



**North Farmington High School**

**“Spirit of North”**

**Raider Marching Band**

**Handbook**

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### **Farmington Public Schools Mission Statement**

Farmington Public Schools, together with our community, will provide quality learning experiences empowering each student to become a thoughtful, contributing citizen in a changing world.

### **Farmington Public Schools Music Mission Statement**

Farmington Public Schools are committed to recognizing and cultivating the individual musical abilities and interests of every student. The music staff will provide the foundation for the pursuit of life-long musical experiences.

### **North Farmington High School Mission Statement**

The mission of North Farmington High School is to educate our students so that they will demonstrate performance and skill level commensurate with a technologically changing society, that they reach their potential for creativity and life-long learning, and that they enter the global community as productive, contributing members. We will accomplish all of this in a spirit of respect and partnership, with open communication between parents, students, staff and community

### **Farmington Public Schools Music Department Philosophy**

Music is fundamental to education.

Education must develop the whole person -- intellectual, moral, emotional, physical, spiritual and relational. A person's response to music and creation of music involves logical thinking and, simultaneously, the intuitive feeling that belongs to the creative nature of the human spirit.

Music education provides us with unique dimensions of experience and knowledge not found in other areas of the curriculum. It teaches us the use of the senses, fine-tuning them in qualitative ways, enhancing visual and aural perception. Music enables us to use and develop our creative potential, to see the value of our own special ideas and feelings, and to benefit from, as well as respect, those of others. Music gives us a chance to think divergently, to search beyond the boundaries of what is known, and to give us knowledge and critical ability in languages other than those that are verbal.

A love of music is universal. Music has been produced through the ages because people find delight and satisfaction in playing, singing, listening and in the performance of others. Whether expressing joy, love, sorrow, fear or faith, music affords the means of portraying all the emotions that are part of normal living. The expression of a person's feeling through engagement in creative activities is essential for the internal welfare and stability of an individual, in addition to effective participation as a member of society.

Our society depends on the ability of people to create new and better solutions to the problems that face us now and in the future. Just as the artist embraces and employs the technologies of today and tomorrow in the service of art and humanity, so should politicians, engineers, physicians, lawyers, scientists, teachers, laborers and social service personnel be artistically aware and aesthetically sensitive in their service of humanity. Our greatest resource will be individuals who are broadly educated, can see and think clearly, can hear acutely and feel sensitively and can address the future with more than a narrow technological response. These skills are no longer just desirable. They are essential if we are to survive together with civility and joy. Therefore, the fundamental role of the music program is to develop skills, knowledge, concepts and sensitivity for the sake of knowing and conveying the highest levels of human experience.

**THE “SPIRIT OF NORTH” RAIDER MARCHING BAND** is a co-curricular ensemble that is open to wind instrumentalists, with positions also available in the Flag Corps, Drumline, and Pit. With our rich tradition of exciting music and enthusiastic membership, the name “The Spirit of North” has been appropriately bestowed upon the band. Participation in the Raider Marching Band means you are part of the largest, most visible activity at North Farmington High School. The Raider Marching Band performs at all home and some away football games, college band days, local marching band festivals, parades, and the annual Tag Days concert in the fall. Spring performances include Cedar Point and Memorial Day Parades. During the football season, the band rehearses 4-5 days a week after school. Marching Band is recognized by North Farmington High School as a Fall Sport, and a school varsity letter can be earned at season’s end.

**MARCHING BAND CAMP** is a week of high-intensity marching and music rehearsals. It is an exciting and important part of the program that is a requirement for participants in the Raider Marching Band. Primary goals for the week are to learn our pre-game and half-time shows. There are over 9 hours of rehearsal each day at camp; that is roughly the equivalent of one full week of after school rehearsals per camp day.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

We are proud of the fact that many of our members are the most active students at NFHS. It is imperative, however, that band members attend all rehearsals and performances as required. The success of our program is dependent on the full commitment of every Raider Marching Band member. Communication is the most important tool to handling schedule conflicts. Early communication can avoid many conflicts. This is a matter of respect for and pride in the ensemble and its members. Please take responsibility for your time management.

If a member forecasts an absence, it must be presented in writing, **in person** to the director(s) no less than 24 hours before the rehearsal missed. Excused absences may include, but are not limited to, sudden illness, death in family, or religious observance. Unexcused absences may include, but are not limited to, work conflicts, oversleeping, failure to notify director(s) of absence, etc. It is the responsibility of the **band member** to find time to discuss the conflict with the director(s) **before** it occurs.

**Participation in Fall Athletics, in conjunction with Marching Band, is not possible due to the conflicting and demanding time schedules of each activity.**

If a band member has two unexcused absences from rehearsals between performances, he/she will:

- 1 dress in full uniform and attend the next performance, but not perform
- 2 travel with the Band to help with equipment set-up
- 3 remain with the Band for the duration of the performance

A band member may be dismissed from the Raider Marching Band if he/she:

- 1 misses two performances
- 2 creates a safety or health hazard
- 3 in any way violates the FPS Student Code of Conduct

The director(s) will meet with the student and his/her parents to discuss pertinent transgressions and subsequent action. If the student is dismissed from the Band, no Band activity fees will be returned.

### **VARSITY LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

To earn a Raider Marching Band Varsity Letter, a Raider Band Member must:

- 1 perform in ALL performances in full appropriate uniform, from Band Camp in August through the Tag Day Concert at season’s end.
- 2 have at least a 95% attendance record with NO unexcused absences.
- 3 participate in Tag Days (a minimum of TWO 3-hour shifts).
- 4 be in good standing with all activity fees paid.

## **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

- 1 Be punctual. "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be forgotten." Rehearsals begin at the scheduled time. 2 tardies are considered equivalent to 1 unexcused absence. Students are encouraged to arrive 10-15 minutes early for every report time.
- 2 Be prepared. You should have your folio, music, lyre (if applicable), pencil, chips, and coordinates at every rehearsal, indoor or outdoor.
- 3 Be polite. When there is a conductor on the podium, all talking and playing should cease. If another student needs help, try to assist without causing a distraction.

## **GAMEDAY**

North Farmington musicians take pride in performances that are musical and polished, and gameday is certainly no exception. Football games are a time when we support our school and perform for fans at the stadium. This is the time we get to show why we are called the "Sprit of North."

- 1 When marching to and from the stadium, the band remains at attention. When you have class, it shows. When you don't, it shouts!
- 2 The "Sprit of North" plays a lot! Pay close attention to what is happening in the front.
- 3 Any stands music played must be rehearsed and approved by the director.
- 4 Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- 5 Band members must stay in the designated band area.
- 6 Band members will have the third quarter off and must be back in their seats when two minutes remain in the third quarter.
- 7 If a student must leave the band section, they must be accompanied by another student, and they must have the permission of the director. A parent may be asked to supervise.

## **TRAVEL GUIDELINES**

- 1 always remain seated while on board
- 2 greet the driver as you board
- 3 always thank the bus driver when leaving
- 4 all body parts stay inside the vehicle
- 5 do not make contact verbally or otherwise with other vehicles
- 6 keep aisles and emergency exits clear
- 7 pack all items below windows
- 8 always leave the vehicle cleaner than when you found it
- 9 check undercarriages when loading or unloading
  - o Everything loaded safely?
  - o Are the undercarriages locked? Lock undercarriages before departing.
  - o Are all instruments packed so that they will not move while bus is in motion?
- 10 thank your chaperones for donating their time

## **THE PERFORMING ARTS WING**

We are very fortunate to have terrific facilities for our use at NFHS. The Rehearsal Room (111), Percussion Room (110), and adjacent practice rooms make up a special place that is shared by many musicians every day, and it is important that we take care of our facilities so that they remain in excellent condition. No food or gum should ever enter these rooms. The only liquid allowed is water. Students must also take serious care in maintaining a clean, organized environment. The Performing Arts Wing is our home, and it deserves the utmost respect, care, and concern from every member of the instrumental music family.

## **LOCKERS**

At the beginning of each school year, each student will be assigned an instrumental music locker. Generally, wooden instruments and larger brass instruments are kept in the 111 rehearsal room due to humidity control and locker size. Most other instruments will be stored in the lockers in the hallway of the NFHS Performing Arts Center.

- 2 Lockers are to be closed and locked at all times. It is the student's responsibility to keep the locker locked, except when gaining access to the locker.

- 3 Lockers are to be kept clean. Keep your locker organized, and if food/drink must be put in the locker, it must be sealed in a spill-deterrent container.
- 4 Once lockers are assigned, a locker switch may not occur.
- 5 The lockers and special keyed locks assigned to students are the property of North Farmington High School. If lost, the lock has a replacement fee of \$10. If another lock is found on a locker, the replacement fee will be levied until the NFHS lock is returned. If a locker is found open, 30 minutes of service to the Instrumental Music Program will be required.

## INSTRUMENTS

We are fortunate to have a variety of instruments for student use in our inventory. Students must fill out and turn in a contract before using a school-owned instrument. All instruments should be kept in good playing condition at all times. Percussion students are responsible for putting away any instruments, sticks, or mallets used during class time. Any damage done to percussion equipment will be charged to the person responsible or divided among the entire section. If a school-owned instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire repair cost. If a school-owned instrument is damaged due to normal “wear and tear,” the repair will be paid by the school.

## UNIFORMS

The Raider Marching Band uniform is a visual representation of the spirit and pride of our organization, and is modeled after our school mascot. Uniforms for the “Spirit of North” are provided by the school in large part. They are distributed at the beginning of the year, and can only be distributed **after** deposits and maintenance fees have been paid and a signed and dated contract has been returned to the Uniform Trustees. You must fill out a new contract each year, since uniforms are collected every spring and reissued in the fall. Please return all contract copies when you sign them; one copy will be returned to you with each uniform to which you are assigned.

- 6 The uniform should be worn in its entirety at all times. No Raider Band member should **ever** be in partial uniform. If a situation calls for the wearing of a partial uniform, members will be notified by the director.
- 7 Uniforms must be complete, clean, and wrinkle-free for every performance. An inspection will be held before stepping off to each performance. Violators will be asked to fix uniform problems before being allowed to march in the performance.
- 8 Uniforms should be hung properly from a hanger at all times, not stuffed in lockers.
- 9 Uniform parts:
  - CLEAN white marching shoes
  - White socks
  - Uniform pants
  - Uniform jacket
  - Uniform hat and plume
  - CLEAN white gloves
- 10 Visible jewelry & colored nail polish must be removed while in uniform.
- 11 HEMMING – Use only needle and thread for hemming, not Stitch-Witchery, tape, safety pins or any other means, and **do not cut off any fabric**. Fines will be assessed for uniforms damaged in any way. Pants should not “break” on the foot, but hang straight down. Suspenders help in achieving this look.

## LYRES AND FOLIOS

Lyres and folios are required equipment for marching band activities. Students must have both items at every rehearsal. Both are available for purchase through NFHS when availability permits. Lyres cost about \$10.00, depending on instrument, and folios are \$5.00. Flute lyre/folio combinations are available for \$15.00.

## SHEET MUSIC

Students are responsible for taking care of their own music at all times. Each student is provided an individual part. A new copy of lost music is \$1, plus any replacement parts for original copies.

## **LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

All great organizations depend on great leadership. At North Farmington, we are proud of the fact that we have the best and brightest student leaders. All students interested in applying for a leadership position within the Raider Marching Band must complete and turn in an application. Materials to be turned in include two letters of recommendation (one written by a North Farmington staff/faculty member, the other by a person not affiliated with NFHS) and a statement of intent written by the applicant.

- 1 ALL STUDENT LEADERS MUST ATTEND LEADERSHIP CAMP, BAND CAMP, RELATED SUMMER CAMPS (DRUM MAJORS, FLAG CAPTAIN) AND OTHER LEADER MEETINGS.
- 2 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE WITH A PARENT SIGNATURE ON THE STUDENT CONTRACT.
- 3 IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NOT ALL APPLICANTS FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP WILL BE ACCEPTED.

### **DRUM MAJOR**

The Drum Major serves as a field leader, a representative of the marching band, and a model of excellence. Drum Majors must demonstrate leadership, musicianship, and self-motivation. This title is bestowed upon those that are best able to lead the band, uphold the traditions of the position, and contribute most to the band's performance. Responsibilities include conducting the band, assisting in running rehearsals, and working with other students on a daily basis.

### **SECTION LEADER**

Section Leaders are the strongest musicians in the Raider Marching Band. They must have a positive attitude, a high work ethic, and excellent proficiency on their instrument, as their responsibilities include running sectional rehearsals and teaching music to other members of the section. One section leader is chosen for each instrument in the band.

### **SQUAD LEADER**

Squad Leaders are the marching experts on the rehearsal field. Their main objective is to achieve a unified marching style throughout the Raider Marching Band. They are responsible for teaching marching fundamentals, drill, and coordinate reading to each member of their squad. Squad Leaders work with the Section Leader to help band members learn and perform to the best of their ability.

### **FLAG CAPTAIN**

The Flag Captain is the leader of the Flag Corps, the most important visual performers of the Raider Marching Band. A Flag Captain must be highly proficient in spinning and tossing flag, and must exhibit sound marching fundamentals and great teamwork skills. Responsibilities include, teaching other students basic flag technique, and acting as a squad leader on the rehearsal field.

### **DRUMLINE SECTION LEADER**

The Drumline Section Leader leads the heartbeat of the Raider Marching Band – the DRUMLINE! This position requires thorough knowledge of each instrument in the drumline, superb playing ability and marching skills, and teamwork. Responsibilities include running sectionals, helping new members understand how to set their own drill, and helping new members learn the given music.

### **BAND MANAGER**

The Band Manager assists in the daily management of the Raider Marching Band. Students in this position must be organized and willing to assume a high degree of responsibility. Duties include taking daily attendance and overseeing other management positions.

### **LIBRARIAN**

The Librarian organizes the music and drill of the Raider Marching Band. Organization and availability throughout the year are key requirements of this job. Librarians work during rehearsals and behind the scenes to help keep the "Spirit of North" running as efficiently as possible.

## EQUIPMENT MANAGER

The Equipment Manager's sole goal in life is to make sure that all the necessary equipment is in place for every rehearsal. Podium placement, P.A. system operation, and percussion equipment transportation are a sampling of the duties for which the Equipment Manager is responsible. This person must be dependable, hard-working, and able to work with other students.

### Criteria for selection

1. Completed Application.
2. Demonstrated maturity, discipline, dedication, and loyalty to the NFHS Marching Band.
3. Excellent work ethic, demonstrated dedication to home and school practice.
4. Positive attitude and the ability to POSITIVELY represent the NFHS Marching Band.
5. Demonstrated ability to work with NFHS Band Staff, and NFHS boosters.
6. Demonstrated volunteerism in the Band Program, and a willingness to stay until the job is done.
7. Overall GPA of 3.00 or above
8. One full season of Raider Marching Band experience.
9. Must maintain membership in instrumental music course (Drum Major, Section Leader, Drum Captain)
10. Someone who embodies the "Spirit of North".

### Statement of Intent (To be completed by student)

Please write a minimum of two FULL pages, single spaced, answering the following questions:

Please discuss the following topics in your Statement of Intent.

1. What is leadership?
2. What does leadership mean to you?
3. What traits or characteristics do you have that qualify you for the position you are applying for?
4. How have you demonstrated some of the leadership qualities necessary to be a NFHS Marching Band student leader?
5. What is the "Spirit of North" and how will you promote this next year?
6. List 5 goals that you WILL accomplish this school year.
7. Discuss your feelings about being a member of the NFHS Marching Band.
8. How will the Band program benefit from your selection as a student leader next school year?
9. How will you keep focused, dedicated, and organized as a student leader next year?
10. Discuss what it is to be a professional musician.

### Audition Requirements

All applicants may be subject to an interview.

Section Leader:

- 1 4 Scales (chosen by director)
- 2 Performance of music from upcoming halftime show
- 3 Demonstration of marching, attention, horns up, parade rest

Drum Major:

- 1 Demonstration of marching, vocal commands, stationary positioning, baton/mace skills
- 2 Conducting all or a portion of the Raider Marching Band

Squad Leader:

- 4 Demonstration of marching and stationary commands

Flag Captain:

- Demonstrate basic flag technique.
- Teach technique to other candidates at auditions.

Drum Captain:

- 1 Performance of cadences
- 2 Demonstration of marching and stationary commands

## **NFHS BAND AND ORCHESTRA BOOSTERS**

The purpose of the North Farmington High School Band and Orchestra Boosters is “to provide services and financial support to the programs and functions of the Instrumental Music Department of North Farmington High School,” and for many years the NFHS B/O Boosters have done just that. This group is open to any and all NFHS parents, alumni and community members who wish to aid the support of the North Farmington High School Instrumental Music Department. The ways in which this group assists the education of children is boundless, and we would love to have your support!

**Please understand that fundraisers are designed to help the overall program, as well as the individual student. The NFHS B/O Boosters endorses participation in any and all fundraising activities, but are not obligated to completely fund each student’s opportunity to participate in trips or other excursions. That responsibility falls back to the student and his/her family.**

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

North Farmington High School Bands  
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