



# Newport High School Music Department

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## NEWPORT MARCHING BAND GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Newport Marching Band! My name is Brad Eargle, and I am excited to work with each and every one of you as we prepare for a great marching season. I've put together this list of guidelines not to be a strict set of rules, but so that you might understand my philosophy and expectations as we move forward during the shortened preparation time that we have together. Generally, my rule of thumb is that I will **always** expect you to represent yourself, your school, and your community in a positive manner. Also, I will **always** expect you to have an enjoyable Marching Band experience. If there is ever anything that you would like to talk about, or if you ever have any concerns, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to approach me.

### Band Eligibility and Attendance

1. All students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to join the Marching Band program. Prior training and performance experience is required of playing members, but non-musicians may participate as managers or in other positions as deemed appropriate by the director.
2. School policies pertaining to eligibility will be strictly adhered to. Please see your classroom teachers, Mr. Eargle, or Mrs. Mullen if you are falling behind in a class so that we may direct you to support *before* your grades drop.
3. Regular attendance is crucial for the band to be successful. While we do encourage your participation in other activities, please remember that each activity that you are involved in is a commitment on your part. If there is a scheduling conflict and you cannot attend a performance or a rehearsal, please let Mr. Eargle know **in writing** as soon as possible. I will always inform you of rehearsal and performance times as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to relay this information to employers, coaches, etc. so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
4. Performances and games take precedence over rehearsals and practices. In other words, if you have a conflict between an athletic practice and a band performance, you should attend the performance. Likewise, if you have a conflict between a rehearsal and a game, we expect you to miss rehearsal for the game (with prior written notice, of course).

# Performances

1. All musicians, regardless of their role on the field, are expected to perform in the stands. This includes colorguard members who are instrumentalists. Please be sure to have music and flip folders with you at all times.
2. Students are expected to be respectful at all events and performances. When another band is performing on the field, there will be no talking, texting, etc.
3. PIAA guidelines pertaining to sportsmanship will be followed at each game. Remember that you are representing your school, yourselves, and your community. Cheering against any team, heckling, or any other form of poor fan behavior will not be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the band.
4. Students are not permitted to eat in the stands while playing unless special circumstances apply and permission is given by the director.
5. The band section is for band members only.
6. Students will be given the third quarter off as free time to socialize, grab a bite to eat, etc. Students must be seated and **ready to play** as soon as the fourth quarter clock begins. Any tardiness will be made up at subsequent games.
7. All band members must ride the bus to and from each event unless other arrangements are absolutely necessary. Written permission from a parent or guardian is required in these special circumstances.
8. Students **must** remain on the premises during performances. This includes remaining in the stadium area during third quarter breaks. Leaving the premises during a performance **will** result in immediate dismissal from the band.

# Uniform Guidelines

1. The uniform should be first and foremost clean and neat. Make sure that it has been stored and, if necessary, cleaned properly after each game.
2. Students will step off the bus wearing the complete uniform. Hats should be placed on the head immediately upon stepping from the bus. This includes gloves.
3. Hair must be up off the collar, and under the hat if at all possible.
4. The only kinds of earrings permitted are studs. There will be no wearing of earrings that dangle and could get caught in uniform parts.

5. While seated in the stands, the uniform jacket will remain on. Exceptions to this rule will be based on heat conditions and will be at the director's discretion.
6. When taking advantage of the concession stands during the third quarter break, take extreme care that food is not spilled on jackets. Stains should be taken care of immediately.
7. If the weather is cold, students should layer clothing under the uniform to remain warm during games.
8. Shoes, uniform t-shirts, and gloves will be available for purchase from the assistant director or Mrs. Mullen. Purchase of these items is the responsibility of the student.
9. Most importantly, remember that your uniform is a reflection of yourself, your school, and your community. Wear it proudly, and be aware that any and all behaviors while in uniform will reflect on all three. Let's give people a reason to be proud of our school.