



**2024-25 Academic Year
Handbook**

Table of Contents

Welcome Letters -----	2-3
Band Staff -----	4
Student Leadership Team -----	4
Philosophy -----	5
Department Objectives -----	5
Code of Conduct -----	5
Program Offerings -----	6
After School Rehearsals -----	7
Marching Season Rehearsal Schedule -----	8
Attendance Policy -----	9
The Band App -----	10
Booster Club -----	10
Expenses -----	11
Fundraising -----	11
Volunteer Credit -----	11
Travel Policy -----	11
Chaperone Policy -----	12
Performance Procedures -----	13-14
Department Website -----	14
Social Media -----	14
YouTube -----	15
Uniforms -----	16-17
Letterman Jackets -----	18
Honor Bands -----	19
Private Lessons -----	19
Instrument Rental -----	20-21
Instrument Supplies -----	22
Band Department Contract -----	23

A Letter from the Directors

Natchitoches Central Band Family,

Welcome to the 2024-25 marching band season! It is an honor to be leading the NCHS “Pride of the Tribe” Marching Band for a third season! I look forward to all the success and musical/personal growth the musicians will have.

The NCHS Band takes great pride in the development of strong fundamentals (in the areas of music and marching) and the development of adolescents into young adults. Throughout this school year, your students will: be challenged, perform in a variety of settings, and grow as musicians and as people.

As the Louisiana Purchase’s oldest city, Natchitoches has a strong musical culture. From the local jazz scene, the band department at Northwestern, and the rich history of the NCHS Band, our community is built around music. The band department at Natchitoches Central is experiencing rapid growth, and it is an exciting time to be a Chief!

If any parents have questions, please reach out via email at michael.thurber@npsb.la or to my cell phone at 225-369-3654. The lines of communication are always open regarding your child’s music education and professional development. It is an honor and a privilege to work with you all, and I am looking forward to a great year!

Yeah Chiefs,



Cody Thurber (Mr. T)

A Letter from the Directors

To the students, family, and community,

Welcome to the 2024-25 Natchitoches Central High School Pride of the Tribe! I am happy to continue my role as the Assistant Director of Bands at NCHS, as well as the Trial Fire Flagline coach, and I am looking forward to working with you and your students.

Never did I imagine I would be able to have music be a consistent part of my life, much less in a manner of teaching, but I am so grateful and thankful for this opportunity. Your students have made it an honor and a privilege to be a part of this program. I have high hopes for this year's program and have a feeling it will be met and exceeded.

As always, if there are any comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at my school email, emmaleigh.toney@npsb.la, or through the BAND app.

Yeah Chiefs,



Emmaleigh Toney

Band Staff

Cody Thurber - Director of Bands

Emmaleigh Toney - Associate Director of Bands / Tribal Fire Coach

Ryne Bates - Tribal Fire Assistant Coach / Choreographer

Alex Cormier - Winds Technician

Mars Heard - Drumline Technician

Student Leadership Team

Instructional Staff

Josh Garcie	Drum Major
Jolea Bull	Drum Major
Belcy Lopez	Band Captain
Jolea Bull	Flute Section Leader
Kylee Hickman	Reed Section Leader
Brydon Carter	Reed Section Leader
Sango Smith	High Brass Section Leader
Tanner Lloyd	High Brass Section Leader
Ryan Taylor	Low Brass Section Leader
Nathan Collinsworth	Low Brass Section Leader
Diederik Emmels	Drumline Captain
Melanie Roberson	Tribal Fire Flagline Co-Captain
Abbie Thompson	Tribal Fire Flagline Co-Captain

Support Staff

Belcy Lopez	Librarian
Brydon Carter	Librarian
Ryan Taylor	Equipment Manager
Zaniyah Braxton	Equipment Manager
Jenna Garcie	Uniform Manager
Cheryl Watley	Uniform Manager

Philosophy of the NCHS Band Department

It is the philosophy of the NCHS Band Department to work toward providing a well-rounded, balanced program of music education for all interested students who demonstrate the desire and proper attitude to be members of the band. Each student must be willing to share the responsibility of establishing and maintaining high standards of excellence. Further, each student must show respect for authority and cooperation with their fellow band members.

Discipline will be strict. It is vital to the success of the band that both the student and parent be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization.

NCHS Band Department Objectives

The NCHS Band forms an integral part of student life on campus and is recognized as a co-curricular activity. It is one of the largest student groups on campus and its members represent the Natchitoches community throughout Louisiana. The primary objectives of the NCHS Band Department are:

1. **Education:** To develop interested and well-trained musicians skilled in the basic fundamentals of instrumental ensemble skills.
2. **Culture:** To encourage development of musical appreciation and understanding, and teach students how to work as part of a team.
3. **Citizenship:** To develop a set of basic values in the areas of responsibility, service, and pride in the school and community.
4. **Recreation:** To provide students with an opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and an appropriate social experience.

Code of Conduct

Treat others as you wish to be treated. The Natchitoches Central Band Department has a **ZERO Tolerance Policy** for misconduct in ANY FORM. Poor behavior reflects bad on the individual, the program, and your fellow band members. Poor behavior takes away from the family culture of the NCHS Band Department, and shall be met with immediate action. Action can be suspension or expulsion from the program, along with punishment from NCHS.

Program Offerings

“Pride of the Tribe” Marching Band - The “Pride of the Tribe” Marching Band is one of the most visible organizations not just on the NCHS campus, but in all of Natchitoches Parish! The NCHS Pride of the Tribe has a strong history of success, both at the local and state level in marching band competitions. Members of the Pride consist of all woodwind, brass, percussion, and flagline students. The “Pride of the Tribe” performs at all football games, LMEA and independent marching band festivals, the Natchitoches Festival of Lights Parade, and the Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade.

“Sound of the Chiefs” Basketball Band - The “Sound of the Chiefs” Basketball Band is the newest ensemble in the NCHS Band Department. This ensemble performs at all home boys and girls varsity basketball games during the spring semester. The “Sound of the Chiefs” Basketball Band will also travel with both basketball teams to the LHSAA State Championship if the teams qualify. This ensemble tests new stand tunes, and experiments with new performance techniques.

Concert Band - The Concert Band is composed of woodwind/brass/percussion students from all grade levels and is primarily active during the spring semester. The concert band performs on stage as part of LMEA’s District II. The NCHS Concert Band performs at events such as: NCHS Veterans’ Day program, student body Christmas program, NCHS Christmas Concert, NCHS Black History Month program, LMEA District II Large Ensemble Assessment, regional concert band festivals, and our end of the year spring concert.

Beginning Band/Intro to Music - The beginning band/intro to music is an open enrollment elective course offered to students at NCHS who have little/no prior musical experience and would like to learn the basic fundamentals to music. Students will learn an array of music styles and receive clinics on many different instruments. As the school year progresses, students will choose a primary instrument and begin study in preparation for performances.

“Tribal Fire” Flagline/Winterguard - The NCHS “Tribal Fire” Flagline/Winterguard is an audition based performance group, and one of the most active organizations at Natchitoches Central. The Tribal Fire performs as part of the “Pride of the Tribe” during marching band season. In the spring semester, the Tribal Fire performs in the Louisiana and Mississippi Colorguard and Percussion Circuit (LMCGPC), competing across the state. The winterguard season cultivates with the Tribal Fire representing NCHS at the LMCGPC Championship.

United Sound - The NCHS United Sound Chapter serves as a way to include special needs students in the music education system. NCHS SPED Department students will have the option to be paired with current band members and begin the music learning process. SPED students will have the option to participate in the United Sound Ensemble and build a foundation for a lifetime of music.

After School Rehearsals

The marching band, concert band, and winterguard all rehearse after school during their respective seasons. These after school dates and times are set prior to the start of each season. After school rehearsals will usually only be canceled in an event that NPSB operations are altered by severe weather in the Natchitoches Parish region. In this scenario, the change will be communicated on the “Band App” In the scenario of superior work at a large-scale event, after school rehearsals may be canceled as a reward for students.

After School rehearsals will typically run from 3:15pm to 4:45pm, and typically take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. After school rehearsals are graded events, and are necessary for superior performance.



Marching Season Rehearsal Schedule

All times from 3:15pm to 4:45pm

AUGUST

- Thursday, August 8
- Tuesday, August 13
- Thursday, August 15
- Tuesday, August 20
- Thursday, August 22
- Tuesday, August 27
- Thursday, August 29

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday, September 3
- Thursday, September 5
- Tuesday, September 10
- Thursday, September 12
- Tuesday, September 17
- Thursday, September 19
- Tuesday, September 24
- Thursday, September 26

OCTOBER

- Tuesday, October 1
- Thursday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 15
- Thursday, October 17
- Tuesday, October 22
- Thursday, October 24
- Tuesday, October 29
- Thursday, October 31

NOVEMBER

- Wednesday, November 6
- Thursday, November 7

DECEMBER

- Tuesday, December 3
- Thursday, December 5

Attendance Policy

As with many high school extracurricular activities, participation in any aspect of the NCHS Band Department is considered co-curricular. This means that students will have required organization activities after school hours and on non-instructional days.

Most performances and rehearsals will be set prior to the start of each semester, and up to date information can be found on the “Band App”.

Excused absences include medical appointments, illness, family emergencies (including death in the family), unique homelife situations, and performance/game for other NCHS extracurricular activities. If a student is in multiple extracurricular activities at NCHS, it is the student’s responsibility to create a schedule to regularly attend after school rehearsal for all activities. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate the anticipated absence at the earliest possible time with the directors. Excused absences will receive no academic penalty.

Unexcused absences are when the student misses rehearsal for an illegitimate reason. Unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade and loss of performance position. If a student receives an unexcused absence from a performance, they are subject to failure of the course and/or dismissal from the program.

After 2 unexcused absences from rehearsal or 6 excused absences from rehearsal, the student and one guardian will be expected to meet with the directors to discuss the student’s status in the program.

Due to the performance nature of our activity, it is impossible to recreate the performance experience for a makeup grade. Directors will assign makeup work for students on a case by case basis for excused absences from performance.

The Band App

The primary line of communication in the NCHS Band Department is the “Band App”. A real time calendar, mass messaging, and paperwork links are just a few of the features provided by the Band App. All parents/guardians and students are expected to have the band app to maximize efficiency of the program. Communication is key to anything in life! Here are instructions on how to get set up with the band app.

On the Phone

1. Open the app store provided by your phone (Google Play or Apple App Store)
2. Search for “Band App”.
 - a. It will be the first option which appears. The logo is green and white.
 - b. Proceed to download the app.
3. Proceed to make an account. Follow all instructions provided in the app.
4. Email Mr. Thurber to request an invite link or invite code.
 - a. michael.thurber@npsb.la

On a Computer

1. Visit <https://band.us/en>
2. Follow the appropriate steps to create an account.
3. Email Mr. Thurber to request an invite link or invite code.
 - a. michael.thurber@npsb.la

Important information regarding the day to day operation of the program will be sent out multiple times a week to students and parents. Please do not mute notifications and make sure to check the app regularly.

NCHS Band Booster Club

The NCHS Band Booster Club serves as the official booster organization for the NCHS Band Department. Each parent/guardian of a student involved in any ensemble is eligible for membership. This organization will largely work to organize football concessions, fundraiser operation, and the general needs of the program (equipment moves, volunteering, etc).

Expenses

The Band Fee at NCHS helps to cover the cost of travel, food, equipment, music, etc... for the whole band the entire year. The band fee for 2024-25 is set at \$150. Payment for the NCHS Band will begin being collected on May 21, 2024 and can be paid in cash or check. If paying via check, please make all checks out to "NCHS Band". The band fee is mandatory, and provides a financial background for a quality music education. Band fees will be due on September 1, and will be assigned to each student's JCampus account.

Fundraising

Fundraising is vital to the operation of the NCHS Band Department, and allows us to keep the individual band fee affordable for the families of Natchitoches. We will have multiple fundraising opportunities throughout the year, and it is important to participate in these. Football concessions are our biggest fundraising opportunity, and we need a large number of parent/family volunteers in order to properly staff the concession stands.

Volunteer Credit

Parents/Guardians, you have the opportunity to have your child's band fee be lowered by aiding in a few areas concerning the success of our football season.

- Volunteer credit of \$10 shall be earned for each football game concessions event signed up for
- Volunteer credit of \$10 shall be earned for each home game trailer pull
- Volunteer credit of \$30 shall be earned for each away game/competition trailer pull

Travel Policies

All students **must** have an up to date medical form and be in good disciplinary standing to be permitted to travel. Students will ride their assigned bus to and from the performance location, and will load and unload the bus outside of the NCHS Band Hall. While on the bus, students will be respectful to any bus company employees.

Chaperone Policy

With any extracurricular activity, chaperones are an important aspect of success! Volunteers will be solicited through the “Band App”. Priority will be given to parents who are involved with volunteering on a frequent basis, though an effort will be made to allow as many chaperones as possible.

Per the Natchitoches Parish School Board policy, chaperones are not allowed to ride the bus with students, and must provide their own transportation. Chaperones are encouraged to carpool! If a chaperone does not show for an event, they will not be asked to chaperone again. The students are counting on you!

In the event of a regional national level trip, chaperones will be selected from a list of applicants. Applications will be made available once trip details are announced.



Performance Procedures

Football Games:

- An itinerary for all football game performances will be created and distributed digitally (via the band app) and physically to students in advance of the game week.
- **Home Games**
 - All home games will take place at Turpin Stadium, on the campus of NSU.
 - Students will meet at the band hall for a designated time and will collect/put on their uniforms, load instruments into the trailer, and ride the bus to Turpin Stadium.
 - At the conclusion of the game, students will load their equipment back onto the trailer, load the bus, and ride back to NCHS.
 - After arrival back at NCHS, students are to take all belongings off of the bus, and return their uniform to the Uniform Room. After their uniform has been returned, they are dismissed to go home.
- **Away Games**
 - Students are requested to stay on campus after the end of classes for an away game. Students will be given a light dinner after school dismissal, then will change into performance attire.
 - After arrival back at NCHS, students are to take all belongings off of the bus, and return their uniform to the Uniform Room. After their uniform has been returned, they are dismissed to go home.

Marching Band and Winterguard Competitions

- Report time to NCHS will vary depending on performance time slot and performance location. When these details are finalized, students will be given an itinerary ahead of time.
- Students will report to the school with enough time for a walk through rehearsal. This will allow the students a thorough physical and musical warm up, along with running through their performance for the day.
- All bus travel procedures are the same as football games.
- Following the performance, students will remain together in the stands to watch other performing groups, and the awards ceremony.
- Students may only check out to travel home with a parent or guardian if a permission slip has been submitted PRIOR TO departure for the competition, and students must leave with the adult listed on the form.
 - This check out will occur at the conclusion of the event, after the awards ceremony.

Concert Band Performances

- Most NCHS Hosted Concert Band Performances will take place at Magale Recital Hall on the campus of NSU, unless specified otherwise.
- If out of town location (LMEA, BOA, etc) , students will be given specifics as information is finalized. All bus travel procedures remain in place.

Parade Performances

- Fluid based on parade route and report location. When finalized, students and parents will receive info
- Students are responsible for their uniform, equipment will be on the trailer or with children on the bus.

Department Website

The official website of the Natchitoches Central Band Department is <https://www.ncbands.net> . Our website is used as a supplementary tool to showcase the basic elements of our program along with giving parents information as to what it means to be in a high school band.

Social Media

Natchitoches Central has transitioned to centralized accounts for all school related activities. You can keep up with the NCHS Bands at the following pages:

- Facebook
 - Friends of NCHS
 - Natchitoches Central High School
- Instagram
 - @friends_of_nchs
 - @natchitochescentral_hs

In today's digital world, it is understood that high school bands would be showcased digitally. In the professional setting, social media can be a powerful tool for good. Please keep all comments on the post clean. Any students or parents using profanity directed at anyone on a band related social media post will be met with suspension from the program.

YouTube

Select performances will be live streamed on YouTube, and select performance clips will be uploaded to YouTube. This channel is an official outlet of the NCHS Band Department, and operates with the goal of showcasing the performances of all ensembles of the NCHS Band Department

- Page Name: Natchitoches Central Band Department
 - <https://www.youtube.com/@natchitochescentralbanddep7384/featured>



Uniforms

Concert Band Performances Full Marching Band (Winds and Percussion)

- Aspects of the uniform include the following:
 - Plume, Shako, Jacket (with sash), gauntlets, gloves, bibbers, long black socks, black marching shoes.
- Students will be provided school issued material for all items except shoes and long black socks. If a student is entering their first season, they will be sized and provided with a pair of shoes. If a returning student needs new shoes, they will be required to purchase this from our supplier, Lafayette Music. Each student will receive an initial pair of gloves. If they need a replacement pair of gloves, the student will be charged the amount of the glove.
- Under the uniform, students will wear solid color athletic shorts and their NCHS Band shirt.
- The uniform is to be worn at all times unless instructed otherwise by the directors.

Full Marching Band (Flagline)

- Aspects of the uniform include the following:
 - Tunic, leggings, and black dance shoes OR
 - Jersey, black flare pants, and black dance shoes
- All parts of the uniform will be purchased through vendors, such as Varsity Cheer, Omni Cheer, and Fisher Sports. Itemized payment has distributed after clinics.

Alternate Uniform (Winds and Percussion)

- 2024 NCHS Marching Band polo shirt
- Blue Jeans
- Long Black Socks
- Athletic Shoes

Winterguard Performance Uniform

- The 2025 Winterguard Performance Uniform will be decided shortly into the marching season once the show theme is decided. Outfits and potential new flags will be purchased through payments and fundraising during the fall semester.

Concert Band

- Solid black button-up shirt OR solid black sleeved shirt
- Black slacks OR black pants (NO JEANS)
- Solid black shoes (dress shoes, flats, or heels (appropriate height))

Marching Band Rehearsals (All Members)

- Students should dress appropriate for the weather in Northwest Louisiana
- Most of the time, this will mean:
 - T-shirt
 - Shorts
 - Athletic shoes
- In situations of cold weather, students will be allowed to dress to stay warm.
- Students will be asked to adhere to school dress code policy (no crop tops or short bottoms). Tops must be full length and shorts must be the appropriate length.
- **STUDENTS SHOULD NOT WEAR THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR OUTDOOR MARCHING BAND REHEARSAL! THIS IS A HEALTH HAZARD AND WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT THEIR GRADE!**



Letterman Jackets

Students have the opportunity to earn a letter in band during their time at NCHS. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for students to earn points towards a letter. Once letter status is received, students will be eligible to purchase a letterman jacket at the next ordering period. 14 points allow lettering

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
Each year in band (high school level)	1
3 consecutive years in band (high school level)	3
All Marching Band Performances completed in a school year	2
All Concert Band Performances completed in a school year	2
All Winterguard Performances completed in a school year	2
Superior Rating at LMEA Festival	1
Superior Rating at Marching Band Festival	1
Top 3 finish in class at LMCGPC Show	2
>70 score in LMCGPC Championship	3
Membership in All State Honor Band	Automatic Lettering
Membership in any honor band	2
United Sound (full year)	1
Leadership Team	2
Collegiate music or guard event	1
Solo and small ensemble performance	0.5 (superior rating =1)
Private Lessons (per year)	1
Top 5 in class at LMCGPC Championship	Automatic Lettering

Honor Bands

Honor Bands are a fantastic way for students to work with high level instructors and perform a challenging repertoire. Often, performing in an honor band will lead to collegiate opportunities for students. There are a number of state sanctioned (LMEA) and collegiate hosted regional honor bands which take place throughout the school year. The directors will make these opportunities known to students as they become available, and assist students with the audition process.

Private Lessons

Students are encouraged to seek out private lessons to better themselves at their instrument. We are fortunate to be neighbors with Northwestern State University, a school which has many first class musicians who regularly observe at NCHS. If a student seeks to receive private instruction, reach out to a director, who will then facilitate getting an instructor for your child.



Instrument Rental



Rent-To-Own

Beginner Band Instruments

Student Flutes.....	\$40 per month
Open Hole Flutes.....	\$50 per month
Student Oboes.....	\$95 per month
Composite Clarinets	\$40 per month
Wood Clarinets.....	\$50 per month
Student Alto Saxes.....	\$65 per month
Student Tenor Saxes.....	\$95 per month
Student Trumpets.....	\$40 per month
Student Trombones.....	\$40 per month
F Attachment Trombones	\$65 per month
Student Baritones	\$65 per month
Euphoniums	\$80 per month
Snare or Bell Kits	\$35 per month
Combo Snare/Bell Kits.....	\$40 per month
Student Xylophones	\$55 per month

www.thebandhouse.com

facebook

www.facebook.com/thebandhouse



Shreveport/Bossier City
925 Westgate Lane
Bossier City, LA 71112
318-868-0522

Texarkana
3033 Kennedy Lane
Texarkana, TX 75503
903-794-4874

Sulphur Springs
121 Gilmer St.
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
903-885-0074

Wylie
1001 Alanis Dr #120
Wylie, TX 75098
972-240-0074

How Our Rent-To-Own Plan Works

Our student instruments are all high quality instruments from established manufacturers that are approved and recommended by your student's Band Director.

DOWN PAYMENT Your payment is your first month's rent. No security deposit is required.

MAINTENANCE AND THEFT Coverage for normal maintenance and theft is included in your monthly payment.

INTEREST FREE Our plan is interest free – no finance charges on your balance.

AUTOMATIC BILLING Payments are automatically billed to your credit or debit card each month.

RETURNS You may return the instrument at any time after the third month of rental – our agreement does not convert to a high interest sales contract.

EARLY PAY Pay off your instrument at any time before the final rental payment and receive a

DISCOUNT 20% discount off your remaining balance.

STEP UP INSTRUMENTS All of your rental principal payments can be applied as a credit towards a professional or intermediate level instrument any time before the final rental payment.

We proudly offer instruments from many fine manufacturers

Conn-Selmer • Yamaha • Jupiter • Schilke • Getzen • King • Blessing
Bach • Buffet • BAC • Gemeinhardt • Tomasi • Holton • Pearl • Musser
Mapex • Ludwig • Dixon • Sonor • Zildjian • Sabian

Instrument Supplies

The closest music stores to Natchitoches are:

1. The Band House
 - a. Bossier City
2. Red River Music
 - a. Alexandria
3. Nugent Music
 - a. Pineville

These shops provide a wide selection of instruments, accessories, and maintenance material. It is important to have a stable personable supply of reeds and instrument lubricant. Both of these stores can provide this. The school is able to provide a limited supply, but students should maintain a personal inventory. The stores mentioned above are also able to take online orders and ship equipment to your house.

The following websites are valuable to purchasing this equipment as well:

1. Woodwind Brasswind/Music and Arts
2. Sweetwater
3. JW Pepper
4. Band Shoppe
5. Smith Walbridge Band Products
6. Amazon

NCHS Band Contract

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read the 2024-25 NCHS Band
(Full Student Name)
 Department handbook with a parent/guardian, and have taken note of the standards for being a member of the Natchitoches Central Band program. I will honor my commitment to the program by fulfilling my performance and rehearsal obligations, upholding the cultural and performance standard, and being a team player. If I fail to uphold the expectations, my membership in the NCHS Band may be terminated for cause.

 Print Full Student Name

 Student Signature

 Print Full Parent/Guardian Name

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date

 Cody Thurber - Director of Bands

 Emmaleigh Toney - Assistant Director/
 Flagline Coach