

# *North Garland High School Raider Band*

Information packet



The North Garland High School Band is dedicated to expanding each child's knowledge and understanding of music as a lifetime activity, to increasing each child's sense of responsibility and commitment, and to giving each child a place to call home in the large school environment.

Dr. Susie Fegreaus - Principal  
Todd Toney - Director  
Todd Payne - Assistant Director  
John May - Assistant Director

## **ABOUT THE BAND**

### **MARCHING BAND**

The Marching Band is made up of students in the three concert bands at NGHS. **Since students receive a PE waiver for annually marching, participation is required.** Practices are after school, and we perform at varsity football games, the Labor Day Parade, and two marching contests during the fall. Students must participate in marching band for four years in order to qualify for a letter jacket.

*Teachers: The entire Band Staff*

### **HONORS BAND**

The Honors Band is our top performing and competing ensemble. Membership is by audition and students in this group are expected to audition for All Region Band and participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest. Participation in Marching Band is required. Music Enrichment is very strongly encouraged.

*Teacher: Mr. Toney*

### **SYMPHONIC BAND**

The Symphonic Band is our second performing and competing group. Membership is by audition. Students in this group are encouraged to try out for All Region Band and are expected to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest. Participation in Marching Band is required. Music enrichment is encouraged.

*Teacher: Lira*

### **CONCERT BAND**

This non competing band will perform at our concerts throughout the year. The Concert Band focuses on increasing the abilities of each student so that he or she can move into a U.I.L. competing group. Participation in Marching Band is required. Students are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest.

*Teacher: Mr. May*

### **JAZZ BAND**

The Jazz Band is an elite performing group available by audition. This ensemble focuses on jazz styles, individual creativity through improvisation, and community service through performing. Students are expected to work in a professional manner in a professional setting. Membership in a concert band is required.

*Teacher: Mr. Toney*

### **STEEL DRUM BAND**

Steel drum band meets outside the school day and is all volunteer. Students who are willing to commit to a one hour, once a week rehearsal are welcome. They meet in the afternoons during summer band. Steel drum band also uses electric guitar, trap set and 3 percussionists that need not be trained drummers. Space is limited in this group.

*Teacher: Mr. Toney/Mr. May*

### **COLOR GUARD**

North Garland's Color Guard is a unit flag line chosen by audition each spring. The color guard performs at football games and is a prominent part of our marching band. Their rehearsal schedule is very rigorous during the 3 weeks before school. Students will also need to be scheduled into class A1 first semester. Loss of eligibility may result in student being removed from guard. Costs come to around \$300.00 and covers apparel and some instruction fees.

*Teacher: Ms. Tims*

## GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades are given according to the effort a child puts into improving as related to their abilities, as well as more concrete criteria that include, but are not limited to:

- Fundamental musicianship. (tone production, posture, rhythm reading, knowledge of fingerings and their alternates)
- Play off and or written assignments, both in class and on the marching field.
- Care and maintenance of your instrument. (an ill kept or chronically broken horn prevents the above two)
- Participation and effort.
- Day to day progress.

Contrary to popular belief, band is not an “easy A”. An “A” student will be on time and prepared, care for their equipment and uniform, turn in uniforms, assignments, and forms on time, and follow directions.

During the fall, much of the grade relates to marching band.

The fall grading will encompass the memorization of the marching music, attendance to rehearsals and performances, and effort during those rehearsals and performances. Students are also evaluated with in class tests and marching skill barriers. *Points are taken away for tardiness, unexcused absences, incomplete uniform at performances, missing music or equipment, or failure to act as a team member during rehearsal or performance.* Extra credit will be added for auditioning for any of the All Region Organizations.

Spring grading is based on regular grades taken in class over concert music or sight-reading. Periodic after school rehearsals will also figure into student grades. Performances count as major project grades and **students may be failed from any band class for missing a performance.** Honors or Symphonic band members who miss a performance for reason other than personal illness or death in the family, may be placed in the concert band at the discretion of the director. Repeated absences may result in removal from the band program. The reason for rehearsing is to perform. The band must be able to rely on each member to be there when needed.

## THE COST OF BEING IN BAND

There are numerous small costs you can expect and rather than ask you for ten dollars here and two dollars there, we just take care of most of it in one lump sum. We'll collect this money at band registration. You may also take care of optional expenses like spirit items and your trip deposit at this time. Please contact Mr. Lira if you need to work out a payment plan. We take cash, checks, and Vis/Mastercard.

Item	Cost	FRESHMEN and NEW MEMBERS	RETURNING MEMBERS
Marching Fees	\$ 125.00	X	X
*Uniform T-Shirt	\$ 10.00	X	
*Marching Shoes	\$ 25.00	X	
*Black Glovesw	\$ 4.00	X	
School Instrument Fee (when applicable)	\$ 50.00	X	X
Raider Band BoosterFamily Membership	\$ 00 .00	<b>Membership in the booster club is free</b>	

\* These items are durable and last from year to year. They need only be replaced if they are lost, stolen, outgrown or worn out.

**BEAR IN MIND THAT YOUR BAND SHIRT MAY BE FADED OR TORN AND NEED REPLACEMENT.**

**Students are also asked to supply the following items on their own.** The costs are variable.

## PARADE UNIFORM

Because of the Texas heat, the band marches in the labor day parade in "parade dress". Students wear their black band shirt, Khaki (St. John's Bay, from JC Penney or the equilent) shorts white socks and predominantly white sneakers.

## SPRING TRIP

The band travels annually during the spring. This optional trip is has an educational basis and is strongly encouraged for all members of the band. The destination varies from year to year and details and itinerary are released in August

## UNIFORMS

Students are issued a uniform that they will use throughout the year. The uniform and all its accessories are to be kept in the uniform room. They will be checked out each gameday after the last period of the day, and returned the following school day before first period. When the performance includes leaving from and returning to school, students will turn in their uniforms immediately after unloading. The Marching Band fee mentioned earlier covers a midseason cleaning and the final cleaning of the season only. When not worn, it should be hung straight and dry to maintain the crisp look we so desire.

Unless otherwise specified, the complete uniform (down to the black socks) is expected at all performances. Less or more than the standard uniform and a student will be docked grade points which could lead to a failing grade. Please, no extra baggage, caps or clothing in the stands. Of course, coats and blankets will be accepted as the weather cools.

## MUSIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

We know that every student can benefit from our MEP opportunities at NGHS. At a cost of \$15.00 per session, students will receive weekly aid from a highly respected member of the Dallas music community. Our students who excel at region, area and state auditions usually do so with the help of this program. It also serves to bring a child "up to speed" if they need remedial help. In short, **MUSIC ENRICHMENT IS FOR ALL OF US!**

## SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Some students will be issued a school owned instrument. It will be given to them in good working order and needs to stay that way. We simply ask that the student cares for the instrument as if it were his own. If it needs to go to the shop, we ask that you take care of it as quickly as possible. A \$50 fee is charged to defray a portion of the annual maintenance on that instrument.

Marching percussion will come with heads intact. From then on, the responsibility of replacing broken heads belongs to the student responsible for that drum.

Our Band Hall is aging "gracefully". We expect students to respect the room and keep it clean and uncluttered. *Students are asked to help by not eating or drinking in the band facilities and by picking up after themselves and each other.*

## BAND ACCOUNTS

Each student has an account set up with our band boosters that keeps track of money raised through fund-raisers or paid in cash. Money in the account may be used to pay for the band trip, to pay fees at the beginning of the year, or to buy banquet tickets. Money placed in the account is earmarked for that child to use and stays there until the child graduates, at which point, fundraised money must by law roll into the general fund. Sometimes the senior class will pool all of their left over funds to purchase a gift for the band.

## FUNDRAISING

As with all organizations, fundraising is a necessary part of the band experience at North Garland. Each participant is expected to raise \$100 in profit through fundraising or donations. Plan your fundraising so that you can contribute the required \$100 profit and benefit from overages. The band has enough fundraisers that a student can pay for all fees and trip costs by participating in fundraisers.

Don't miss the opportunity to make band more affordable for you and yours.

## EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be punctual and cooperative, prepared and willing to learn or perform. The Golden Rule applies strongly here. In essence, we ask that students exemplify the very best of today's young people. Obviously, all GISD policies must be adhered to. Understand that this is a broad statement and it covers many specifics.

## REQUIREMENTS DURING MARCHING SEASON

Rehearsals are after school every day that we do not have a game. The only excused absences are those that would be excused during school. **BEING SCHEDULED TO WORK, HAVING A TUTORIAL, OR NOT HAVING A RIDE IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE.** Because of the nature of marching band, if someone is absent, they will be replaced. **Repeated absences, excused or not, keep one from learning the required marching and will lead to permanent replacement.**

The official rule is:

*2 excused absences during the course of a week = replacement for the upcoming game.*

*1 unexcused absence at all = permanent replacement and alternate..*

Excessive excused absences will prevent a child from learning the drill and therefore will lead to replacement. All game nights during football season are required performances and are not to be missed except for illness or emergency. Please schedule out of town travel for after the game. Also required are Labor Day Parade, Band Festival, U.I.L. Contest, and post season play.

**If a student expects to be in the band, then of course he is expected to perform with the band.**

## CONCERT SEASON

During concert season, the Honors and Symphonic Bands hold after school sectionals that involve each student once each week. Absences will be excused only if the student has an excused absence from school or if he or she went home ill before the end of school. **BEING SCHEDULED TO WORK OR ATTENDING TUTORIALS IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE.** Students are of course expected to attend all performances and keep up their grades in order to participate.

## TRAVEL

The band will meet at the stadium for all in town games. We will travel by bus to and from all out of town games and contest performances. Your child may only leave a performance site with us or you personally. For obvious safety concerns, we cannot make exceptions for other relatives, friends or friend's parents.

**The blanket field trip form must be on file.**

## ELIGIBILITY

Students must pass all classes in order to be able to participate in the band's activities. Failing grades will keep a child out of marching band, region, area, or all state band, UIL contest, the spring trip, and other activities. **A failure during a six weeks period will place a student on academic probation and will require daily attendance to tutorials. Repeated failure may remove that student from a competing ensemble and place them in the non competition group (concert band).** A child may be able to return to a competing group after successfully passing all classes for two six weeks periods in a row and being approved by a review panel consisting of the directors and an administrator (counselor or vice principal). We encourage attendance to tutorials and ask that students keep abreast of their grades through grade checks that we regularly provide. **DURING THE FOOTBALL SEASON, WE EXPECT STUDENTS TO ATTEND TUTORIALS AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK IN THE FROM 2:40 - 3:15. STUDENTS ARE TO ATTEND IN THEIR MARCHING CLOTHES, AND SHOULD GO STRAIGHT TO THE FIELD EARLY ENOUGH TO BE ON TIME FOR REHEARSAL.**

## **Class Rules and Procedures**

1. Every band member should bring all supplies to class. This is to include, but not limited to, the following: instrument, pencil, music, mutes, oils, reeds etc...
2. Chewing gum, drinking soft drinks, and eating is not allowed in the band hall. Water brought to be stored in a sealed container for marching is acceptable. We make exceptions on an as needed basis with afterschool activities.
3. Each student should be seated or standing in formation at the time designated by the director or the student will be marked tardy. As stated elsewhere in this handbook, excessive tardies can lead to loss of privileges.
4. When a rehearsal is in progress, respect the need for silence. Enter the room without disturbing what is happening.
5. Instruments and other equipment should be kept in your slot when not in use.  
Percussionists should keep all percussion in it's proper place.  
Do not keep valuables in your slot, we will not be held responsible for items stolen out of your slot.
6. The band hall is a classroom, enter it with intent to learn. Before class begins, refrain from shouting, horseplay, and incorrect playing. Please adhere to the routine prescribed by your class director.
7. The phones in the directors' office may be used with directors' permission before and after school only. The school policy regarding cell phones applies to after school rehearsals and all performances.
8. Practice rooms are designed for two purposes: instrumental practice and private lessons, period.

## **Public Performances**

Always remember, you are representing GISD, North Garland High School and the North Garland Band. One bad incident could give the band, the school and your family a poor reputation for a long time.

1. Every student will receive a schedule of performances the band will be attending throughout the semester/year. This information will also be posted on the bulletin board and at [www.nghsband.org](http://www.nghsband.org). It is the student's responsibility to check all of these locations for information and changes.
2. Always report to the designated meeting place (rain or shine). A telephone committee will call if plans are changed. Do not call the director unless there is an emergency. If in doubt, phone a student band officer or the band office. As a general rule, we play if the football team plays!!!
3. For games inside of Garland, you are responsible for your own transportation. Report to the stadium where the game is being played at least 10 minutes before the appointed time, so that you are in your spot when we begin. **To be just on time is to be late!**
4. For out of Garland games, we will always meet at the band hall at the designated time for each game or contest.
5. We play as an ensemble only. Extra individual playing is not allowed at any time. Small ensembles perform only with an audition and approval from a director
6. Always arrive in uniform.

## **Marching Band**

1. Rehearsals are after school every day that there is not a game. Except in extreme emergency or illness, a band member will not be excused from rehearsals. **BEING SCHEDULED TO WORK, ATTENDING A TUTORIAL, OR NOT HAVING RIDE IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE**

2. All football games are required performances. Please schedule out of town travel for after the game.. Other required performances are Parades, Band Festival, any Marching Contest, and any post season play. Everyone is expected to participate. If you have a special need, please call us. With sufficient notice and proper justification, we can be flexible most of the time.

3. From the time we begin learning our show, until such a time that we are “off the book” all students will have their coordinate sheets at every rehearsal. Repeated failure in this area will lead to replacement in the block.

4. Disrespectful or insubordinate behavior will not tolerated. Resolution of behavior of this nature will involve the front office and almost always result in time in the reassignment room.

5. **Bring a personal water cooler for rehearsals, it is hot out on the parking lot. Sharing coolers is discouraged, as this is how we also share colds, mononucleosis, viruses, etc...**

6. Due to the nature of Marching Band, if you are absent you will be replaced. Please see the “Requirements During Marching Season” section for clarification of our policy.

7. Band members are not allowed to consume or buy food or drinks at the concession stand during games. **Parents may not bring food to band members during games**

8. Public displays of affection will not be allowed at any time while a student is representing the NGHS band. The band will sit in organized rows during most of the game. The band does many activities to keep the crowd (and ourselves) entertained at games and should be ready to play at any time. Cheer with the cheerleaders and avoid unorganized chaotic yelling and playing.

9. Non - Band members will not be allowed within the band section.

10. Only the standard NGHS band uniform may be worn. No Caps (except award cap), scarves, bandanas, etc, unless authorized by the directors due to cold or rainy weather.

11. Music and uniform inspection will occur before every performance. Gross failure of inspection will result in being sidelined at halftime, or (in case of a contest) not being allowed on the contest field

These guidelines are set in place for your success and safety in our program. All members are expected to abide by them. **Remember that this is not an attempt to cover every situation, but rather a setting down of the minimum expectations for membership in our organization.**

### **Consequences for Failure to Comply**

While we expect everyone to comply with the guidelines as set forth in this handbook, we must be prepared in the unfortunate case that there is a problem. If a student repeatedly violates our guidelines, or willfully fails to abide, he or she will be reprimanded and given the opportunity to improve. Failure to do so will result in a phone conference with parent and an agreement that the behavior will change.

Continued misbehavior will enlist the interaction of our administration, the result of which could be removal from band..

**FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT BAND ACTIVITIES CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT: <http://nghsband.org> You can contact the band hall during business hours at 972-675-3120 ext 61033 After hours, please leave a message on our voice mail.**

## **BAND BOOSTER CLUB**

Our booster club is a vital part in the life of the North Garland Band. They provide endless moral, physical, and fiscal support for the band. **IF YOUR CHILD IS IN BAND, CONSIDER YOURSELF A BOOSTER CLUB MEMBER.** Opportunities for service are many and varied and will come up throughout the year. Meetings are at 7:00 PM in the band hall on predetermined dates. Your Booster club officers and their phone numbers are:

Barbara Honas - (President)  
Audrey Sumrall - Vice President)  
Laura Carpenter - (Treasurer)  
Mike Pitcher - (Secretary)  
Paula Elendt – (Communications and Publicity)  
Debbie Solis – (Freshman Liason)  
Kenneth Goolsby and Steve Cook – (Game Coordinators)

## **BAND BANQUET**

Our end of the year banquet is open to everyone involved with the band and a date, as well as parents. Those Color Guard members involved for the entire football season are included also. Dropping from band precludes one from this function. We will recognize outstanding students at this time.

## **INCENTIVES AND AWARDS**

The North Garland High School Raider Band believes in intrinsic motivation. However, we also believe that students who go above and beyond deserve to be recognized. We do so in a few ways throughout the year.

**Band members of the week** is one reward system we use during marching season. Up to four students per week will receive recognition at the weekly football game. This award goes to students who exhibit effort above and beyond the call of duty.

**Our Musicians Program** provides more intrinsic motivation for students to become better instrumentalists. Students may accumulate points toward being recognized as Musician First Class (85 points), Outstanding Musician (100 points), and Master Musician by making the Honors Band, Auditioning for the All Region Band, Participating in Solo and Ensemble Contest and State Solo and Ensemble. Students who think they qualify need to get an application from a director and fill it out for recognition. Any student may apply at any time, but all involved must work to maintain a position once it is achieved.

### **John Philip Sousa Award**

A nationally recognized award sponsored by the Instrumentalist magazine is awarded to a graduating senior who exemplifies the qualities associated with excellence in music and band. Musicianship and personal leadership are taken into account, as well as reliability, cooperativeness, and pride in our program. Directors select this student from the entire senior class. No application is necessary. The recipient is presented with a statuette, a certificate from the John Philip Sousa Society, and the pride of being recognized by a national organization.

### **Theresa Gholson Memorial Scholarship**

Theresa was a French horn player in the band. She was killed in a tragic highway accident on her way home from college. Her parents and the booster club generously provide a scholarship to a graduating senior at the end of every year. Applications are given to seniors in the Spring and the winner is selected by a committee of booster members.

Students receive a plaque and a check from the booster club at our end of the year banquet.

### **Leadership Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to a student who is returning to the Raider Band. The student who receives this award will be given full tuition to a any band camp in Texas. Applications are available in April and the winner is selected anonymously by committee.

## **RAIDER BAND INFORMATION PACKET ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Have read and understand the information in the Band Information Packet.

I am familiar with the expectations and obligations for participation. I am aware of the grading procedure and rehearsal requirements. I am also advised that failure to adhere to the guidelines as set forth in the Band Information Packet will affect my grade and possibly my standing in the North Garland High School Raider Band. I have also read and understand the eligibility requirements as stated in the Band Information Packet. Furthermore, I agree to abide by the expectations and requirements to the best of my abilities.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I have read the information packet and agree that my child will abide by the rules and guidelines stated therein.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_