

# **Nixa High School Band**

## **Policy Statement The "Corps Curriculum" 2010-2011**

### **I. OBJECTIVES**

The Nixa High School Band program consists of grades 9-12, with other small ensembles formed out of this group. Membership in small ensembles is contingent upon participation in the major ensemble. Only ensembles that are directed or organized by the band staff are considered part of the Nixa band program. The general objectives of the program are as follows:

- A. To develop musicianship and musical technique through expressive experience with various styles of music.
- B. To develop responsibility as a band, school, and community member.
- C. To develop an appreciation for the arts.
- D. To represent the school as an instrumental music ensembles at music and community events.
- E. To develop individual and group concentration and discipline.

### **II. CHARACTER**

It is the belief of the band staff that the band program can be a major tool for teaching kids character traits that will serve them well later on in life. We promote cooperation, responsibility, honesty, kindness, compassion, trustworthiness, courage, perseverance and respect. The band program does not tolerate alcohol or tobacco usage at any time and encourages students to use integrity and self control in all aspects of their lives.

### **III. MY APPROACH TO THIS BAND**

I have a tremendous amount of pride and ownership in the way that this band performs. I take my job and how this band prepares and performs very personal. I want people to say that the Nixa band program and the students who are in it are the best in the area. Students who give less than 100% effort to this program are holding the program back, not helping it move forward towards our goal of excellence.

- When I am in "band time", I am 100% band. Preparing the fall show or concert music is my only goal when I am on the podium. Nothing else is on my mind. I expect the same from my students.
- I will come into class prepared to teach. Students must come in prepared to learn.
- YOU practice and WE rehearse. You must know the difference.
- Attitude is the key to one's own success.
- I will go to all limits for my students as long as they respect and appreciate what we are trying to do.
- I will never expect my students to do anything that I have not done myself.
- Marching Band is a physical organization. You will be engaging in activities such as stretching exercises, running, push-ups, etc. If you are unable or unwilling to engage in these activities, please rethink your pursuance of this organization. Again, I will ask nothing that I myself have not done.

\*It should be noted that the band program heavily **stresses self-discipline, responsibility, communication, and commitment**. It is believed that these are the skills that every student can take from band into life. The directors will work very hard in instilling these values so that we can attain a program that is based strongly upon dedication to the group, not grades. However, since grades are the main source of evaluation, we have the following...

#### IV. ATTENDANCE FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR BAND ACTIVITIES

I believe that I have shown that I will work with anyone in regards to conflicts with the band schedule. For success in this area to be achieved, everyone involved needs to be flexible. The goal of the policy is to be flexible without hurting the other students in the band as well as be consistently fair to all students. I believe the policy meets this flexibility.

\*\*The proper absence request form MUST be filled out in order for ANY absence to be considered!! Please note the timing requirements on the absence form.

- A. Rehearsals: During marching season the band meets at 7:00 AM, as well as Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30, regardless of weather. We also have full band music rehearsals on Tuesdays, after school until 3:30. **THIS IS MUCH NEEDED TIME!!!**
- B. Performances: This is a performance class. Performances are the main purpose and the main evaluation for this type of class. Attendance at all scheduled performances is required unless **excused by the director**. (Remember, if you don't see me write it down, it never happened. Making sure that your absence is written down in the directors attendance book is YOUR responsibility). Band is a performance-oriented activity with everything taught and learned being geared for performances. A performance situation **cannot** be recreated.
- C. Allowable absences:
- Personal Illness
  - Death in Family
  - Other school functions (please give notice of conflict as far in advance as possible so that the directors and other sponsors can work out the conflict.) It should be noted that what the director and sponsors work out is the final decision. Not following that decision will be consider unexcused. Please note that with attending only five marching contests during the season, we have a fairly rigid attendance policy towards these performances.
  - In regards to participating in other school activities: We encourage students to participate in as many activities that they are able. However, they must be willing to treat each activity equally. The band policy is that if activities conflict, students are to split the conflicting time. There is a hierarchy to activities as well. A State event overrides a District event, which overrides a conference event, which overrides a “regular” season event, which overrides a practice. It is also our policy that the activity sponsors will work out conflicts so that the student is not forced to choose. Most sponsors will work very well with students that are involved in numerous activities. However, there are a few that ask the kids to focus on one activity only. I encourage you to figure out what you want to sports or activities you would like to be involved with next year and meet individually with that sponsor to ensure that their policy works for you. Again, our policy is that we encourage students to keep an active but MANAGEABLE activity schedule! In addition, the directors will work with the student’s schedule of non-school sanctioned activities but it must be understood that the first priority is to the school activity over non- school sanctioned events. If students and parents are not comfortable with this approach, the student should not enroll in band.
  - **(Job conflicts are not an excusable absence and will not be considered)**
- D. Parental Consequences: Due to the performance nature of this activity and how each persons attendance affects all students, parents should refrain from using band performances as a punishment.

E. Attendance Policy: **PLEASE READ!!!**

<b>*1<sup>st</sup> unexcused absence from rehearsal:</b>	Missed time made up after school in band room.
<b>*2<sup>nd</sup> unexcused absence from rehearsal:</b>	Benched from band for one week.
<b>*3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence from rehearsal:</b>	May result in dismissal from group.
<b>*Unexcused absence from performance:</b>	May result in dismissal from the performing ensemble.

**(Please note that the director is the deciding factor on ALL excusable absences.)**

F. Communication:

\*\*The proper absence request form MUST be filled out in order for ANY absence to be considered!! Please note the timing requirements on the absence form.

- Communicating absences should be done no later than the first week of school for the fall season. Conflicts with other school activities should be submitted to the director as soon as the conflict is known. The later you wait in telling me about a conflict, the less chance you have of me being understanding and cooperative. Give me time to find solutions.
- Please note the time table on the absence form in regards to requests. Proper advance notice is always given to the students regarding the scheduling of events so students are asked to provide the same consideration for absences. Giving late notice will result in consequences.
- In emergencies you can call the band office and leave a message. You will need to contact me personally upon your return. If you do not, your absence will not be excused.
- While illness is an excusable absence, it should be understood that excessive absences will need to be addressed. While you will not be removed from the program, key positions will need to be filled.
- If you are not at school on the day of an extra-curricular event, you still should call and remind me that you were not in class. Please note that if you are not in attendance at school for at least ½ a day on the day of a performance, you cannot participate. The same applies for the Friday before an event on Saturday.
- The band staff will work hard to communicate effectively between school and home. Students and parents are encouraged to take advantage of the different media sources utilized for convenient communication. Students are reminded that they are still the primary person responsible for their calendar.

V. **GRADING SCALE**

- A. Practice Journals: At the high school level, students are viewed as mature, responsible musicians. The fact that they are practicing on a regular practice schedule is assumed. To enhance the organization of the time that they are dedicating to self improvement, practice journals are in place. Practice journals are worth 50 points each time they are collected.
- B. Playing tests: Playing test will be given. Each test will be assigned a certain number of points, based on the material. Students who do not earn at least a C on these tests, may not be allowed to perform with the group. Due to the large number of students, at times it may be necessary to have these playing tests after school, by appointment. We may also utilize a peer assessment process with our student staff. Please see the eligibility section in regards to grade level playing tests.
- C. Portfolios: Students will be required to keep a portfolio. This folder should contain music, practice journals, and any references that are handed out. During marching season this can be added to the students drill packet. Once marching season is completed, the information should be transferred into an organized

folder for the remainder of the school year. Portfolios are worth 160 points each time they are collected.

- D. Daily Points: Students can earn up to 20 points daily. Any infraction of the guidelines below will result in fewer points earned.
- Students must be in their seats, ready to play when the bell rings. Failure to do so will result in 5 fewer points earned.
  - Students must have their music, pencil, drill charts, and instruments at all rehearsals. Failure to do so will result in 5 fewer points earned.
  - Points may be deducted for things such as class disruptions and other discipline problems.

If a student misses class for **any** reason he or she is responsible for getting a make up assignment.

- If you are getting your instrument repaired, we will need a note from a parent stating that this is being done. You will have one week to get your instrument fixed.
- D. Written assignments may be assigned for a grade as seen needed by the director.
- E. Performances and out of class rehearsals: Since these items are extra-curricular in nature, a point value will not be given. Please see the attendance policy on page 3.
- F. Effort and Attitude: Whereas a student's attitude will not be given a point value, it is a fact that a positive attitude and a willingness to work and cooperate with others will make the band a better experience for everyone involved. A negative attitude may affect your participation status.

## VI. SHADOWS

- Some band members may be asked to serve as “shadows”. The number of shadows per section will be determined as needed due to instrumentation requirements. The selection of shadows will be based on spring auditions, music and marching evaluations during all summer camps and periodically throughout the season as determined by the staff. The director will have final approval of shadows.
- Once it has been determined who the shadows are, they will march as an extra person in their section and will be evaluated during rehearsals. This evaluation will determine which shadow will have the “starting” spot at performances as well as who would take the place of a regular marcher should a replacement be needed.
- Band members may become shadows during the marching season through a variety of circumstances such as attendance problems, unprepared music memorization, marching problems, etc.
- Band members who serve as shadows are entitled to all responsibilities and privileges of full performing band members. All shadows will perform at pregame, during half time (if there is not a contest the next day) and postgame activities. Shadows will attend all rehearsals, performances and trips as a Crimson Corps band member.
- Shadows may be continued into concert season as needed due to instrumentation. This would mainly be effective at contest performances.

## VII. TRIPS

- **Trips are a privilege earned, not a right. The directors must have absolute trust of every student who participates on any trip. Any student who is deemed not to represent Nixa High School or the band program in a positive manner, as well as any student who exhibits a lack of respect for the directors, may not be allowed to participate in any band trip.**
- Trip sheets will available to the students before each major trip. **It should be understood that many times information sent to the director prior to the**

**week of the event will change. For this reason trip sheets will be sent out early the week of the event.**

- All rules set forth by the school and the teachers will be abided. Disregard of these rules will be dealt with very severely. You represent the school, your parents, and the community; negative behavior will not be tolerated.
- As mentioned, whenever we attend a competition or performance, a trip sheet will be available. **PLEASE** understand that **estimation of times is not an exact science**. We will do our very best to return the students at the estimated time but we do not have control over many aspects of our trip that could affect our arrival back to the High School. Your understanding is appreciated. (Again, signing up for Twitter will help keep you informed of our arrival times.
- **The directors will only release students to the PARENTS personally. The school has a form that you can obtain from the director and must be presented at the time when the student is released. We cannot and will not release students in any other fashion.**

#### VIII. EQUIPMENT

- A. Students using school equipment must pay an equipment usage fee and must complete a user agreement. The instrument will be issued in good working condition and should be returned in the same condition. Please note: Even though a student may not be issued a school instrument, if the student is responsible for damaging school property, they will have to pay for repairs.
- B. Instrument lockers will be assigned to each student. Students who are assigned lockers in the band hallway will also be assigned a lock for security. These locks must be used and should be the **only** lock used. Students should not store anything other than their music and instrument in the band lockers. Marching shoes may be stored in the lockers only if they are placed in a plastic bag. Personal instruments should not be left at school overnight.
- C. Practice rooms, music library, and storage loft should be used only by directors approval.
- D. Students have the responsibility of keeping the room clean and in order. There is to be absolutely **no food, gum, or drink** in the band room, or practice rooms, in accordance with the school rules. Stands are to be put in the stand racks after rehearsal as well as music put away in the file cabinet.
- E. The band room phone should only be used with director approval.
- F. Uniforms and fees: Uniforms should be worn fully unless instructed by the director. Gloves and shoes are also required to complete the uniform. These can be ordered through the director.
- G. A \$40 band fee will be collected from each student to dry clean the uniforms at the end of marching season (\$10), pay for their band t-shirt (\$10), and to pay for the students spot in the show (\$20).
- H. Music: Individual music cannot be replaced unless all the music is replaced. Please take care of all music. If you lose original music, be prepared to pay for the entire musical selection. Copies from the band room copying machine are \$.25 per copy.

#### IX. PERFORMANCE DRESS

Students are reminded that performances are a formal event and their attire should reflect that. Unless directed otherwise, students are to wear the uniform in full during marching season. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the entire uniform is in presentable condition. During concert season, students must wear concert dress attire. This can best be described as slacks, button down shirt (tucked in), and dress shoes for men and equal conservative style (no sleeveless) attire for women. Absolutely no tennis shoes, flip flops, jeans, warm up pants, or t-shirts should be worn. **Black and gray are the acceptable colors for contest.** The director retains the right to refuse

performance privileges to any student who does not fit the performance attire description as well as to modify the dress code if a more stringent one is needed. Students need to remember that they need not wear anything that brings attention to them instead of the group as a whole.

**X. Dismissal/Student Pick Up**

As a staff we always want to be respectful of the time that is given to the band program. For that reason our rehearsals will be dismissed on time. Students will still need to put their equipment away etc but instruction and announcements will be completed by the scheduled time. Performance ending times are always a bit more difficult to estimate but hopefully parents find our utilization of Twitter (which can be delivered to your phone or you can view on the website), in addition to students communicating via cell phone a valuable tool towards communicating return times. And as the staff strives for courtesy of ending times for band events, we respectfully ask that parents and students do the same for the staff. Students are expected to be picked up no later than 20 minutes after dismissal of rehearsals or arrival from a band event. Please have back up arrangements in case you are not able to promptly pick up your student. We are asking for your assistance in this matter as it has been a problem in the past.

**XI. AWARDS**

Awards are based upon a separate point system as well as by the director's evaluation of effort and attitude.

**XII. ELIGIBILITY**

1. The band is subject to MSHSAA eligibility guidelines. Students must pass six out of seven credits in the previous semester in order to participate in any extra-curricular activity, including band. You must also be currently enrolled in a minimum of six classes.
2. A student who misses school the day of an event, **without** the principal's permission, cannot participate in that day's event. If you miss school on Friday, you cannot participate on a Saturday activity.
3. Any student who receives ISS is ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities for 14 days. Remember, you can receive ISS for excessive tardy's so get to all your classes on time!
4. Any student who has an F in any class for two consecutive grade checks will be placed on academic probation and steps to replace them in the ensemble will be made. If the F continues for three consecutive grade checks, the student will be officially benched until that grade is brought as shown by the next grade check available. We would be happy to assign a tutor if you find that you are having difficulty in a particular class. If you are benched, you will not practice or perform with the band but you will still maintain attendance. Most of the time, being benched due to grades can be avoided if you simply turn in your homework. If you feel it is for another reason, I can meet with your other teacher's to determine what the problem is.
5. Students are expected to be able to play their instrument at grade level. In January, students will be given a test that will evaluate their progress towards meeting this expectation. If the student is identified as not playing at grade level, they will be given specific items that need to be improved upon before the next level test in late April. If progress is present, the student can enroll in band for the upcoming school year. If not, they may not be given permission to enroll in band.

### Band Parent/Student Consent and Understanding Form

We have read the Nixa Band policy statement. We understand the policies and guidelines set forth and agree to them. We will abide by any action taken by the directors and the school in accordance with these policies.

I, the parent/guardian, further give permission for my child to participate in any school related activity sanctioned by the band program. In the event of an accident or sudden illness while on a band activity, I authorize school personnel to take whatever action is deemed necessary in their judgment for the health of my child including, but not limited to, authorizing medical treatment.

#### **FALL SCHEDULE CHANGES**

*The directors will not pressure students to join band when the scheduling process begins. Students are encouraged to consider all possibilities and make the choice that is right for them. It should be understood that once the student has made their decision and signs up officially for class, plans are then made on their behalf and the commitment that they have made. It is also important for the students to realize that a commitment should be valued. A commitment means that they can be counted on.*

*For this reason, if students change their mind about continuing in band, they must do so prior to June 11<sup>th</sup>. After this point, the fall show is written and drops will not be allowed. By signing below, the parent and student is agreeing to honor the commitment that has been made and will not seek a schedule change until 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. In addition, the \$20 portion of the band fee that reserves the students spot in the show will be non-refundable since it will have already been spent.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

May you be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities with the Band Boosters? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form, signed, by May 14, 2010. Students will not be allowed to sign-up for band until this form is on file. Please include the \$40 band fee as well.

#### **2010 Fall Performance Dates**

*Please put in your planner!!*

8/27	Football Game	9/25	Contest
9/17	Football Game	10/2	Contest
10/8	Football Game	10/9	Contest
10/22	Football Game	10/16	Contest
10/28	Football Game	*10/23	Contest?
		*10/30	Contest?

\*Contests on these dates have not been announced at this time. We will not have events on both of these dates; we will just choose one once the sites have been clarified.