

NORTH FORNEY HIGH SCHOOL PRIDE OF FALCON NATION BAND

Policies & Procedures

2026-2027



Directors

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PREFACE

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Pride of Falcon Nation Band! As a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band, you are committing yourself to a music program that is dedicated to maintaining traditions of outstanding musicianship and school pride! Over the past several years, the Pride of Falcon Nation Band has accumulated countless awards in all areas of the music program from marching band and concert band to, percussion and color guard. We have been recognized as an organization dedicated to presenting high-quality musical and visual programs. The continued success of the North Forney Band will depend on the loyalty, cooperation, and dedication of each and every member.

The band program's main focus is to provide a **comprehensive music education** for all students. It is our goal to equip tomorrow's musical consumers with the tools they need to enjoy a lifetime of music no matter their ultimate career choice. Although we understand that not everyone will make music their profession, we do expect every student to establish goals for improvement, to always act responsibly and to always give their best effort for the good of the organization.

We are excited to be entering another year and are grateful to all former band members and their families for the wonderful organization they helped to create! By accepting membership in the North Forney Band, students agree to do their part to keep the tradition of excellence alive, take ownership in the band and always be a proud and contributing member!

This handbook contains important information and guidelines, which will hopefully assist you throughout the year. Please keep it handy, as you will likely refer to it often. If you have questions or need assistance, the band directors are here for you!

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We look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence with you and your family!

Sincerely,

The Pride of Falcon Nation Band Staff

CONDUCT

Band members will observe all policies set forth by the Forney Independent School District at all times, in addition to the following (as they pertain to the instrumental setting):

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, PDA, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated.
2. Students will follow any director's or chaperone's instructions at all times.
3. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the designated rehearsal start time.
4. Students will bring equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily.
5. Students will not bring food, drinks, candy or gum in the band hall. Water in a sealed container is acceptable.
6. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use.
7. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
8. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising your hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so that our time will be utilized efficiently.
9. When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
10. Band facilities including (but not limited to) Practice Rooms, Ensemble Rooms, Storage Rooms, Music Library, etc. are considered off-limits unless student has received permission from a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band staff to utilize the facilities.
11. Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use.
12. Students will not enter any directors' offices without permission.
13. Students should knock and wait to be acknowledged before entering an office.
14. Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, doors, equipment, etc.
15. Students should keep their equipment in the designated locker, and keep their storage area "clean and neat" in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
16. Students will utilize a provided storage slot for instrument cases during rehearsals.
17. **Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events. Students are expected to comply with the FISD Student Code of Conduct at all times.**

Social Media Enforceable Guidelines

DO:

- **Be supportive Online and Represent The Pride of Falcon Nation Band and other school activities with PRIDE**
 - Use your platform to build others up. Celebrate band achievements, encourage bandmates, and show school spirit.
 - Always remember that you are a public representative of the band, school, and community. Content shared should reflect the positive values of sportsmanship, school pride, and leadership.
- **Keep it Clean**
 - No profanity, suggestive or inappropriate content, as determined by the directors in photos, videos, captions, posts, stories, Overcomments, or other online activity. Avoid clothing or situations that may be deemed improper or unfit while in or out of uniform.
- **Think Before you Post/Share/Like/Comment**
 - Your digital footprint is permanent-even if deleted, screenshots last. Before creating or connecting yourself to digital content, ask yourself, "Would I be okay with my director, principal, and parents seeing this?"
- **Follow School and District Policies**
 - Abide by all social media policies set by the school district.
 - The official band accounts should only be used for band-related content and updates.

Don't:

- **Promote inappropriate Content**
 - Do not post, like, share, or cause to be published or distributed anything that could be considered offensive, disrespectful, inappropriate, or a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
 - Avoid posting negative comments about bandmates, other teams, school staff, or students.
- **Misrepresent the Organization**
 - If you choose to identify yourself as a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band, remember that you represent your program in your social media presence and your decisions should reflect that representation as well.
 - If you are wearing your uniform (including practice wear or spirit wear), your conduct must reflect the highest standards. There should be no photos in uniform that could be viewed as offensive, disrespectful, or inappropriate.
- **No Cyberbullying**
 - Harassment and bullying through any medium, or platform are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.
- **Overshare**
 - Never share information about band matters such as injuries, internal issues, discipline matters, or other similar information.

Violations of or misalignments with these social media guidelines will be handled in accordance with the discipline outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and/or this Handbook, which could include assignment of demerits, a growth plan, probation, suspension, removal or other consequences as deemed appropriate at the discretion of the student's director.

Behavior Contracts

When a student exhibits either a pattern of unsatisfactory conduct, or an egregious infraction of the conduct policy, they may be placed on a Behavior Contract at the discretion of the band staff. The terms of the contract will be dictated to meet the needs of the situation. Students who meet the terms of the contract will remain a member of the band in good standing. Students who fail to meet the terms will meet further consequences up to and including dismissal from the band program.

Probationary Membership Agreements

Students who fail to meet the terms of a behavior contract, or commit a serious behavior offense will be placed on Probation Membership status. The terms of the probation will be dictated to meet the needs of the situation. **Failure to meet the terms of the agreement will result in removal from the band program.** Students removed from the band program will not be allowed to rejoin in subsequent academic years.

Cell Phone Policy

Students will not use their cell phones during rehearsal or performances (including football games.) unless instructed by a director to use tonal energy or UDB. We will trust our students to make responsible choices in regards to their personal cell phone usage. Students who cannot make responsible choices with their cell phone usage will be required to place their phone in the possession of a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band staff for the remainder of the rehearsal or performance. Cell phones will be returned at the discretion of the director in adherence to district policy.

EXTRA REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

In addition to regular rehearsals during school time, each member is required to attend additional rehearsals each week. These are required rehearsals and will be announced in a timely manner. The same absentee rules that apply to regular rehearsals apply to sectionals. The day and time of sectionals are varied according to which section the student is in. All outside of school day rehearsals and sectionals are a graded component of the course.

PERFORMANCES

All band members are required to participate in ALL performances. Performances are a significant portion of your student's 9 weeks grade. Please keep track of the calendar that you receive at registration as well as the calendar on the band website. These performances include all football games and marching competitions, as well as concerts and festivals. Missing a performance may result in a failing grade for the nine weeks and could possibly jeopardize the member's chance for going to contests and on trips with the band. Repeated absences from performances will result in removal from the band.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following situations constitute an excused absence:

1. Illness--Requires a note from parent, **email preferred**.
2. Death in the family--Requires a note from parent, **email preferred**.
3. Extreme family emergency--Requires a note or phone call from parent, **email preferred**.
4. Emergency doctor appointment--Requires note or call from parent, email preferred. **Please schedule all doctor's appointments around rehearsals and performances.**
5. Any other circumstances that would be considered to be excused according to the Forney I.S.D. attendance policy.
6. **PLEASE MARK ALL BAND REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES ON YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR TO AVOID ANY CONFLICTS.** During Marching Season, it is recommended that you schedule appointments around the marching band performance and rehearsal schedule.

Note: All absences require a note. Absences not covered by the above-mentioned circumstances will be excused at the sole discretion of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band Staff. Alternate assignments will be given for excused absences from performances, or other graded components of your student's band class.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences from **rehearsal** will result in consequences up to and including:

- Lowered grade in your band class.
- Exclusion from performances (football games, marching contests, concerts, etc.)
- 3) Removal from the marching show.
- Placement in a lower concert ensemble.

Unexcused absences from **performances** will result in consequences up to and including:

- Lowered grade in your band class.
- Exclusion from consideration for student leadership, advanced ensembles, etc.
- Removal from the marching show.
- Removal from the Pride of Falcon Nation Band Program.

TARDIES

Members should arrive no later than 15 minutes before the designated time for before and after school rehearsals. Get there in time to get your instrument, music, stands, etc. and get in your seat, ready to play at the appointed time. Keep the following items in mind concerning tardies:

1. Anyone who arrives later than the scheduled time and is not in their assigned place is tardy.
2. Anyone arriving more than 20 minutes late will have their tardy treated as an unexcused absence.

****TUTORING AND WORK SCHEDULES DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.****

ASSESSMENTS

Grading Policy & Eligibility

The Pride of Falcon Nation Band Program will grade students based on their consistent contribution to the organization, and measurable progress toward individual and organizational goals. In determining your band grade, the following areas will be considered:

- Demonstration of proficiency on required music (band music, etudes, fundamental exercises, etc)
- Written assignments
- Attendance at rehearsals and performances.
- Responsibility for individual musical part and equipment.

Formative Assessments (Minor Grades)

Formative Assessments are graded components of your students' band course that measure student progress toward group and individual goals or can be utilized to measure a student's contribution to the organization's efforts. Examples would include:

- Attendance at Rehearsal Activities
- Reporting to Rehearsals with All Necessary Supplies
- Individual and Small Group Performance Assessments
- Music Theory or Instrumental Pedagogy Assessments

Summative Assessments (Major Grades)

Summative assessments will be performance based assessments and must be performed for a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band Staff. Examples would include:

- Attendance at performance activities.
- Pass-Off Assignments of Required Performance Literature
- Skill Based Performance Assessments

Makeup/Retake Policy

Students will have the opportunity to repeat their summative assessments according to FISD grading policy. Assessments utilized for ensemble placement, part assignments, chair orders etc. may be repeated for an improved grade, however subsequent attempts will not be considered for such placements. Any student missing an assessment will complete the assessment upon their return. Absences from performance activities must be made up by completing an alternate assignment. Alternate assignments for absences will be accepted for a maximum grade of a 70.

SCHOOL-OWNED/ISSUED INSTRUMENTS

The Forney Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the Bassoon, Oboe, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and general Percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. **Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care.** Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

- The Forney Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. It is required of all students utilizing school owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the said instrument. **Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance needed not caused by normal use.**
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned by a music company prior to issue.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- A district wide Instrument Usage Fee is required of every student using a school owned instrument. The fee is \$50 per instrument (\$100 for marching and concert instrument combined.)

Special Note

School owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most school owned instruments exceed a \$2,000.00 value. Students on a school owned instrument may be asked to switch to another school owned instrument to help with overall band instrumentation. **Since the expense of purchasing, leasing or renting is waived, students using school owned instruments are strongly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program.**

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES (CONCERT SEASON)

Students in the Pride of Falcon Nation Band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition. Auditions will take place prior to the beginning of EACH new semester. In addition to performing audition material, factors that will affect ensemble placement could include (but are not limited to): Attendance Issues, Behavioral Issues, Failure to meet course objectives, and Academic Eligibility Issues.

Wind Ensemble - Director Mr. Gist

- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with tests assigned periodically throughout the first semester
- Audition for All-Region Band
- Performance of a Class I Solo and Class I Ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school

Wind Symphony - Director Mr. Jocoy

- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with tests assigned periodically throughout the first semester
- Audition for All-Region Band
- Performance of a Class I Solo and Class I Ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school

Symphonic Band - Director Mr. Tucker

- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with tests assigned periodically throughout the first semester
- Audition for All-Region Band
- Remedial instruction on new instrument, or continuous study
- Performance at Solo and Ensemble
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school

Concert Band - Director Mr. Jocoy

- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with tests assigned periodically throughout the first semester
- Audition for All-Region Band
- Remedial instruction on new instrument, or continuous study
- Performance at Solo and Ensemble
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school

Color Guard - Director Mr. McMurray

- Development of individual basics including flag, rifle and saber skills
- Development of basic movement skills, including basic dance
- Development of ensemble skills including timing of flags and body movement
- Performance of competition choreography by memory
- Participation in all marching band activities in the fall semester and winter guard activities in the spring semester
- Students who are currently members of the band must remain a member of the band in order to participate in Color Guard

Percussion Ensembles - Director Mr. Crouch

- Development of Percussion specific technique and performance concepts.
- Preparation of TMEA All-Region Audition Materials
- Preparation for Solo and Ensemble
- Preparation and performance of Indoor events.
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school

General Marching Band Procedures

Marching Band Positions

Varsity Performers

Students who earn a position in the contest drill will carry the designation of varsity performer. A primary performer is a student who:

- Successfully completes the memorization requirement for music by the appropriate time.
- Demonstrates high quality marching skills.
- Is punctual in report times.
- Is present at all rehearsals and performances.
- Maintains academic eligibility.

Primary performers will be assigned positions in the competition show drill. Should a primary performer sustain an injury, lose eligibility, or fail to fulfill their obligations to the Pride of Falcon Nation Band, the band staff reserves the right to replace any primary performer with an acceptable member of the J.V. Performer roster.

J.V. Performers

Less experienced students who are not ready to perform to the level required of a varsity performer will be designated as a J.V. Performer. J.V. performers serve a vital role in the marching band. Responsibilities Include:

- Participation in all fundamentals of movement
- Demonstrate increased proficiency in marching technique over the course of the season.
- Learning an assigned drill position as an alternate performer.
- Visual logistical support during competition show performances.

Students who demonstrate difficulty in maintaining academic eligibility over the course of the previous school year may be designated as an J.V. performer for the following marching season.

Marching Band Music Pass-offs

Each student will be responsible for demonstrating proficiency on all required musical material by performing memorized pass-offs on marching band music. Pass-offs will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis, and students will be expected to make multiple attempts in order to demonstrate proficiency with the goal being 100% success rate for the Pride of Falcon Nation Band. Pass-Offs will be performed live during class, before and after school, and any other time designated by the Pride of Falcon Band staff. Students will be notified well in advance of Pass-Off due dates. Students who fail to meet their pass-off requirements will not be allowed to perform on the field. Students designated as primary performers who fail to meet pass-off requirements will be replaced with a J.V. performer at the discretion of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band staff.

Marching Band Rehearsal Procedures

General Rules

- **Always be prepared with all equipment, music, sunglasses and/or a hat.**
- Students should arrive at the designated call time, and be prepared for the rehearsal to begin at the designated start time.
- **Once rehearsal begins, absolutely no talking is allowed on the field unless you are a staff member, drum major, or section leader. Corrections and instructions will come from the tower first and then from the field technicians. If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged.**
- Everyone will be expected to count vocally at all times.
- “Stand By” is the position we use to receive instructional information.
- Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. **DRINK WATER!!!** Water breaks will be given according to FISD athletic guidelines.
- Respect everyone on the marching band field; we’re all working toward the same goal!
- Students must have his/her phone charged and updated with the most recent UDP files
- Meet music memorization deadlines. **IF YOU MISS THE DEADLINE, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MARCH WITH A MOUTHPIECE ON YOUR INSTRUMENT.**

Learning Drill

- When establishing and checking sets, it is important to freeze and allow instructors to check sets both at the beginning and end of each segment. For a segment run, the procedure is as follows:
- **Beginning/Ending** – unless otherwise directed, you will begin with your feet apart in the last count of the previous set, or “minus one”. You will end movement of a particular set with your feet in the first count of the next set, or “plus one”. This will ensure a proper check of the change of direction technique into and out of a particular set.
- **Correcting the form:** You will hold the “plus one” position until the director says “Check”. “Check” means to relax your upper body and look and your feet position. “Adjust” means to move your body quickly into position or on your “dot”. This process should take no more than five seconds.
- **Instructions:** once on your dot, make small adjustments to form. After the set is checked and/or set up, you will stand at “stand-by” and wait for remaining instructions.
- **Playing Position:** Upper bodies will be at the “focal point” when horns are in the playing position. Your upper body facings will change dependent upon your position on the field.
- **Set Position:** upper bodies will be flat to the front when horns are in the “horns down” position. These are the standard positions unless otherwise instructed by a director.
- **Rehearsal Mindset vs. Performance Mindset:** It is VITAL that we establish these procedures as the daily norm whether in rehearsal or performance. Avoid being lax in practice then attempt to “really focus” when it is time to perform...PRACTICE AS YOU PERFORM. Establishing proper habits during rehearsal will translate to more consistency during performances. It is extremely rare to perform at a higher level than you practice.

Discipline

Participation in the Pride of Falcon Nation Band is considered a privilege, not a right. With that in mind, DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. If you choose to disrupt a rehearsal with unacceptable behavior including talking, unnecessary movement, disturbing others, the following consequences will follow:

1st Offense: Verbal warning from Section Leader, Drum Major, or other staff member.

2nd Offense: student conference with a director.

3rd Offense: sit out of rehearsal on the front sideline and will not return until after the parent conference.

The NFHS Band enforces all student codes of conduct represented in the NFHS student body handbook. Violating any school code of conduct can result in dismissal from the band program without question. Persistent disruptive behavior may result in being assigned as a J.V. Performer or in severe cases, removal from the band program.

Rehearsal Attendance Protocols

Attendance is taken at the beginning of all marching band rehearsals by drum majors, who document attendance for the POFN staff. Any student arriving after attendance has been taken must report to a drum major for an attendance correction. (Failure to do so will result in your attendance record reflecting an absence as opposed to a tardy.)

Tardy Policy

Documented tardiness will result in a lowered participation grade for the current grading period. Repeated tardies will result in disciplinary action including exclusion from performances. Excessive tardies could result in replacement in the marching show with a J.V. performer, or removal from the Pride of Falcon Nation Band.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING TUTORIALS*****

All subjects at North Forney HS offer morning and afternoon tutorials. The marching band practice schedule allows students to attend the afternoon tutorials and avoid conflict with the practice schedule on most days. All students are expected to arrange to attend tutorials at a time that does not conflict with the marching band rehearsal schedule.

Marching Band Performances

All Marching Band performance activities are required events for all members of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band. The band calendar will be published well in advance of required activities. Students will be expected to make the appropriate arrangements to ensure attendance as described by the attendance policy. Please do not schedule SAT or ACT on marching contest days.

Marching Band Inspections

Inspection is a vital component of all marching band activities. Prior to departure for a performance venue, student leaders will visually inspect all required materials of the students in their section to ensure everyone is prepared for successful performance. Students will be given a performance grade based on the results of the inspection process, however the goal is not punitive in nature. Rather, we want all of our students to have their required materials at the time of performance. The goal is 100% preparedness for all Pride of Falcon Nation Band members. The inspection process consists of two elements:

Music Inspection:

Music inspection will occur before all football games and marching band performances. Music inspection will not be utilized at marching contests. Students will be asked to display music, lyre (if appropriate), and flip folder.

Uniform Inspection:

Uniform inspection will consist of all necessary uniform components for the performance (Band Shirt, Shorts, Black Socks, Marching Shoes, Gloves, etc.). Students who do not have the correct uniform components will not be allowed to perform at the event, and will have their performance grade lowered accordingly.

General Football Game Procedures

1. Students will travel to and from all performances on Forney ISD school buses.
2. Due to the logistics involved in transporting a large number of students from one place to another, students are required to ride the bus with the band. A student may request permission to not ride a bus if they present a signed note from a parent, 48 hours before leaving on the trip. Permission will be granted at the director's discretion (extreme circumstance).
3. After the group warms up, students will march into the stadium.
4. Students will move into the stands in their assigned seats.
5. Students will remain in their assigned spot in the band seating section at all times during the game.
6. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Students ARE NOT ALLOWED to buy food from the concession stand.
7. Students will stand at attention during the National Anthem and while the school song of the opposing team is being played (both at the beginning and end of the game).
8. Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by another member of the band and should acquire permission from a Band Parent.
9. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and Drum Majors during the game.
10. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.

11. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles.
12. At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the halftime performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area.
13. At the end of our performance (if we perform first) the band will go to the back of the appropriate end zone and stand at “stand-by” while the other band finishes their performance. Students will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, and will be respectful of the students of other schools.
14. At the conclusion of the halftime performance of all groups, students will play the fight song while the football team re-enters the stadium.
15. At the conclusion of the game, students will be dismissed from the stands to load trucks and buses to return to NFHS.

Bus Transportation

Conduct

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position.
- NO ITEMS OF A PERSONAL NATURE SHOULD BE BROUGHT ONTO THE BUS.
- No talking as we leave or return to the school. When you see the stadium lights of our destination, be silent once again. This allows instructions to be delivered and heard easily.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drink, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Remain silent when being addressed from the front of the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, singing, etc.
- Refrain from any public displays of affection.
- As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school – at no time should your actions reflect badly on the school, band or community.
- Always be on your best behavior at any band sponsored event.
- Proper respect will be shown to ALL adults associated with the band program at all times.

Arrival at Stadium

- Exit the bus in full uniform.
- Unpack instruments.
- Place the cases in the proper location. If it came with you on the bus, leave it there. If it rode on the trailer or equipment truck, line it up neatly beside that vehicle.
- Report to the stadium entrance block (follow your section leader).

Coming Home

Stadium Departure

- You will be dismissed in an orderly fashion. Listen and follow instructions.
- Reload equipment trucks, buses and depart (Same behavior on buses).
- Remain quiet upon departure until given permission to speak. This allows the drivers to communicate as necessary.

Arrival at NFHS

- No Percussionist will depart the Band Hall until all percussion equipment is unloaded. • All who have equipment on the trailer will help unload it. This includes color guard equipment.
- Return uniform to the uniform room hung properly.
- When truck is completely unloaded and everything is put up, then we meet in the band room.
- Dismissal from all events will be from the band room
- GO HOME!! Please tell your parents to be early.

Pride of Falcon Nation Band Uniforms

Marching Band Uniform Guidelines

The goal of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band when in uniform is for all students to present a unified image to the public. Students will be expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. **NO VARIATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

1. Band uniforms will be issued during the summer band camp.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and its components.
3. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. (Shakos are for field performance only.) The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your coat. The band t-shirt, and summer uniform shorts are to be worn under your uniform.
4. You must wear approved black band shoes and black crew socks (with no logos).
5. Jewelry, hair ribbons, bright colored nail polish, etc. is unacceptable.
6. All students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. All hair must be off the collar.
7. No consumption of food and drinks while in uniform without permission.
8. **Never cut any material from the band uniform or make any other permanent alterations.**
9. Uniforms will be checked out, and returned for every marching band performance. Uniform crew members will make a visual inspection of the uniform at check-in to ensure that the pants and coat are hung correctly, and that all fasteners (zippers, snaps, and hooks) are fastened.
10. When necessary, students will be allowed to travel with their uniform in a garment bag. All garment bags will be labeled for easy identification. When not in use, members of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band will hang their uniform according to the same standards for uniform check-in.

Concert Band Uniform Guidelines

Gentlemen

- Solid Black Long Sleeve Dress Shirt
- Solid Black Dress Pants and Solid Black Belt
- Absolutely no jeans or casual wear of any kind
- Black socks and Black Dress Shoes
- No Tennis Shoes
- Hair should be groomed and no facial jewelry or earrings

Ladies

- Solid Black Dress (below knee length), Black Skirt (below knee length), or Solid Black Dress Pants
- Pants should **not** be form fitting or leggings
- Solid Black Shirt/Blouse. Absolutely no short sleeves, straps, or tank tops
- Neckline should be appropriate and non-revealing
- Tops should be solid black, no sheer material.
- Black Dress Shoes (Pumps or sling backs are acceptable)
- No Clogs, Mules, or Flip Flops
- Makeup and Jewelry should be modest

Academic Eligibility

In the event that a student becomes ineligible (earns a grade of 69 or below on a report card), they will be suspended from participating in competitive activities until the end of a three-week period. Students will have the opportunity to regain eligibility by receiving a passing (70 or above) grade in ALL of their courses at the following official grade checkpoint (progress report or report card). Eligibility suspensions shall become effective seven days after the last day of the grading period during which the failing grade was received. Reinstatement shall occur seven days after the official three-week progress report or the end of a grading period in which all subjects are passed with at least a grade of 70. Students with repeated academic eligibility issues will be assigned consequences including (but not limited to): placement in a lowered ensemble, limited participation in marching band, limited part assignments, exclusion from special performances, removal from the band program.

Band Fees

All students participating in the Pride of Falcon Nation Band will be assessed annual activity fees. These fees are utilized to offset the costs associated with the band program that are not supplied by Forney ISD. Fees will be assessed at Registration, and payments will be made in monthly installments until the balance is paid in full. Fees that are not paid in full by the end of the current school year will be carried forward into subsequent years, and must be paid in full prior to your student's graduation date. If a student decides to no longer participate in the Pride of Falcon Nation, a refund will be assessed based on the amount already spent on that student. Only band members will be issued band supplies.

It is our sincere belief that all students deserve a high-quality music education. No student will be denied participation due to financial hardship. Financial aid is available through the POFN Band Boosters, and families may apply at the time of registration.

Private Lessons

We are fortunate to be able to offer our students a fully-staffed faculty from which private lessons are available. Each faculty member is approved by the Forney ISD and most are performers in local professional groups. This program is designed to assist students one-on-one with a specialist on his/her instrument. It is a convenient way for students to get extra help because many teachers schedule lessons during band class or after school. Not only is it convenient, but is offered at an inexpensive rate of \$25.00 per 30 minute lesson. Private study is strongly recommended for each student. Private lessons can help a student progress twice as fast as group instruction, and help the student be more successful in concert band activities, region band auditions, and solo-ensemble contest. If you are interested in studying privately, see your director as soon as possible. (Please read the private lesson contract for more information.)

Band Booster Club

The purpose of the Pride of Falcon Nation Booster Club shall be to promote, support, and assist in the betterment of the North Forney Band. This club shall...

- Promote the involvement of parents in band-oriented activities.
- Provide supplemental funds for needs of the band which are not budgeted or paid for by the school or district.
- Cooperate with the North Forney High School band directors, administrators, and staff to promote the band and the education of band students.
- All parents, guardians, and friends of the band are encouraged to participate in the North Forney Band activities. Remember, behind every great band is a great Booster organization!

Letter Jacket

In order to be eligible to receive a letter jacket from the band program a student must qualify by earning at least 140 “points” in the following track. Each member may only earn one letter jacket. Points are to be awarded as follows:

Event Title (Points Awarded)	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Earned and maintained a varsity position in the marching band (5 points)				
1st division at UIL Region Marching (10 pts)				
Make Finals at UIL Area Contest (10 pts)				
Make UIL State Marching Contest (20 pts)				
All-Region Band Participation (20 pts)				
All Area Audition Participant (20 pts.)				
All State Band Participant (100 pts.)				
1st division on your solo (20 pts)				
1st division on stage at UIL Concert & SR (10 pts)				
1st division in Sight Reading at UIL Concert & SR (10 pts)				
Score at least an 70 at a NTCA Championship (15 pts)				
Total Points for each year:				
Grand Total				

Social Functions

The Pride of Falcon Nation Band social functions (including summer band social events, parties, band banquet, etc.) are only open to current band members and parents. Any exceptions must be approved by the Director of Bands prior to the start of the event. Unapproved guests will be asked to leave the social function. Students who have been removed from the program (including students who voluntarily removed themselves) are not eligible to attend any Pride of Falcon Nation Band function. All students will be required to adhere to the FISD Student Code of Conduct when attending POFN social functions. Violations of the Code of Conduct will be addressed at the school after the social function. *All determinations of handbook policy violations are subject to the discretion of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band staff. Violations will be handled on a case by case basis. Major violations will require a parent conference before final resolution.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parenting and directing are challenging roles. Having a clear understanding between directors and parents helps create a more positive experience. Parents should know the expectations for them and their children, while directors should trust that concerns will be discussed respectfully at the right time and place.

Parents should expect their child's director to communicate

- Expectations the director has for all members of the band.
- Locations and times of practices, games, performances, and competitions.
- Cost Breakdown
- Payment information and deadlines.

Communication directors expect from parents

- Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the director at the appropriate time and place as referenced below.
- Specific concerns in the regard to the director's philosophy and/or expectations.
- Notifications of any schedule change in advance.

While your child is involved in the Pride of Falcon Nation they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the director is encouraged. **All experiences are learning opportunities.** Our goal as directors is to use all experiences as educational moments.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a director.

- The mental and physical treatment of your child
- What your child needs to do to improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Directors make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's director. Other things, such as those listed next must be left to the discretion of the director.

Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with your child's director

- Exceptions for your student from the group expectations
- Required dress or attire
- Decisions made by directors regarding students which are not your student

Discontinuation

When a student chooses to depart the Pride of Falcon Nation Band program at the end of the school year, the following steps must be completed:

1. Exit Meeting

- A meeting with the Director of Bands must be scheduled prior to the student's schedule change.
- The purpose of this meeting is to review **financial accounts, inventory checklists, and any other pertinent records** to ensure that:
 - All debts have been resolved
 - All school-owned property has been returned

2. Financial Responsibility & Refunds

- Any refund of band fees will only reflect items **not already purchased** for the student or the band program.
- Non-members of the band will not receive band supplies for the current year.

3. Official Documentation

- Students and parents must sign the **Pride of Falcon Nation Discontinuation Notice**, found on the following page, to finalize the withdrawal process.



North Forney High School Band Notice of Discontinuation

I/My student, _____, wishes to discontinue their participation in the North Forney High School “Pride of Falcon Nation” Band program. By signing this document, I acknowledge receipt of and agree to adhere to the following terms and conditions upon my departure from the Pride of Falcon Nation Band.

- ☐ I understand that my student is responsible for turning in any equipment, uniforms, concert attire, or other school owned property in their possession to a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band staff prior to the current academic year.
- ☐ I understand that all fees assessed for the academic year(s) that I/My Student was a member of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band must be paid in full prior to the end of the current academic year.
- ☐ I understand that future participation in the Pride of Falcon Nation Band will be at the sole discretion of the North Forney Director of Bands, and the Pride of Falcon Nation Band Staff.
- ☐ I understand that upon my departure I will not be permitted access to the NFHS Band facilities for any reason.
- ☐ I understand that I will not be permitted to attend rehearsals, or social functions of the Pride of Falcon Nation Band.

Student Name: _____

ID Number: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Director Signature: _____