

North Oconee High School



TITAN REGIMENT

BAND HANDBOOK **2026 – 2027**

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North Oconee High School Band
1081 Rocky Branch Road
Bogart, GA 30622
(706) 769-7760 ex. 7401
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www.nohsband.com

Dear Band Parents and Students:

Welcome to another exciting year with the North Oconee High School band program! Our goals this year are to be successful in everything we do, to represent our band and our school in a positive way, and to have fun. We will strive to have a great marching season and a great concert season. I believe communication is a big key to our success, so if you have questions about anything, please feel free to ask. You will be receiving communication from me throughout the year. I will also send home information with students and post information on the band website. I will make sure you have all rehearsal and performance schedules well in advance.

I want to welcome our new members this year. You are the future of our band program. Work hard to learn the traditions of the band and to find your place in our group. You will find the band is a family and there is a place for everyone. For the new parents, we hope you will find a way to be involved. There are many ways to volunteer. Getting involved and coming to performances is the best way to get the most out of your child's band experience.

Please take time to read this handbook thoroughly. While it is impossible to address every situation that may arise, you will find the answers to most questions you may have about the North Oconee High School Band. Please call or email if you have any questions. I am honored to serve as the band director at North Oconee, and I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith
Band Director
jsmith@oconeeschools.org

PITPIE

Pain is temporary.....Pride is everlasting

Objectives

- Excel as a successful and comprehensive high school band program
- Increase participation in marching, concert, & jazz band
- Establish and maintain a Superior standard in all performing groups
- Become more proficient on band instruments and further our musical education
- Become more responsible and develop life skills that will allow students to give back to the school and community
- Show pride in accomplishment through band activities and individual awards
- Keep the community aware of the importance of music through programs, concerts, and community involvement
- Involve students, parents, faculty, staff, and the community in our band program, and encourage a partnership that will help further the goals of the band

General Rules and Regulations

- Respect everyone and everything.
- Be on time.
- Give your best effort at all times.
- Students should bring all materials to rehearsals and performances including Instruments, music, uniforms, a pencil, and any other equipment needed for each class, rehearsal, or performance.
- Make sure your name is on your instrument case. Luggage tags are great for this!
- Running, pushing, shoving or any other horseplay is not allowed in the band room.
- Students should show respect at all times and behave in a manner which is representative of NOHS - this includes behavior towards teachers, staff, parents, and other students. Profanity or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
- There should be no talking during rehearsals unless it is productive at that moment.
- The rules set forth in the NOHS student handbook will always apply. This includes trips, and all other before and after school activities.
- All federal, state, and local laws will apply at all times. This especially applies to use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and weapons. Any violations will be subject to expulsion from the program as well as referral to the proper authorities.
- The band room is our home. We should be proud of our facilities and take good care of them. The band room deserves respect and attention to its upkeep. Everyone is expected to always keep the room in good condition.

Violation of any of these rules may result in a verbal warning, a student conference, a parent conference, a conference with the principal and/or suspension from the program.

Class Expectations

- 1) All students are to be in class when the bell rings.
- 2) Move quickly to get set up and be ready for class to begin.
- 3) All band members should warm-up (including percussionists). A good warm-up routine consists of:
 - BRASS: Mouthpiece buzzing, long tones in the middle register, lip slurs, and scale practice.
 - WW: Long tones in middle register, octave/register change exercises, lyrical exercises, and scale practice.
 - PERC: Proper warm will be discussed in class. This will depend on the time of year and what we are working on at that time.
- 4) Maintain focus during class.
- 5) If you have a question during class, raise your hand.
- 6) Do not get up from your seat without permission. You need to ask to leave the room for any reason.
- 7) Playing out of turn is not allowed. When we play, we play as a group. There will be times for individual practice.
- 8) The music library is off limits to everyone except librarians or authorized personnel. Music needs should be directed to a librarian, officer, or the director.
- 9) All storage/practice rooms are off limits unless you are given permission by the director.
- 10) All instruments are either owned by students or property of the Oconee County School System. Under no circumstances is any student to handle any instrument that does not belong to them (or checked out to them). If a student forgets to bring their instrument to school, notify the band director prior to the beginning of the class. DO NOT use another student's instrument. Be sure you bring your instrument each day.
- 11) Food and drinks are not allowed during class. Water bottles are ok.
- 12) Gum is not permitted during class, especially while playing your instrument. This is harmful to your instrument and poses a choking hazard. Don't chew gum!
- 13) Cell Phones should be silenced or turned off and PUT AWAY during class. This means in your bag, purse, or pocket. Cell phones should not be used during class.
- 14) Doors will be locked during class. If you need to use the restroom during class, you will exit out the hallway doors and come back to the back glass door. We will let you back in when you return.
- 15) At the end of class, put all folders away, put instruments away and close cases completely, and pick up any trash you may have left in your area of the band room. DO NOT leave instrument cases on the floor.

Attendance Policy

- Attendance for all events is mandatory. Do not schedule appointments during scheduled band events. Absence from band events should not be used as a punishment. Absences can be excused by the band director. Each absence will be addressed on an individual basis.
- The director must be notified in advance by a parent or guardian via email with a valid excuse if a student will need to miss a PERFORMANCE.
- The director must be notified in advance by a parent or guardian via email with a valid excuse if a student will need to miss a MARCHING REHEARSAL OR CONCERT BAND REHEARSAL.
- In the event a student is sick, please notify the band director as soon as possible. We prefer to always be notified before an event, even if a student is out of school. Illness will be excused with a parent email.
- Absences will be excused for illness/emergency reasons only. Any other conflicts must be discussed with the band director before the absence occurs. Any absence due to a scheduled conflict which is not cleared with the director first will be treated as an unexcused absence.
- Any unexcused absence from rehearsal may constitute suspension from the next performance. **This means that a student will attend the event but not perform with the band.**
- Any unexcused absence from a performance may constitute suspension from the band program.

Marching Band Expectations

All school rules are in effect at all marching band activities. This includes rehearsals, performances, travel, and band camp. In order to maintain good standing in the marching band, students must follow the attendance policy, be respectful to the director, staff, student leaders, and all student members. If any problem arises, students are expected to refer the problem to the appropriate student leader or adult. If any of these expectations are not met, the result could be extra work, loss of 3rd quarter break, suspension, or expulsion from the marching band. Please refer to the list below.

1. Respect Everyone and Everything
2. Give your best effort
3. Be on time
4. No talking during rehearsal
5. Don't move or talk while at attention
6. Always have your drill cards at practice. Officers should always have drill charts.
7. Always use appropriate language
8. No Gum at practice
9. Always wear appropriate shoes and clothes for practice.

Band Uniform

- The school will provide a uniform consisting of a jacket, garment bag, shako (with box), duffel bag (with base insert), gauntlets, black gloves, and plume (handed out at performances).

- Bibbers will be owned by students. These will be ordered at band camp.
- Never cut any fabric on a uniform. **If cutting does occur, you will be responsible for paying for that uniform**
- Pants should be adjusted so that the pants hit at the halfway point of the back of the shoe. Pants that are too long will not look right on the field.
- Do not wear the uniform over jeans, coats, or other outer garments. You may wear shorts or thermal underwear beneath the uniform. You must wear your black band shirt under the jacket.
- Please know your jacket and shako numbers. **Do not switch uniform parts with anyone.**
- Each student is responsible for ordering one pair of black marching shoes. We will order these during band camp. You must also provide your own black socks.
- Extra gloves can be bought during the season for \$2 per pair.
- Store your uniform on the hanger and in the garment bag. During warm weather, uniforms should be aired and dried on their hangers after each wearing.
- If the uniform gets wet, hang parts separately in a well-ventilated area. Have them dry cleaned quickly.
- No excessive make-up or jewelry is to be worn with the uniform. (Stud or small hoop earrings only)
- Hair that reaches the uniform collar must be pinned up for marching band performances.
- Uniforms will be dry cleaned at designated times and before they are collected at the end of the season. You may choose to dry clean your uniform more often than required. Make sure never to wash a uniform.
- Do not mark any issued items in a permanent fashion. When putting your name on anything, it must be able to be removed before the items are returned at the end of the season.
- All members will be issued a tote bag. This is part of the uniform and should be brought to all performances. These are numbered and should have a name tag on them for identification.

Band Officers

These students are to be treated with due respect for the dedication they give to the success of the NOHS Band. These duties continue throughout the entire school year.

Drum Major

A student must be a playing member of the band. The drum major(s) will be selected by a competitive tryout before a judge or panel of judges in the spring of each year. The Drum majors are the field conductors of the marching band and are responsible, after the director, for field rehearsals and performances. Also, the drum majors are in charge of discipline and morale among the band members. Other administrative tasks may be assigned as necessary. A band member chosen for drum major should be an excellent musician, dedicated band member, highly moral individual, and an outstanding leader.

Captain (Band, Flag line, and Drum line)

The captains are responsible for morale and discipline in the band and perform administrative duties as required by the director. The captains serve as the chief inspection officers before performances. In this role, he/she assists and guides section leaders in the inspection of instruments, equipment, uniforms, and accessories and report to the director. The captains should be excellent performers, dedicated members, highly moral individuals, and outstanding leaders.

Lieutenants and Section Leaders

Section leaders do not necessarily have to be the principal player in their respective sections. Section leaders are responsible for the musical performance and attitude of their sections. They will see that each member knows his or her part after having demonstrated their own knowledge to the director. Also, section leaders are responsible for inspection and music distribution in their sections. Section leaders should be among the best examples of our dedicated band members. Lieutenants and section leaders will assist the captains and could be in charge in their absence.

Librarians

Librarians are responsible for all music and drill cards. They will assist with the distribution, collection, and organization of music throughout the year. The librarians will report to the head librarian and the director.

Band Travel

The North Oconee Band travels to away football games, contests, and various other band events. Always be on time. All band and school rules apply when we travel. All students must ride the bus to and from band events. If a student needs to leave a game or contest with a parent and will not ride the bus home, they must bring a signed note prior to departure. (This is only acceptable at the end of an event; students will not be allowed to leave early unless there is an emergency) These students must check out with a chaperone or director before they leave. All students must be accounted for before we can depart; this is for the safety of all students. Chaperones will be on each bus when we travel, and students must respect their authority. Make sure your parents/guardians know when to pick you up after a game.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at the beginning of marching season for students to sign up for which bus they will ride. You must ride your assigned bus to and from all band events.

BUSES

- All band members must ride the bus to all functions.
- Be sure you are wearing your uniform correctly when you arrive.
- Be sure to have all equipment with you. Be sure we have all percussion and flag equipment before we leave. Be sure you have your instrument before we leave. *It is each individual member's responsibility to load and unload his or her instrument, equipment, and case. Do not expect anyone else to do your job for you. This includes when we leave, at the destination, and when we return.*
- We will load by seniority. Put your equipment on the trailer when you arrive. Keep small instruments (flutes/clarinets) with you. *Do not put anything on the bus before you are instructed to do so.*
- Give the chaperones and bus drivers your utmost respect. If you have a problem, see Mr. Smith! Do not handle it yourself, this only causes more problems.
- Remain seated on the bus at all times. Keep your voice down. Requests for quiet (railroad crossing, congested areas) by the bus driver or chaperones must be obeyed. Please wear headphones while listening to music as to not disturb others. You are responsible for your own property. *Do not bring any valuables on the bus.*
- It is recommended that the members not carry purses and/or large sums of money.
- Be sure to be on the bus at the assigned time. In many cases, time is short and we must hurry to maintain our schedule. Roll call and complete accounting of everyone must occur each time that any loading or unloading occurs.
- Appropriate behavior is important. Observe the following guidelines:
 - Conversation should be in normal tones (inside voices) – no yelling or screaming.
 - Never throw anything from the bus.
 - Pick up your trash.
 - Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the bus.
 - Do not attempt to communicate in any way with strangers outside the bus.
 - There is to be no use of profanity, cruel or questionable jokes, or disrespect.

- Cheering after the game should be in good taste. Cheering must stop at the request of the driver or chaperones.
- Students may ride home with parents or legal guardians **ONLY** with prior written permission. (email is acceptable)
 - Your parent must pick you up at the bus or stands. You must check out with a chaperone or the director.
 - You are still responsible for your equipment. Make sure it is taken care of back in the bandroom.
- When we arrive back to the bandroom, we must clean up the buses, and you are responsible for making sure all of your equipment is back in its correct spot before you leave. Be sure your parents know when we are returning so that you can be picked up promptly.

GAMES (Home and Away)

- Home: We will line up in the bus lane after inspection to march in. Away: We will unload the equipment when we arrive at the stadium. Remain on the bus until you are called to unload. We must line-up quickly and enter the stadium.
- We will march-in with instruments in cases.
- You are present at a football game to do a job. Your job is to contribute to the atmosphere and spirit of the North Oconee High crowd by playing, stand dances (flags), cheering with the cheerleaders, and showing class in order to add to the pride that our crowd has at North Oconee.
- Always remain in your assigned seat during the game. Non-band personnel are not allowed in the band's area at any time.
- Absolutely no food, gum, or soda is to be consumed in the band area during the game. (on break is ok). Always bring water.
- Please see a chaperone if a restroom trip is needed.
- No extra playing is permitted in the stands. When the band plays, we all play. All members should stand when we play. Flag dancing and cheers are to be organized. Pay attention and be ready to play on short notice.
- We will leave to warm-up for half-time during the 2nd quarter. We must warm up quickly and move to our places at the start of halftime. (This depends on whether we are playing first or second) For Away games, after the performance, move straight off the field, sit quietly and watch the other band. Give them your utmost respect and applaud appropriately. When they have finished performing, we will walk back to the stands.
- You will be dismissed for third quarter break. This is your time to get a snack and use the restroom. *EVERYONE must be back in their seat with 1-minute left on the third quarter clock.*
- After the game we will load equipment and buses as quickly as possible to get on the road to come home. We cannot leave until we have accounted for all students. For home games, we will line up on the track and march back to the band room.

Concert Band

Both ladies and gentlemen will wear solid black concert attire. Gentlemen will wear a solid black, long or short-sleeved dress shirt, black dress pants, and black dress shoes and socks. Ladies can wear a long black dress, or black pants and a top. Black Leggings should be worn. Make sure all clothing choices are "formal" and are appropriate.

All students are expected to attend **every** rehearsal scheduled. These include Holiday concert rehearsals and spring concert rehearsals.

All students are expected to attend **every** performance scheduled. The performances include the Holiday concert, LGPE concert, spring concert, and any function in which the band performs.

Honor Bands Participation

Students have the option to participate in district honor band and all state band.

District/All-State requirements: 1st round auditions– Scales on the GMEA scale sheet for your grade level and instrument, chromatic scale (full range), the lyrical etude, and 1 sight reading. For the 2nd audition – lyrical and technical etudes and 2 sight readings. Percussion will audition on snare, mallets, and timpani – see Mr. Smith for further details. Signups will take place at the beginning of the year. A fee is required.

Instrument Quality

It is a great investment to purchase a professional or semi-professional instrument. It can be tough to be successful in high school on all the same equipment you had when you started in 6th grade. A new instrument, mouthpiece, reeds, etc. can make a big difference in your playing. Please, for your protection, do not purchase an instrument or other new equipment without consulting the director. We can help you avoid costly mistakes. Please see Mr. Smith for more details.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are encouraged for all students regardless of playing ability. The way to become proficient on an instrument is to study with a good private teacher. Students interested in participating in All-State Band or obtaining music scholarships must understand the serious disadvantage they have if they are not studying privately. Students interested in studying privately should consult the director for more information. We have some great lesson teachers in our area.

Band Letters

To be eligible to receive a band letter or service bar, a student must meet all requirements set for by the director for the year. Letters are earned after a full year in the Titan Regiment, including flagline. Letter jackets will be ordered in August for those students that meet these criteria.

School Owned Instruments

If you play a school owned instrument, you are responsible for maintaining it in good condition, including any repairs, cleaning, and inspections.

College Scholarships

Colleges often offer music scholarships to students, both music majors and non-music majors. Auditions generally are held on college campuses beginning in January. Audition requirements usually include scales, sight reading, and two prepared etudes in contrasting styles. In addition, colleges examine the applicant's record of achievement: District Band, Solo & Ensemble, and All-State Band. For more information on scholarships, see Mr. Smith.

Band Boosters

No organization can be successful without extensive parental involvement. Parents, YOU are a vital part of our success in the NOHS Band. The band boosters provide financial support, manpower, and moral support to the band. We have various committees you can be involved with and there are a lot of ways you can help. Your help is needed and welcome! We require parents to volunteer at least 3 times during the season. You can volunteer through signup genius. See the band website or reach out to a band booster officer for more information.

Financial Responsibility

As a Co-curricular activity, the majority of the budget for the marching band must be provided by the band itself. Each student will be assessed a marching band fee. This fee helps to cover band shirts, uniforms, new instrument and equipment purchases, auxiliary equipment, music, instructors, band camp expenses, awards, 8th grade night, clinic/festival/competition fees, maintenance of school instruments, and various other expenses related to the band.

The marching band fees are as follows:

\$400 musicians, \$450 for returning flagline members, and \$650 for new flagline members.

Other financial responsibilities may include uniform costs (shoes & bibbers) and clinic fees and costs (honor bands, solo & ensemble, etc.) and band trips. We will also participate in fundraisers throughout the year.

Fundraisers: Fundraisers include the home and visitor concession stands at all football games, the friend's campaign, and other various fundraisers.

Grading Policies

Evaluation is an important part of the band curriculum. Grades are given at the end of each semester. Band grades will be based on the following categories.

1. ***PARTICIPATION (40%)*** - Students are expected to participate fully in all band classes. Students must bring pencils, music, instruments, and accessories to class each day. Students will be given a participation grade each week.
2. ***PERFORMANCES/ASSESMENTS (60%)*** - Each performance counts as a major test grade. Unexcused absences are not permissible. In the event of an excused absence, an alternate assignment may be given. To skip a performance will result in a zero. Playing assessments will be given periodically to track student progress on their instrument. Any written assessment will also fall in this category.

Contact Us

Band Director – Scott Smith
Office: 706-769-7760 Ex. 7401
E-mail: jsmith@oconeeschools.org

BAND MAILING ADDRESS:

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Web page address: www.nohsband.com

Band Staff

Scott Smith-Director
Wes York- Malcom Bridge Middle School Director
Kyle Bickwit- Dove Creek Middle School Director
Susan Smith-Flag Line Instructor
Emily Rush - Flag Line Instructor

Lauren Suggs- Flag Line Instructor
Josh Luke-Marching Instructor
Miles Bell -Percussion Instructor
Sam Bragg-Percussion Instructor

Band Officers

Lane Ardoin-Drum major
Kate Morgan -Drum Major
Ashton York-Band Captain
Kate DeBoer-Flute Section Leader
Lola Andros- Flute Section Leader
Emma Lemyre-Clarinet Section Leader
Mahum Bashir- Clarinet Section Leader
Holton LeMons-Saxophone Section Leader
Landon Long-Mellophone Section Leader
Pavlos Bourlai-Trumpet Section Leader
Izzy Pippin- Trumpet Section Leader
Corey Bowker-Trumpet Section Leader
Sawyer McGourik- Trombone Section Leader

Ethan Henry- Trombone Section Leader
Ben Blanchard-Tuba Section Leader
Noah Hart-Tuba Section Leader
William Howeth- Baritone Section Leader
Mollie Bell- Head Librarian
Amelia Metcalf- Percussion Captain
Thomas Dickinson- Drumline Lieutenant
Zach Mark- Front Ensemble Section Leader
Sarah Maddox-Flag Line Captain
Julia Sauer- Flag Line Captain

Band Booster Officers

Ashley Hart, President
Pamela Crabtree and Sue Shah, 1st VPs (Band Camp and Jazz Dessert)
Kelly Ardoin, Maria Paulk, & Darla Gamache, 2nd VPs (Uniforms and band banquet)
Casey LeMons, Julie Bowker, and Jenifer Baxley, 3rd VPs (Concessions)
Beth Dickinson and Jim Metcalf, Technology and PR
Nina Kennedy, Sabrina Bridwell, & Emily Henry, Treasurers
Lindsay Long and Deanna Cozart, Parent Volunteer Coordinators