

# New Lexington High School

*New Lexington Marching Band*

Handbook 2025-2026



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## **Welcome Letter**

New Lexington Marching Band (NLMB),

Welcome to the NLMB! Our band family strives to be elite in all that we do so every individual's band experience, no matter their role, grade level or instrument, is enjoyable, rewarding, and distinguished.

This year's motto is, "**Panther Pride**". It is our hope that all students in the NLMB find their pride and grow in their dedication to not only our school, but themselves. Demonstrating a sense of "Panther Pride" shows commitment and allows for students to develop skills and attitudes they will carry with them throughout their post-secondary endeavors.

Our band program requires students who are willing to buy into the following four cornerstones: positive mental attitude (PMA), disciplined approach, reliability and lastly, superb communication. Band members must strive to make it an obligation to choose positivity over negativity because they are both contagious. Choosing a disciplined approach to practice, rehearsals, and relationships cultivates many character ideals necessary not only for band, but in life. It is essential for band members to showcase their reliability through every performance, and rehearsal. Lastly, our organization has a lot of moving parts that require multiple forms of superb communication.

The NLMB handbook is designed to outline the organizational and procedural aspects of the entire band program. In this handbook you will find information regarding items such as attendance, grading policy, uniforms and more. Please read through the handbook and familiarize yourself with the information. You will come to rely on it heavily throughout the coming year.

Looking forward to another great year!  
Mr. Fulk & Mrs. Harvey

### **New Lexington Marching Band Mission Statement**

The mission of the NLMB program is to consistently strive for excellence in all that we do. Members of the NLMB operate within an environment of the following values: motivation, dedication, musical development, and continuous personal improvement. Along with these values, band members develop the important life skills of time management, leadership, cooperation, humility, and responsibility. We believe these components combined with quality music, lead to an exciting and rewarding band experience.

### **Objectives of the New Lexington Marching Band Program**

- Develop a lifelong love and appreciation for music in all students.
- Support New Lexington school activities and our community by performing our best.
- Project and promote a positive image of the school.
- Provide enjoyable and exciting experiences for students in the marching band.

### **Duties as a New Lexington Marching Band Member**

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE!
- Leave every place cleaner than you found it.
- See something that needs done or someone that needs help? Do it without being asked or expecting a reward.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat or area.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE 😊
- Take care of your equipment at all times: before, during and after rehearsals and performances.
- Be considerate of those around you.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Display respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight.
- Have fun making music!

## **The New Lexington Marching Band**

The NLMB is the most visible and recognizable group in the NLHS band program. Membership is required of all students who sign up for high school band class. Eighth grade band members are not required to participate in marching band, but are encouraged.

**Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is required.** Summer rehearsals include: July 4th rehearsal, summer pre-camp, band camp, and post camp.

The NLMB performs at all home and away varsity football games, as well as pep rallies, marching festivals, parades, and other scheduled events. When school is in session, the marching band rehearsal schedule is as follows:

**Monday-** afternoons from 2:40 pm-4:30 pm.

**Tuesday (*For Flags*)-** from 2:40 pm-4:30 pm.

**Tuesday (*Winds and Percussion*)- OFF;** however we will hold optional non-mandatory indoor instructional sessions till 3:30 every week to assist those with pass-off requirements.

**Wednesday-** evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. All at Rockwell Stadium unless otherwise communicated.

**Thursday-** afternoons from 2:40 pm-4:40pm.

**Friday-** we will hold an abbreviated dress rehearsal usually lasting about 40 min before we change into uniforms and depart for football games.

## **New Lexington Marching Band Field Rehearsal/Parade Practice Expectations**

- 1) Bring a water jug filled with water. Students will not be permitted to travel back to school to get a water break for short breaks. This wastes time, prevents rest, and sets up students to be unsupervised.
- 2) Leave cell phones and smart watches on the sidelines to use during breaks.
- 3) Wear appropriate clothing to match the weather. You will not be allowed to wear cold weather clothing during the heat of summer!
- 4) Tennis shoes and socks are required for marching rehearsals. This includes summer and after school rehearsals. **This is part of your grade!**
- 5) Sunscreen, hats, and eye protection is encouraged.

## **New Lexington Marching Band- Flag Corps Specific**

Additional practices will be required for flag corps. We will have a week of mandatory flag camp during June in addition to band camp; specifics will be posted before summer break.

## **Grading Policy**

Students enrolled in the New Lexington band program receive 1 credit per year. We believe that music is an important part of school curriculum and should be graded. Rather than grading students on their *ability alone*, the New Lexington band program grades students based on attendance, meeting participation expectations, and musical development.

Students EARN their grade by attending and participating in required activities. Below is a marching season example breakdown of what this looks like.

### **Weekly Points Possible:**

Daily In Class Participation:	(5 points possible per day)
After School Rehearsals:	10 Points Per Rehearsal (20 pts per week)
Performance Grade:	75-200 Points per performance
Music Pass-off &/or Memorization check:	25 Points per musical selection
Music Performance Recorded Test: (music, scales, rhythm performance)	50-100 Points (2-3 per quarter)

Semester Midterms and Finals	100 points each: Typically a live performance or performance recording to the google classroom.
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### **In Addition:**

Throughout the year, students may be required to complete additional assignments including, but not limited to the following:

- Reflection Papers
- Peer Rubric Evaluation
- Short Writing assignments
- Online Assignments/Guided Listening
- Binder check (having your music and not relying on others)
- Music Comprehension worksheets

## **Final Grading Breakdown**

Any UNEXCUSED absence from any performance (game, festival, parade, concert) will also lower the student's final grade by **two full letter grades**: A+ minus a performance = C+. Unexcused performance absences that are NOT communicated cannot be made up.

Students who miss required rehearsals and/or performances, who follow our communication policies, MAY and typically will be offered opportunities to earn points by completing various duties or submitting a video recording. The alternative task will require students to put in as much, or more time than they missed. Students themselves will be required to ask and obtain the alternate assignment; the director will NOT seek you out and ask you to make it up. The goal of the band program is to help students become responsible citizens who follow through with the commitments they make. We aim to help each student commit to excellence and earn the grade they deserve.

***Extenuating circumstances will be addressed at the director's discretion and must be done so in a private face to face manner. Parents are always encouraged to schedule a meeting with the director if they need more information, clarity or disagree with a decision. However, we strongly feel individual students must learn to effectively communicate their concerns with their director first. This also means that when a student comes in for a private meeting they cannot have other students with them.***

### **Removal from the Program**

Band is a full year class. Students that participate in the entire year with passing grades receive one (1) credit. Any student who wishes to be permanently removed from the band program at any time before the conclusion of the year will receive no credit and a grade of "F" for the entire year.

Individuals may also be removed from the band program at any time by administration as a consequence of extreme detrimental choices; particularly when the safety of themselves or others is of concern. Depending on the nature of the situation, this removal may result in no credit earned and a grade of "F" as well.

## **Attendance Policy**

**Attendance to all NLMB scheduled rehearsals and performances is required.**

### **Reporting and Approval of Absences**

- Students must give the director a 14 day (two weeks) notice for absence that is reasonably planned or foreseeable.
- All types of absences must be entered into the NL Band Absence Google Form. The link to this form will be on the band website.
  - Parents will still need to call on emergencies and illnesses
- Please attempt to schedule all appointments around rehearsal and performances.

### **Excused Absences**

- 1) Illness- Students who miss school due to illness are not permitted to attend rehearsals or performances that day. Parents must call or message the director in addition to completing the required absence notification form on the band web page under links. An excuse note is required upon returning to school/rehearsal.
- 2) Accident/emergency-In this case please notify the director as soon as possible.
- 3) Serious illness/death in the family- please notify the directors as soon as possible.
- 4) Students must provide doctor or parent notes and complete the Google form for all absences.

***Students with any unexcused practices during the week will be sidelined for the week's performances. Students are required to attend all performances even if they do not march. Students with excused absences in which the director feels the student is not capable of safely performing the show will also be sidelined till they adequately learn their drill.***

### **Unexcused Absences**

- 1) No reason-no show to practice or performance.
- 2) An absence not approved by the directors.
- 3) An absence for which the student fails to provide acceptable prior notification to the director.



### **Involvement In Multiple Events**

It is the policy of the NLMB program that no director should require a student to choose between two in-season extracurricular school activities. Please adhere to the following procedures.

- 1) A practice of either organization does not supersede a performance or match.
- 2) Full season practice, match, performance schedules MUST be shared with all coaches and directors reasonably soon after being distributed to students.
- 3) Plan ahead and realize potential scheduling conflicts! Telling any coach or director the day of, is not acceptable.
- 4) After school activities for FFA and other school sponsored activities that present a conflict with the band rehearsal/performance schedule are to be discussed with the director well in advance.

### **Parent Expectations**

- 1) Parents of non-driving students are expected to pick up the student(s) they are providing rides for *within 15 minutes of the scheduled rehearsal end time*. All rehearsals will end at their scheduled time.
- 2) Parents are encouraged to work in the band booster concessions booth during home football games...thank you in advance!!
- 3) We will share additional opportunities for parental involvement and help when necessary.
- 4) Create a transportation plan A, B, and even C for getting your student to and from rehearsals and performances. *For example, when a car breakdown or forced overtime occurs, being able to enact another plan that has already been sorted out with another parent or grandparent can relieve both parent and student stress.*

## **New Lexington Marching Band Uniforms**

### **Winter Uniform**

NLMB members are issued a uniform consisting of pants, jacket and cape, at the beginning of marching season. This “winter” uniform, with the addition of accessories (hat, black socks, black shoes, spats, white gloves, drawstring bag), is the standard uniform for all marching band events. With the *exception of black socks and black athletic shorts*, all accessories will be provided. Flag corps members will wear the prescribed uniform with specific weather requirements announced before performances.

- 1) Black athletic shorts and the required black band t-shirt will be worn under your full uniform.
- 2) During cold weather, black leggings or sweatpants and an Under Armour style shirt may be worn to stay warm.
- 3) During extremely cold weather, blankets and black band coats may be utilized when announced. Blankets must be orange and/or black.
- 4) Band raincoats will be utilized during wet or likely wet weather.

### **Standards of Appearance and Hygiene**

While in uniform, students are expected to maintain complete uniformity of appearance. The NLMB is set apart from other bands based on this high standard! Students will maintain the following standards while in uniform (both winter and summer).

- 1) Hair must be neat and worn off the collar without “wispsies” and out of the face. All hair longer than collar length must be pulled into a french braid.
- 2) Facial hair must remain clean shaven.
- 3) Piercings in the face must be removed. Small, simple stud earrings are permitted. All other jewelry must be removed. New piercings unable to be removed may need to be covered with a bandage.
- 4) Other jewelry such as bracelets, necklaces and rings will not be allowed.
- 5) Smart watches are not permitted.
- 6) Nail polish should be removed.
- 7) No temporary markings of any kind are permitted. These products have the potential to stain and discolor the uniform.
- 8) Minimal, neutral makeup may be worn. Excessive makeup (bright colors, thick liners, extreme lashes, etc.) will need to be removed prior to putting on the uniform.
- 9) Students are expected to wear clean apparel to practices and performances. In addition, if visible uniform items become stained or damaged, they will need to be replaced at the students expense. Please take care of uniform items and refrain from wearing them as day to day clothing.

10) Personal hygiene is a critical expectation to the health and safety of all band members. This includes: deodorant, showering, hand washing, and not sharing personal items.

**Before performances, all students will be subject to uniform inspections by directors. Students will NOT be allowed to perform unless they meet the aforementioned standards.**

### **New Lexington Marching Band Summer Uniform**

When deemed necessary by the directors, the summer uniform will be worn in place of the full winter uniform. The summer uniform consists of a NLMB polo shirt, school appropriate black athletic shorts, black ankle socks, clean neutral tennis shoes (i.e. no neon or bedazzled shoes), and drawstring bag.

### **School Instrument Usage Agreement**

Students using a school owned instrument must turn in a parent and student signed usage agreement form. If a school instrument is damaged intentionally or out of blatant disregard in maintaining the instrument, the parents/student will be responsible for the repair or replacement cost of the instrument. Any student that drops a school instrument to the floor will be assessed a standard fee of \$50 to send the instrument in for a maintenance assessment. Repairs and parts replacement will be more.

### **Fees**

**The 2025-2026 NLMB fee is \$125.** Families/friends will have multiple opportunities to work a shift in the NLMB concession stand during home football games on behalf of their student. Students whose family/friends meet this expectation will receive a one-time reimbursement of \$25 at the conclusion of the season if band fees were paid in agreement with the preset requirements in the NLMB handbook.

This fee partially offsets school instrument repairs, drumheads, apparel, field paint, supplemental teaching staff, personal care items, first aid items, snacks, water, cleaning supplies, breakfast items, and occasional meals. **This fee must be paid in full, or you must have a payment plan worked out with the directors, by August 1st, 2025.**

In financially sensitive situations, please speak with Mr. Fulk privately, and other options will be discussed. The NLMB boosters strongly feel the price to participate should be kept to a minimum. ***Once again, we hope all parents will participate in the band boosters service and fundraising activities.***

### **Student Performance and Game Rules of Conduct**

- 1) During football games, the band will sit together in the stands. You may not leave the stands without permission.
- 2) Only band members and staff are permitted to sit with the band during football games.
- 3) Remember that during football games we are “ON ALERT” at all times and must be ready to play suddenly and with limited notice. Face the front, watch and listen for all instructions from the director and always know what tune is up next. Pass the word!!!
- 4) All members must remain in full uniform at all times with all uniform parts intact unless otherwise stated by the director.
- 5) DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HAT OR INSTRUMENT UNATTENDED.
- 6) At football games, band members are not permitted to use the concession stands or to eat or drink in the stands until their free time during the third quarter. Water will be provided by the band boosters.
- 7) All school rules involving PDA will be strictly adhered to.
- 8) Cell phones and smart watches are PROHIBITED to be out during a football game or performance and will result in confiscation. Unless you need it for a medical necessity, they should be off and placed in your band draw bag.
- 9) Students are expected to be back in the stands ready to play by the time the scoreboard says 1:00 (at the end of the third quarter) of a football game. Failure to return by this time could result in third-quarter privileges being taken away the following week.
- 10) Stuffed animals, toys, pillows, and personal items (not including medical necessities) are to be left on the bus.

### **Parents/Family/Friends- Performance and Game Expectations**

- 1) Since we have to be ready to perform at any time, family and friends are not permitted to sit amongst the band at football games. In that same spirit, friends and family are not permitted to provide food and beverages (except during the third quarter). Please feel free to sit near the band and cheer on both the band and the football team.
- 2) While we understand that many people will want to leave as soon as possible following a performance, I ask that friends and families (and boy or girlfriends) stay out of the band room before and after performances. This will ensure zero distractions from announcements and get your students home quickly.
- 3) Students are also required to ride the bus home after every performance to put their uniforms and instruments away properly unless there is an emergency or extenuating circumstance; please keep these to a minimum. **If you absolutely must pick up a student from a band performance (parade, football game, performance, etc). The directors need a signed handwritten note from you AT LEAST 24 hours in advance.**

- 4) If your student is not riding the band bus home you MUST sign them out with the director at the end of the event at the bus. Students will not be released to anyone but a parent or guardian.**

### **Sports Physical and Emergency Medical Authorization (EMA)**

All students participating in marching band are required to receive a sports physical to participate. Proof of this must be turned into the directors or on file in the school PRIOR to marching in the 4th of July parades. Sports physicals must be completed by a physician/medical professional. Please obtain forms from the NLHS office prior to attending the appointment and take them to the appointment.

All students are required to turn in an updated (EMA) prior to participating in the 2025 Memorial Day parades.

### **Contact Information**

Mr. Michael Fulk

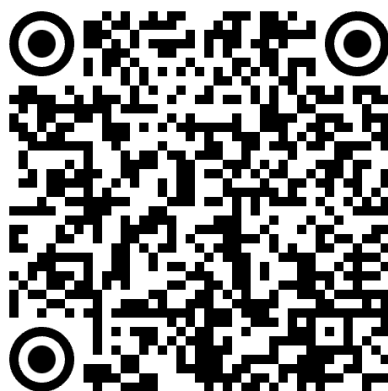
mike.fulk@nlpanthers.org

High School Office (740) 342-3528 band office extension 2151

Mrs. Ashleigh Harvey

ashleigh.harvey@nlpanthers.org

### **QR Code to the School Band Website (This contains a Google Calendar)**



\*Facebook: New Lexington Band Boosters

### **QR Code to NL Band Boosters Home Football Concession Stand Sign Up**



## **Student/Parent Contract**

New members' contract is due by the last day of school. This is to allow "rookies" to get a better feel for the marching band experience by participating in the after school parade rehearsals.

Returning members' contract is due May 1st.

### **2025-2026 New Lexington Marching Band Student/Parent Handbook Contract**

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Turning in this contract with the necessary signatures represents your commitment to joining the New Lexington Marching Band and enrolling in 8th grade or high school band class. Music and drill will be selected and written to compliment the numbers indicated by each student's acknowledgement.

I understand that each member of the band plays a valuable, essential role in the New Lexington Marching Band and that I/my student's attendance at all rehearsals and performances is integral to the success of the group. Additionally, I/my student agrees to follow all rules and guidelines mentioned in this handbook. We have made note of all rehearsal and performance dates and are in agreement with the 2025-2026 attendance policy and rules mentioned in this handbook.

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Student Name-Print

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent Name-Print

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Parent Signature

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Date