

Niceville High School Band Program



2017 Rose Parade®



Under the Friday Night Lights



Carnegie Hall, 2010

*A Guide for New and
Prospective Students*

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Niceville FL 32578
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More information available online:
NHSEaglePride.com

NHS BAND

"The Eagle Pride"

Welcome!

As you begin making plans for next school year and deciding where you will spend your time, energy and effort, we encourage you to become part of the family that is the **Niceville High School Band Program**.

The "NHS Eagle Pride" is made up of 300+ hardworking and dedicated musicians and auxiliary visual artists. We welcome any student who is willing to put forth the effort to continue this superior tradition, both on the field and in the concert hall.

Lessons learned from being a member of the band have lifelong implications. Students learn about commitment, the rewards of effort, the joys of friendship and the importance of cooperation and leadership. Band members enjoy band camaraderie and outstanding support from parents, boosters, school administration and the entire Niceville community. We guarantee you will experience a whole new sense of teamwork, commitment and accomplishment as part of the **NHS Eagle Pride!**

Why Music? For more information on the importance of music education, visit the **WHY MUSIC** link on the Band website: NHSEaglePride.com.

BAND CLASSES AND AUDITIONS

All students must audition every year in May for placement into a band class at NHS. **Everyone makes the band!** The audition simply places you in the class that best matches your skill level. We offer four concert band classes:

- **Wind Ensemble** is the most advanced performing ensemble. It has a limited instrumentation and is comprised of our highest performing students. The majority of the members are upperclassmen. Ninth and tenth graders, however, may be placed in this ensemble if they meet the musical standards.
- **Symphonic Winds** is a premier ensemble with a limited instrumentation for advanced musicians.
- **Concert Band** consists of players from all grade levels and performs at all concerts and Florida Bandmasters events.
- **Varsity Band** is also a performing ensemble; most ninth graders start in this class.

In addition to the concert band classes, we offer two *Jazz Bands*, a *Percussion Class* and *Eurhythmics* (for Auxiliaries, e.g. Color Guard and Majorettes). **All classes combine in evening rehearsals to form the marching band during the fall semester.** Specific information on the requirements for each class can be found on the band website (see the Audition/Tryout Requirements link).

JAZZ BANDS



We have a place for *aspiring jazz musicians of all skill levels* in the jazz program. Jazz 1 and Jazz 2 are year-long classes that meet during the school day. We will show you how to fit jazz band into your class schedule. Students must be enrolled in a concert band or percussion class in order to participate in jazz band. Taking two band classes is VERY possible – even for ninth graders!

For placement into Jazz 1, an audition is required. Students not selected will be placed in Jazz 2. Students who do not audition *may* be placed in Jazz 2. Auditions are not required for Jazz Workshop, which is a class formed when enrollment permits.

All auditions occur in May. The audition results, not your experience in jazz band, determine class placement.

PERCUSSION AND DRUMLINE

Percussion auditions for marching band occur during a three-day Percussion Tryout Clinic in May or on the first day of Percussion Camp in July. Percussion Tryout Clinic is required. Students are encouraged to audition on more than one instrument in case they aren't selected to play their first-choice percussion instrument.

Marching percussion also includes the pit instruments. You may audition exclusively on pit instruments if you would like, and many students who play non-marching instruments (such as oboe, bassoon) choose to do so. Pit players must also attend the Percussion Tryout Clinic and Percussion Camp.

Percussion auditions for placement in a concert band are held in November or December.



EAGLE PRIDE AUXILIARIES



Auxiliary members operate under the same rehearsal and performance guidelines as the marching band. The Eurhythmics class is required of all members during the fall semester.

Color Guard consists of the flags that perform with the Eagle Pride. Members for this unit are chosen each spring through a week-long clinic/tryout process. For new members, Color Guard costs about \$450, which covers the uniform, instruction, and travel for the season.

Majorettes are the twirlers who form the outstanding corps that has been a long-standing tradition of the Eagle Pride. Membership in this group is determined through tryouts held each spring. For new members, costs for the season are about \$950, which covers uniforms, instruction and travel.



A BAND'S GOTTA PRACTICE

The NHS Band Program has a history of excellence in concert, marching and jazz band. Band is a co-curricular class. This means that learning takes place both in and out of the classroom.

Rehearsals and performances outside of school hours are mandatory for completion of band course requirements. The Eagle Pride marching band rehearses fewer hours than any other high school band in the area, and yet we continue to have the strongest, most illustrious program around!

During the fall, regular marching band rehearsals occur on Tuesday and Thursday evening typically from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. These rehearsals are for instrumentalists, Color Guard and Majorettes.

In late fall and spring, the concert bands have after-school rehearsals for two hours a week. Wind Ensemble usually meets on Tuesday evening and Symphonic Winds usually meets on Thursday evening. Concert and Varsity Bands meet after school as needed.

Marching Band at Niceville High School is a requirement for every band student. The marching band activity is one of the most fun activities in high school – football games, pep rallies, trips and school spirit are what we do in the Eagle Pride!

CAN I DO OTHER THINGS BESIDE BAND?

OF COURSE! Students in band participate in virtually every other school activity: track, yearbook, baseball, tennis, ROTC, chorus, forensics, academic team, golf, you name it – even football! For fall **school** sports that conflict directly with marching band, a **Marching Band Performance Waiver** is offered. Call the band office for more information.

In band, the people who practice the most get to perform the most! Therefore, if you are involved in school activities for which you will miss band practice, you may be assigned a “shared” or “alternate” position. Recurring conflicts with non-school activities/sports are not excused. (See the Attendance Policy on the band website for more information.)

Scheduling around band rehearsals and events is easiest by referring to the Calendar tab on the Eagle Pride website!



BAND AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS GO HAND-IN-HAND



Many band students are enrolled in Honors/AP/AICE courses as well as being involved in other challenging academic opportunities. **In fact, the study of music and high academic achievement often go hand-in-hand.** Band members must learn to manage their time, and many band students find themselves at the top of their class, in National Honor Society, graduating with honors and earning college scholarships.

In 2017, more than half of the top 1% of the graduating class and half of the National Merit Finalists and one National Merit Scholarship Winner were involved in music at NHS!

One year of band also meets the Fine Arts Requirement for graduation and one semester of marching band waives the PE Requirement. Band also offers a multitude of leadership opportunities for students throughout their tenure in the Eagle Pride. Traditionally, every few years, the band travels to a nationally recognized event or venue such as the Rose Parade, Carnegie Hall, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, or Fiesta Bowl, affording students the opportunity to travel and to perform for national or even international audiences.

BAND CAMP IS FUN – AND YOU HAVE TO BE THERE!

Being a member of the NHS Eagle Pride is a great experience. Participation in the marching band is a requirement for all band students, but more than that, it's FUN! Part of that fun occurs each July during Band Camp!

Band Camp is the week of music and marching practice that prepares the marching band for the fall performances. Students who miss Band Camp run the risk of spending most of the marching season on the sidelines as alternates. ***The reason is that it's almost impossible to catch up on learning the marching drill if you are not at camp.*** Alternates must attend all marching rehearsals, performances and functions, and are considered full members of the marching band. They will be assigned a spot in the show when one becomes available.



New band members should also attend Rookie Welcome Day. This half-day introduction to band eases the transition into membership in the Eagle Pride. It is usually held near the end of each school year. (See the Charms Calendar)

OUR PARENTS ARE THE BEST BAND BOOSTERS!



Our all-volunteer, parent-led booster organization is very active and 100% dedicated to making every student's experience in the band program worthwhile, safe and enjoyable. When your student becomes a member of the Eagle Pride, you automatically become a member of the Band Booster Association. This non-dues organization gives you a chance to be as active as you want in the band program. Booster meetings are held monthly in the Band Room to keep you informed and involved. Volunteer

opportunities range from chaperoning and concessions to uniform maintenance and fundraising. Your leadership skills are also welcome, and with your support, we can continue to have the best band program in Northwest Florida.

FUNDRAISING CRUCIAL FOR ONE AND FOR ALL

All bands must fundraise to supplement increasingly tighter school budgets. We work hard to provide fundraisers that will give our students the music education they deserve. With a large, active booster organization, no one must feel the need to participate in everything. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." Proceeds from fundraisers go directly to individual student accounts and the general band operating fund to meet many of the expenses that are part of a thriving music program. Typical fundraisers are football concessions, Band on the Run 5K, Florida citrus sale, silent auction, 50/50 drawings, sponsor signage, and gift wrap or pasta sales. We always welcome new fundraising ideas!



[WWW.NHSEAGLEPRIDE](http://www.nhseaglepride.com) – THE PLACE TO START

The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation tabs: Home, Charms, Calendar, Download Forms, Files & Handouts, White Sheet, Contact Us, and Frequently Asked Questions. A central message reads: "Please check the Calendar link above for the most current Schedule Information. Click here for the link to the Official Band Booster Facebook Page". A large green box contains the text: "Although this guide provides an overview of many topics, the band website contains many more details you may wish to explore. Please visit our site to learn more about the NHS Band Program." A sidebar on the left lists "Additional Links Below" including: Audition/Tryout Requirements, Directors, Musical Links, New/Prospective Student Info, Parent/Booster Information, Smugmug Photo Gallery, Schedule of Expenses, Student Leadership, Directions to Game Sites, Why Music?, Benefits of Music Education?, and Why Music Matters?

A CHARMING WAY TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

CHARMS is our database and communications system for all Band Program and Boosters operations. Student financial accounts, the band calendar, volunteer opportunities, emails and important student documents are all managed through Charms. You can enter Charms by clicking a tab on the home page of the band website. Shown below is the login screen you will see when first entering the system. Some areas of Charms are conveniently accessible without logging in, such as the Calendar, Volunteers or Files and Handouts.

When prompted to "Please Enter Your School Code" type: **NicevilleHSB**

The screenshot shows the Charms login screen. At the top right, it says "CHARMS OFFICE ASSISTANT PARENT/STUDENT AREA NICEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND". Below the header is a navigation bar with "HOME", "CALENDAR", "VOLUNTEERS", "EMAIL DIRECTORS", and "FILES & HANDOUTS". A red "EXIT CHARMS" button is on the left, and a "5 NEWS ITEMS!" notification is on the right. The main area has three login boxes: "Student Area Password: (Case Sensitive!)" with a "Show Hint" button, "Trip Chaperone Password:", and "Non-Parent Volunteer ID:". At the bottom, there are icons for "Public Calendar", "Email Staff", "Handouts & Files", and "Website".

“WHAT BAND HAS DONE FOR ME”



- Band has provided me an outlet through which I am able to **express my creativity**. (11th grade clarinet player)
- Because of the Eagle Pride I feel as if **my musical abilities have been enhanced** and I know I will cherish my memories later in life. (9th grade tuba player)
- Band adds balance to an academically loaded schedule and makes me a well-rounded person. **It provides me with music, friends, teamwork, and life skills**. (11th grade French horn player)
- Band has greatly influenced my **appreciation of all kinds of music**. (12th grade euphonium player)
- I've not only learned to follow, but also **how to lead!** (11th grade flute player)
- Band exposed me to so many different kinds of people, allowing me to really **expand my friendships!** (9th grade French horn player)
- **Band taught me so much about self-discipline, manners and basic maturity**. I have been amazed how much of what I learned in high school band I've used in college – and I'm not a music major! (College freshman – Louisiana State University)
- In no other club do you get this kind of experience and insight into life. It is the trip of lifetime. It is an experience that can't be fully encapsulated in writing. I learned that **leadership** is not about having all the right answers; it's about knowing where to find them! (12th grade student leader)

“WHAT BAND HAS DONE FOR MY CHILD”



- **The NHS Band means the world to my kids!** They enjoy teamwork, friendships and fun. Another benefit is that the work ethic instilled in band members helps them to be **strong academically**, too. And now my kids are lifelong musicians; I feel certain they will derive joy from music their entire lives because of band.
- Band gives students passion of purpose, teaches them to exude self-confidence, and instills integrity and the persistent drive for excellence. **It liberates the leader in every student, and it is just plain fun!**
- Band has provided both our children with **discipline, high expectations (musically and behaviorally), and a level of musicianship** that far exceeds many college instrumental organizations.
- **Band gave my children a place to feel safe and secure in a big and sometimes confusing high school world.** It gave them their band family who helped them through the hard times and celebrated the good times. Band was the glue that held them together through their high school years.
- Playing an instrument in the band room and on the stage, on the marching field or in the stands, **allows my children the opportunity to increase their music skills AND** have tons of fun!
- **“There will be rewards that will surprise you!”** sums it up for us. We never cease to be amazed by the rewards our family has experienced by our children participating in band – the thrill of hearing our teenage boys discuss the qualities of a piece of classical music at the dinner table, the sense of pride at working with a group for a common goal, and then to benefit beyond high school with a music scholarship – we could go on and on.
- **Band has taught my children that hard work not only leads to success, but can be a lot of fun along the way.** Band has instilled in my children a sense of pride, not just in their own abilities, but in their section, their band, their school and their community. Band has given my children opportunities to do things and go places they could have never done on their own. **That’s what it means to be a part of the Eagle Pride Band!**

SAMPLE BAND STUDENT SCHEDULE

	REGULAR	HONORS	ADVANCED
9th GRADE			
1	English I	English I Honors	English I Honors
2	Algebra I	Algebra I Honors	Geometry Honors
3	Biology I	Biology I Honors	Biology I Honors
4	World Geography	Social Studies Elective	AP European History
5	BAND	BAND	BAND
6	Foreign Language	Foreign Language Honors	Honors or PreAICE Foreign Language
7	Elective	Elective	AP/AICE Elective
10th GRADE			
1	English 2	English 2 Honors	English 2 Honors
2	Geometry	Geometry 2 Honors	Algebra 2 Honors
3	Chemistry 1	Chemistry 1 Honors	Chemistry 1 Honors
4	World History	World History Honors	AP World History
5	BAND	BAND	BAND
6	Foreign Language	Foreign Language Honors	Honors or PreAICE Foreign Language
7	Elective	Elective	AP/AICE Elective
11th GRADE			
1	English 3	English 3 Honors	AP Language & Composition
2	Algebra 2	Algebra 2 Honors	Pre-Calculus
3	Earth/Space Science	Physics Honors	Physics Honors
4	US History	US History Honors	AP US History
5	BAND	BAND	BAND
6	Elective	Elective	Honors or PreAICE Foreign Language
7	Elective	Elective	AP/AICE Elective
12th GRADE			
1	English 4	English 4 Honors	AP Literature & Composition
2	Trigonometry/Analytic Geometry	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB
3	Environmental Science	Anatomy & Physiology Honors	AP/AICE Science Course
4	US Government/Economics	US Government/Economics Honors	AP US Government/AP Macroeconomics
5	BAND	BAND	BAND
6	Elective	Elective	Honors or PreAICE Foreign Language
7	Elective	Elective	AP/AICE Elective

As demonstrated above, band (or percussion/eurythmics class) works with any type of academic program at Niceville High School. Jazz band can be incorporated into almost any course of study as an additional elective.

SAMPLE BAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This calendar represents a typical set of events for the year, but is not all-inclusive. Actual dates vary with school start/end dates. For specific dates and times, please visit the band website at NicevilleEaglePride.com and click on the Calendar tab at the top of the page.

Month	Band Event	Length and/or Time of Day
July	Color Guard & Majorette Basics Camps	1 week
July	Percussion Camp	1 week
July	Band Pre-Camp: Full Band - Evenings	1 week
July	Band Camp: Aux. Morning, Music Afternoon, Full Band Drill Evening	1 week
July	Band Post Camp: Aux.Choreography - Day, Full Band Drill Evening	1 week
August	Regular Marching Band Rehearsals	Tues and Thurs evenings, 6-8:30 pm
Late August	Kick-Off Classic Football Game (if at home)	Evening
Sept – Dec	Friday Night Football Games Call time for band varies with game location. Regular season ends mid-November. Playoffs: mid-November through mid-December.	Home: 5-10 pm Away: varies
Mid-Sept.	All-State Band Auditions	TBA
October	Marching Competitions	TBA
October	Florida Bandmasters Assn. (FBA) Marching MPA	TBA
November	“Sounds of the Stadium” Concert	TBA
Nov – Dec.	Auditions for 2 nd Semester Concert Band Placement	TBA
Early Dec.	All-County Band Auditions	TBA
1 st Sat. Dec.	Niceville Holiday Parade	Morning
Early January	FMEA All-State Convention	TBA
Late January	All-County Band Rehearsals and Concert	TBA
February	Solo & Ensemble Festival	TBA
February	FBA Jazz MPA	TBA
March	FBA District Concert Festival	TBA
April	FBA State Concert MPA	TBA
April	Majorette Clinic and Tryouts	1 Week
May	Auditions for Next School Year Concert and Jazz Band Placement	TBA
May	Percussion Tryout Clinic	TBA
May	Color Guard Clinic and Tryouts	1 Week
Mid-May	Spring Concert and Awards	Evening
Late May	Rookie Welcome Day	½ Day, Morning

TYPICAL NHS BAND FEES

We have some of the lowest fees in a three-county radius. In addition, we offer financial assistance to those who need it and offer many fundraising opportunities to help offset your fees.

FEE	AMOUNT
General Participation Fee – music, seasonal clinicians, equipment, transportation, other ongoing expenses	\$150
Uniform Fee (Majorettes exempt) – alterations, cleaning, purchases	\$20
Auxiliary/Clinician Fee – <i>Color Guard, Drumline, and Majorettes only</i>	\$100
Approximate Accessory Costs for <i>Band, New Student</i> (includes shorts, t-shirt, travel shirt, shoes* and gloves) *Black shoes from middle school marching band are acceptable for NHS band and lower the fee by \$37.	\$115
Approximate Accessory Costs for <i>Color Guard, New Student</i> (includes t-shirt, skort, top, shoes, cami, jacket, compression shirt, and practice flag)	\$220-\$500
Approximate Accessory Costs for <i>Majorette, New Student</i> will vary, depending on vendor and costume purchased	\$650-\$950
School-Owned Concert Instrument Rental Fee (includes percussion)	\$50
School-Owned Marching Instrument Rental Fee	\$75

All fees are due on Uniform Fit Day. If you do not pay for the required items, you will not be issued a uniform. Families with a special hardship should contact the Band Booster Association Treasurer or the Director of Bands.

