

NHS Eagle Pride Marching Band Rehearsal/Performance Attendance Policy 2023-2024 Participant Contract

Attendance at all portions of all rehearsals and performances is mandatory for inclusion in the Eagle Pride Marching Band. Like sports, marching band is a demonstrative endeavor. All Fine Arts classes in the State of Florida are considered “co-curricular” meaning that a portion of the class requirements are during the school and a portion are after school hours. You must be there to complete the requirements of the class. There is no way to “make up” missing from a rehearsal or performance. Our calendar is distributed in the Spring of the year before. Our rule is “first on the calendar, first in the heart.” By accepting membership in the NHS Band program it is understood that this class will require a commitment that is unique. It is both a commitment to complete attendance and also to attitude, effort, and preparedness. If you are involved in a fall sport, then a Fall Sports Marching Band Waiver is available to you so that you can participate in a sport but stay involved in instrumental music during the school day. If you are involved in activities that will prevent you from being at all rehearsals and performances, you may need to make a choice between these endeavors so that you do not create scheduling conflicts for your family and/or any of these organizations. The Eagle Pride is an elite performance organization. An “elite” level of commitment is required for membership in this nationally recognized organization.

Below is the policy for members who are absent from rehearsals or performances. Please read it carefully and ask us any questions that might arise. PLEASE SIGN the Parent Student Eagle Pride Contract page and return it by (and no later than) Friday, August 11th, 2023. These returned syllabi will give us the data that we need when modifying our 2023 Halftime Show. **Although this policy is for the school year marching band rehearsals, any extended absences from summer rehearsals could lead to a performer starting the year as an alternate for an indeterminable length of time.**

Eagle Pride Marching Band Attendance Policy

initial _____

Attendance at **all portions of all rehearsals and performances** is **mandatory** for inclusion in the Eagle Pride Marching Band. Members are expected to de-conflict any conflicting activities in other organizations. There are many things on our campus in which students can participate in tandem with Band. There are also some that may not exist neatly alongside band (and other organizations on campus) without causing a scheduling conflict with both organizations. Your commitment must be to this class when considering co-curricular or extra-curricular membership.

Marching Band Schedule

initial _____

The Eagle Pride will rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm-8:30pm. This is the lightest rehearsal schedule in the county so any deviation from this will cause great harm to the performance preparedness of the Eagle Pride.

Absence Policy

initial _____

Absence Definitions

Excused Absences

- 1) Sickness (including injuries/car accidents) Must turn in an Absence Request Form upon return to school.
- 2) Death in the family
- 3) Military deployment or return from deployment of an immediate family member*
- 4) Wedding of family member*
- 5) School Fall Sports Match or Game*
- 6) School Leave that requires overnight stay*

*See Absence Request Form for notification requirements

Unexcused Absences

initial _____

- 1) Anything Else*

*Unfortunately, everyone believes their request contains special factors that should mitigate the status of their request. This makes the Band Staff the “judge and jury” of these requests. To eliminate the possibility of different families believing their request has been dealt with unfairly in comparison to another family, we have to say no to all requests that are not part of the excused absence list above.

Absence Results

Excused Absences

initial _____

If a student is excused on either Tuesday or Thursday night practice, they will be held out of that week’s performance ***plus the next full band performance***. They will be returned to their spot after the ***second*** performance. Excessive absence due to illness or other excused absences may require that the staff replace the student with someone who has a better record of attendance. Excused absences from a performance will result in being held out for two additional performances. This is to be fair and equitable to the alternate who has learned your spot to save the band from a blemish during performance while you are out.

Excused absences will carry no point deduction from final grade. (Any student caught being dishonest about the status of their absence will be removed from the Marching Band roster and will be placed on a directed course of study for the remainder of the semester. They will have their schedule changed before the start of Spring Semester.)

Unexcused Absences

initial _____

Students who miss rehearsal unexcused will receive a deduction from their grade as follows:

- **Missed rehearsal** – 11pts off final grade **initial _____**
Students with more than one unexcused absence from a rehearsal will be dropped from the Marching Band roster and placed on a directed course of study for the remainder of the semester.
- **Missed performance** – 31 pts off final grade **initial _____**
Students with an unexcused absence from a performance will be dropped from the Marching Band roster and placed on a directed course of study for the remainder of the semester.

If you have already signed a contract with another organization for next school year that *YOU KNOW* will conflict with the Eagle Pride’s schedule, then you should give some concerted thought to not participating in the Band program as you might well be unable to complete the requirements of the class.

Please initial where indicated and sign the Marching Band Contract Page and the Marching Band Syllabus/Schedule page (**due 8/11/23**).

Marching Band Grading

initial _____

Each student will start the 1st quarter with 100 points. The following is a breakdown of point deductions for each infraction:

Unexcused absence from practice.....	11 pts
Unexcused absence from performance.....	31 pts
Tardy to practice.....	3 pts
Tardy to performance	6 pts
Unprepared for rehearsal (no instrument, music, etc.)	5 pts

Any student who is **excused** from a performance will be required to complete a “make-up” assignment when they return to school. These assignments will be distributed by the Band Office prior to an absence if prior notice is given otherwise, the student will be given the assignment upon their return to school. NOTE: All school policies regarding the amount of time a student has to complete their make- up work are applicable here. Please refer to the Niceville High School Student Handbook for these criteria.

A person who misses half of a practice will be counted as absent. Persons who have a Marching Band Performance Waiver will be placed on an “Alternative Course of Study” and required to complete other work in place of the time that Marching Band would require. The director will make those assignments to you during the quarter.

Absence Request Forms are available online at www.nicevilleband.com or in the wall files outside the band office. All request forms should be turned in to Ms. Molina. Please do not email forms. We need the hard form to be sure that parent signatures are valid. Initial _____

Please follow the instructions for filing a request as described on the form itself. NO REQUESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE SIGNED FORM BEING FILED WITH Ms. Molina in the Band Office. Initial _____

Please remember to follow up on the status of your request. Please do not assume that completing the form means your request has been approved. We must stress that a completed form that has been turned in DOES NOT automatically mean the absence has been excused – EVEN IF you have met the necessary time requirement for the notification (4 weeks for marching band, 8 weeks for concert band). We will evaluate the total number of absence requests for that particular rehearsal/performance when determining which/how many absence requests we can grant. initial _____

As a re-cap, although this policy may appear to be laden with stipulations and requirements, it is important to remember that attendance is the cornerstone of quality in any fine arts performing group. In order to continue the outstanding local, regional, and national reputation the Eagle Pride Band program enjoys, we must all serve as a sentry against allowing unnecessary conflicts to erode the total band attendance at these rehearsals and performances! Your help and understanding in this endeavor is GREATLY appreciated.

Please be sure to initial in each appropriate area and sign/date the last page before returning to the Band Office.

Eagle Pride Marching Band Participant Contract

I have read and understand the terms and absence policies for the Eagle Pride Marching Band. My signature below indicates that we understand and agree to abide by the attendance and grading policy of the marching band. We further understand that deviation from this policy without the express written permission of the Director of Band or his designate could result in a member being placed on a directed course of study or removal from the band program.

Student (Print) _____

Date _____

Student (Signature) _____

Date _____

Parent (Print) _____

Date _____

Parent (Signature) _____

Date _____