



2026-2027
West Noble Lightning Brigade
Handbook

Welcome to the 2026-2027 season of the West Noble Lightning Brigade! Mr. and Mrs. Douglas developed this booklet for parents and guardians. It is our hope that this guide will orient you more quickly, create a level of comfort, and foster a keen interest to be involved with our groups. We have tried to cover the many aspects of the marching band program, but if you require more in-depth knowledge about a particular topic, please feel free to contact one of the directors below. This is to serve as an overall guide of the upcoming season. Mr. or Mrs. Douglas will send home updates and specific information as needed. This guide is your key source of information for band. Please keep it handy for reference and contacts. We hope that this guide benefits both new and returning parents and guardians. The more you know, the more you can contribute to the success of this year's marching band.

Thank you,

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Band Director
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Band Parent Volunteers purpose:

- To build and maintain a group of parents which will help promote the general activities of the band.
- To develop and maintain an enthusiastic West Noble community interest in the events of the music department.
- To lend significant support, both moral and financial, to the marching band at West Noble.
- To assist and cooperate with Mr./Mrs. Douglas while maintaining the highest degree of effective organizational performance and team standards.
- To build, maintain, and promote a positive relationship with each other, students, school administrators and staff.

West Noble Band Parent Volunteers Provide Positive Role Models.

First and foremost, Band parent members must be *positive role models* for our students. **Volunteers encourage and support all students regardless of the schools that they might represent.** The West Noble Band Parents demonstrates and promotes, at every opportunity, the highest standard of integrity, sportsmanship, social graces, courtesy, hospitality, and cooperation.

Equipment Handling / Pit Crew

Parents, guardians, and other students are needed to move the pit instruments, drum major podiums, and props/tarps on and off the marching band field at home football games and every band competition. This must be done with respect to the time limits established at each competition site. Points are deducted for not clearing the field in the prescribed length of time. It is important to have enough parent volunteers to accomplish this. Help at rehearsals is also appreciated and sometimes necessary.

Marching Band Member Conduct

Being a member of the West Noble Lightning Brigade is more than just playing in a band. As a performance group, we represent West Noble High School and our town wherever we go, both in and out of our uniforms. This includes your behavior and representation with and without the band. You should always behave in a way that positively reflects on our band, school, and community. Behaviors that are

contrary to school policy will not be tolerated, and students who do not comply with policy will be removed from the band without question. This includes removal from performances and ensembles. **Refer to the WNHS student handbook.**

ALL MARCHING BAND MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PHYSICAL ON FILE. Due to the physical nature of our activity and its long hours, we must ensure that our students are in excellent physical shape and are capable of participating fully in all activities, including cardiovascular and strength training. Students will not be permitted to participate in marching band without this on file.

Chaperones and Food

Volunteers are vital to our success! Parents who chaperone on Saturdays are a vital component to the marching band. They arrive early and make sure that students eat before leaving for competitions. The chaperones ride the buses to and from competitions. They help with uniforms and serve meals if we eat on the road. On dates where we attend two competitions, the chaperones may serve breakfast, lunch and dinner!

Fees and Fundraisers

Marching band fees help cover the cost of music equipment, contest entry fees, color guard equipment, parade uniforms, show shirts, show design, props, transportation costs, maintenance of uniforms and numerous other expenses. **These fees cover only a portion of the expenses that are incurred throughout the marching season.** The base fee of \$100 is NON REFUNDABLE.

- **FAILURE TO PAY FEES FOR THIS ENSEMBLE WILL BECOME INELIGIBLE TO LETTER OR RECEIVE PATCHES.**
- **FAILURE TO PAY FEES WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO MARCH.**
- **FAILURE TO PAY FEES WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO GO TO BAND TRIPS.**

The band fees can be paid in a lump sum or in a series of 2 payments as follows:

Payment 1 - \$50

May 14th (last day of spring camp)

Payment 2 - \$50

August 11th (first practice of the school year)

Please make checks payable to **West Noble High School Band** and submit to Mr./Mrs. Douglas.

Fundraisers are a necessary part of the band season FOR ALL MEMBERS. We need to raise money each year for shows, uniforms, and music. We need to look for grant opportunities and good fundraisers. If you have suggestions, please let Mr. Douglas or the booster president know. **EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL TO OUR ABILITY TO PAY FOR OUR SEASON.**

Summer Band

Each marching band student **must** participate in summer band. This is where music and drill are taught. **It is the responsibility of each student to be present 100% of the time and give 100% effort.** If students miss any of the rehearsals, that portion that he/she/they have missed must be taught again thus **slowing the progress of the entire band.**

Percussion students have a few additional rehearsals on the calendar. This will determine who plays what instrument for the show, so it's very important that all percussionists are in attendance.

We will have a two-week band camp where drill and show music are taught. **These are the most important weeks of the summer!** This concentrated rehearsal time is when the show is put together. Every band member **must** be present. The summer band schedule is always announced in the spring so that you can work vacations around it. Again, these practices are **mandatory!**

There are also a few summer practices between band camp and the start of school. It is important that students attend these rehearsals so the information they learned at band camp is not lost in the month before school starts.

Marching Band Uniforms

We will be wearing our new-to-us uniforms this year! With that being said, everyone will be fitted and sized for their uniforms. There are specific hem length specifications set by the band director for visual conformity. No one may alter hems after the official fitting without explicit approval from the band director. Parent volunteers are needed for fitting and hemming. Please volunteer to serve in this capacity if able. These uniforms are to be treated with care as we would like to make these uniforms last as long as possible.

Color Guard Uniforms

Color Guard uniforms are designed each season to express interpretations of the show and to add visual effect. Guard members may be assigned an additional fee based upon the uniforms selected. The Color Guard instructors select the uniforms with final approval by the band director. Uniform fittings occur in July. The guard staff determines makeup and hairstyles for the show with each member providing his/her own supplies.

Absence Policy

Mr./Mrs. Douglas must be informed two weeks in advance of an absence for a rehearsal/competition. **It is required that a parent send this note of absence.** Absences within a two-week notice may not be approved. Absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis based on the needs of the student and family in question. It is crucial for everyone to make rehearsals and competitions because anything that is missed will need to be retaught! If a rehearsal is missed during the week of a competition, the student may be asked to sit from the performance based on the Director's discretion. **Multiple absences, and/or multiple tardies, and/or multiple early dismissals may result in removal from the group.**

Marching Band Fall Practice Schedule

There are mandatory Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals until the end of marching season. These will go from right after school until 6:30 p.m. The band plays for all home football games and will have a short rehearsal before the game. The start times of Saturday rehearsals will be determined once the contest times are announced. Look for information sheets to be sent via email on Mondays of each contest week.

Marching Band Football Game Performances

Football games are considered major performances for the marching band. Band members are required to be in attendance at all home football games. **Mr./Mrs. Douglas must approve any absence two weeks in advance.** Performing at football games is important for school spirit and helps develop a positive rapport with the community and is treated as a **dress rehearsal** for Saturday. Adults who help with the pit crew must be in attendance at these performances as well.

Competitive Performances – ALL SEASONS Competitions

Performance times, directions to the shows, and other important information will be sent home on Mondays preceding competitions. **Family and friends are strongly encouraged to attend** as many competitions as they can. All shows have an entry fee, usually \$6-8 per adult. Those who serve in the capacity of the crew are admitted free. Chaperones may sometimes be admitted free.

Marching Band Judging

Most of the marching band competitions that West Noble participates in are governed by Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) rules. There are now three factions of marching band performances in Indiana. Festival class (which is performed on a track only), Scholastic class (which is separated into two classes by their school size with a cap on band size), and Open class (which is divided into four classes (A, B, C, D) based on their total school enrollment in grades 9-12).

Invitational competitions are hosted by various Indiana High Schools and most follow ISSMA rules. Many competitions award caption awards for Best Music, Best Visual, and Best General Effect.

The first level of state competition is the Scholastic Prelims contest. In order to qualify for the Scholastic Finals, bands must receive a gold rating and be in the top 16 bands in their class. \

Marching Band Spectator Etiquette

At competitions, it is polite to be seated during performances to keep from disturbing the judges. To mark the beginning of a show, the drum major will salute the judges. This is the signal to quiet down. Emotions can run high during the shows. **Negative comments regarding any band or judge reflects poorly on our band.** We are a class act. We keep our comments positive at all times regarding other bands. Remember, all bands have put hundreds of hours into their shows and deserve our respect. Of course, our loudest cheering will be for **the West Noble Lightning Brigade!**

Show our Colors!

When our band sees our West Noble shirts and hears us cheer, they get really fired up! **PARENTS SHOULD SIT TOGETHER AS A BLOCK!** The bigger the West Noble block, the better! Join the block and be prepared to cheer when West Noble takes the field for competition. Your presence at these events can really help us to perform to our best possible ability!

HOW TO LETTER IN BAND

Yes, you can letter in band! Here's how:

1. Join the marching band! It's the biggest time investment, and the key to lettering.
2. **ATTEND ALL PERFORMANCES**, or follow the attendance policy for unavoidable absence. Remember that football games are VERY important PERFORMANCES; the community sees us at these events and makes our funding decisions based on them. We are a group that needs ALL MEMBERS to be strong enough to have a great performance. Every person is important!
 - **Each grade level (if adhering to the above policy) can be nominated for Most Improved by peers.**
 - **Drum Majors receive a Patch.**
 - **Letters, Chevrons, and Patches are given based on years of participation, not grade level.**
 - **Additional Information**
 - 1st year participants receive: Marching Band Patch and Chevron**
 - 2nd year participants receive: WN Music Letter and Chevron**
 - 3rd year participants receive: Chevron**
 - 4th year participants (Seniors) receive: Final Chevron/Bar, Plaque, earned patches, possible Sousa, Armstrong Award, & Director's Award**

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ATTENDANCE/PARTIAL ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ANY REASON (barring emergencies which will be considered on an individual basis) WILL BECOME INELIGIBLE TO LETTER. FAILURE TO PAY FEES FOR WILL RESULT IN INELIGIBILITY TO LETTER OR RECEIVE PATCHES.

WNHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in the West Noble Music Department is a privilege that carries with it varying degrees of responsibility, recognition, and reward. Participating students represent their school and other members of the student body, and it is their duty to conduct themselves in a manner that is positive for themselves, their families, their school, and their community. As rationale for all Marching Band participation rules, see the following statement based in part on The Indiana High School Athletic Association By-Law C-8-1:

Performers conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or the group, or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school.

The rules outlined in this document and the WNHS student handbook shall apply to all instrumentalists, color guard members, student leadership staff, or any other WNHS student associated with the Department in grades 9 through 12 as well as WNMS 8th Graders. Performer conduct and behavior between seasons is important. This includes all ensembles directly related to the Music Department during rehearsals, performances, travel, meetings, and classes. Consequences for violations are cumulative, beginning with the 8th grade and ending with graduation from high school. The Director of Bands may distribute additional rules that are also valid and must be followed by students involved in the activity.

Please sign below to signify that you have read and accept the terms of the West Noble Lightning Brigade Handbook and Code of Conduct. Once Signed, please take this page and return it to Mr./Mrs. Douglas. This slip needs to be returned AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Parent Name Printed- _____ **Date-** _____

Parent Name Signed- _____ **Date-** _____

Student Name Printed- _____ **Date-** _____

Student Name Signed- _____ **Date-** _____