing, Holton)

- Valve oil
- Tuning slide grease



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Instrument Supply Lists and Recommended Brands of Instruments for Rent/Purchase:

Trombone (Recommended Brands: Jupiter, Holton, Yamaha, Bach, Conn-Selmer, King)

- Slide Grease
- Spray Bottle of water and cleaning cloth

Tuba

- Valve Oil
- Tuning slide grease

Percussion

- Stick Bag containing the following:
 - 1 pair rubber mallets
 - 1 pair hard plastic mallets
 - 1 pair soft yarn mallets
 - 1 pair Vic Firth 5A drumsticks
- Practice pad (they can be found on Amazon for ~\$20)
- Bell Kit (these are more of an investment)

For specialty instruments such as oboe and bassoon, contact Ms. Mitchell for recommended instruments and supplies. If there are any questions about acquiring an instrument or supplies, please contact Ms. Mitchell ASAP. She is more than happy to help with acquiring these items!

Equity Statement:

Ms. Mitchell is absolutely committed to creating a welcoming, equitable space within the band room at all times. If your student needs any disability-related accommodations or assistance acquiring supplies due to financial stress, please contact Ms. Mitchell ASAP to discuss your student's needs. Every student in the NGMS Band has a very important role and place within the program and will be set up for success in every way possible!



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NGMS Band Contract, 2024-25 School Year

By signing my name below, I show that I understand and am responsible for all of the information in the 2024-25 North Garner Middle School Band Handbook. As a member of the Trojan Band, I promise to uphold the expectations outlined and represent the program well, both in and out of school.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Instructor Signature: _____

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I have my own instrument

I need to use a school-owned instrument