

Nouvel Catholic Central Elementary/Middle School Bands Handbook 2021– 2022

Grading Criteria:

Students' grades will be based upon the following criteria:

Regularly Scheduled Assignments:

Assessments will consist of: instrumental performance, written assessment, music journals, demonstration, and concert participation.

Major Performances:

As a performance-oriented class, students will be responsible for attending and performing at public performances. Students will be graded upon attendance at such performance(s). The band performance schedule is listed in this handbook. Please mark these events in your calendar and attempt to resolve any conflicts as soon as possible. **Performances are not considered to be optional activities.**

NOTE: Missing a performance because of transportation issues is avoidable. This band program is a large network of students and parents in 5th – 8th grades. Students, or parents, can pre-arrange, or make emergency/alternate transportation (rides) through other students and families who may also be in band (5th – 8th grades). Please contact the director if you need help solving a transportation problem, they will be willing to assist in any manner possible.

Citizenship:

Students' grades will also reflect their behavior, participation, completion of assignments, and interaction in the group environment. These and the assessments above will total 10 points to earn per class period.

Practice & Daily Progress:

Students are expected to practice on a routine basis. A practice goal is expected every week. Students will be expected to have daily lessons prepared. When working out of the method books, students should strive to pace themselves 1 - 2 pages ahead of the daily class instruction. Individual growth and ability will depend on the repetition of materials covered in class.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Respect one another, verbally and physically.
 - a. *Running, throwing of objects, rough housing, and inappropriate language and/or actions are not acceptable.*
 - b. *Keep your hands to yourself; refrain from touching other people's property, unless asked.*
2. Be quiet and attentive.
3. Listen and follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Toys, food, candy, gum and drinks are not allowed in class unless for specified occasions. *Water is allowed in a sealable water bottle only.*
5. Always follow **ALL** rules (school and classroom) and procedures.

Classroom Rewards:

1. Praise (daily)
2. Practice incentives.
3. Positive reports home (written or phoned) ~ random
4. Various 'perks' throughout the year.

Classroom Responsibility:

Students are expected to follow class rules and procedures set forth by the teacher and the school. Students who make poor decisions and choose not to be responsible for his/her own actions will be subject to the following consequences in descending order.

1. Student will be warned about his/her actions. (Strike 1)
2. Student will be asked to 'pack up' for the day and will lose all participation points for the day. A note home will follow this action. (Strike 2)
3. Student will be asked to leave the classroom and sit in the office for the rest of the class period. A call home will follow this action. (Strike 3)

Instrument Storage/Use of School Instruments:

Students are expected to keep their instruments in their homeroom/locker or the band room during the school day depending on space. Students will be responsible to bring their instrument to school for every band day. When school is finished for the day, students will be responsible for getting their own instrument to take home.

A student who is using a school-owned instrument is responsible for the care of that instrument. If a school-owned instrument, or any school band equipment, is damaged, the person(s) using that specific instrument, or equipment, will be responsible for the repair of the damages.

Classroom Procedures:

- ❖ Be on time for class with their instruments **every** rehearsal day.
 - *Students must have their instrument for rehearsal, or arrange to have it delivered by the time of the rehearsal. Students will be marked **Unprepared** each time the instrument, reed, mouthpiece and or book is forgotten and will lose participation points for that day.*
 - *If a student comes to class without an instrument and requests to go to a locker and get it, the student may be marked **tardy** if they do not return on time and lose up to 3 participation points for the day.*

- ❖ Remove any food, or candy from your mouth, and dispose of it in the proper trash container.

- ❖ Pick up music and instrument from storage places.

- ❖ Arrange chair(s), stand and music; sit down. Please use music stands in the way for which they are intended. (Refrain from leaning, writing, or placing heavy items on them.)

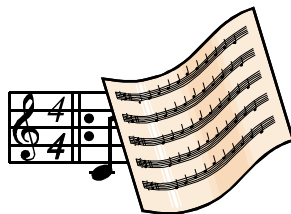
- ❖ Assemble instruments.

- ❖ Move instrument cases out of the way. Place cases under your seat, back on the shelf, or against the wall.

- ❖ Play only the instrument assigned to you. Please refrain from playing another person's instrument. **Students are responsible for any items issued by the school and will be fined for any damage done.**

- ❖ Check the board for daily assignments.
- ❖ Constructively practice until the director is ready. You must warm up in the appropriate manner (use class assigned materials).
- ❖ Have a pencil ready to make changes in the music.
- ❖ Refrain from playing and talking when the director is speaking.
- ❖ Wait for the director to dismiss the class. It is unacceptable to start packing your things up before you are dismissed.
- ❖ When class is dismissed, return music and instruments to the proper places, straighten area, and pick up any garbage around your area.
- ❖ *Take your instrument home and practice!*

***Time, effort and patience must be put forth to achieve success in band.**



Fact:

Kids who study Music do better in school and in life!

Band members get better Math, Science, and Language grades. Studies at the University of Sarasota and East Texas State University both found links between the number of years of band instruction and significantly improved academic achievement as measured by standardized Math, Science and Language tests.

Student Expectations:

- Be Prompt:** Always be early to any class, rehearsal, or performance. *“To be early is to be on time; To be on time is to be late; To be late is to be missed.”*
- No Obstructions:** Cases are placed out of reach and not used as a footrest.
- Discipline:** A good musician has enough discipline to behave properly, listen, work hard, and work cooperatively in the classroom.
- Listen Carefully:** A good musician pays attention and does not disrupt the class by talking, or playing, inappropriately while in rehearsal.
- Good Posture:** Sit up straight on the edge of your chair, feet flat on the floor.
- Equipment:** Always keep instrument in clean, good working order. **Keep at least 3 good reeds, grease, and/or oil in your case.** Clean after each use and make sure all slides, valves, and mechanisms are in proper working order. Treat the band room and equipment with care.
- Teamwork:** *“The band is only as good as its weakest member.”* If everyone works together for the good of the group, there are no weak players or losers. There are only winners and a band to be remembered! 😊
- Patience:** A good musician is patient while the director is instructing individuals, sections, group, or taking care of other matters.
- Silent Practice:** A good musician uses independent, silent practice whenever the class has downtime, or a need for class silence.
- Practice:** Always be prepared for rehearsals. *“Practice is a sign of ability. Ability is a sign of achievement. Achievement is a sign of greatness.”*

“Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.” ~ Plato

Dress Requirements For Performances:

Students should take pride in their appearance and performances. A lot of time is spent rehearsing for the performances throughout the year.

Students should plan to dress up for any occasion that requires participation in front of an audience.

DRESS TO IMPRESS!!

Students who are performing should look and play the part. Appearances and first impressions mean a great deal! Dressing for the occasion states the performer is proud and ready to perform.

Students are *not* permitted to wear jeans, sweatpants, t-shirts, or gym shoes for performances.

Required Uniform:

I ask that your child be prepared for performances with “Concert Dress” attire.

The 5th - 8th Grade Concert Dress consists of:

- **Black** Dress Pants
- **Black** socks that cover the foot and ankle
- **Black** Dress Shoes
- **White** button down (mass) shirt/blouse (long sleeve)
- **Blue Vest & Bow Tie** – provided through school (7th & 8th grades)

Parents, please keep in mind that we are trying to maintain a conservative and uniform look.

- **Please do not purchase cargo style pants, hip huggers, flares, low rise, or stretch pants.**
- **Shoes should be basic and as plain as possible.**

This uniform will be used for multiple performances throughout the school year. The items listed above are available at **Meijer, Wal-Mart, Target**, etc. If you have concerns or are not sure, purchase the pants, shirts or shoes, leave the tags on and bring them in for the Director’s approval. That way, if they are not acceptable, they may be returned.

Students may not be able to participate and may not receive credit for performance if they do not attend in the required uniform. Please take the time to help us look as great as we sound!

Nouvel Elementary Band's Performance Schedule:

BAND				EVENT			
5th	6th	7th	8th	Date	Time	Performance	Participation
			♪	TBD	6:30 p.m.	Musicians Night	
				(Friday)	to	Football Performance	Full Band
					Approx.	<i>Boyd Field</i>	
					8:30 p.m.	<i>NCCHS</i>	
		♪	♪	Dec. 4, 2021	Individual	MSBOA District	<i>All participants</i>
				(Saturday)	Scheduled	Solo & Ensemble Festival	<i>must sign up in</i>
					Event		<i>advance with the</i>
					Times	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Director(s)</i>
♪	♪	♪	♪	Dec. 15, 2021	6:00 p.m.	NCCE/MS Bands	
				(Wednesday)	5th & 6th	Christmas Concert	Full Bands
					7:00 p.m.	<i>Gym</i>	
					7th & 8th	<i>NCCE</i>	
♪	♪	♪	♪	TBD	1:30 p.m.	March is Music in Our Schools	
						Month Assembly Concert	Full Bands
						<i>Gym</i>	
						<i>NCCE</i>	
		♪	♪	March 4 or 5		MSBOA District	
				OR	Scheduled	Band & Orchestra Festival	Full Bands
				March 11 or 12	Event		
				2022	Times	<i>TBD</i>	
♪	♪	♪	♪	May 11, 2022	6:00 p.m.	NCCE/MS Bands	
				(Wednesday)	5th & 6th	Spring Concert	Full Bands
					7:00 p.m.	<i>Gym</i>	
					7th & 8th	<i>NCCE</i>	
♪	♪			May		Splash Village Trip	
				2022	Time:		Full Bands
					<i>TBA</i>	<i>Frankenmuth, MI</i>	
		♪	♪	May		Mackinaw Island	
				2022	Time:	Performance Trip	Full Bands
					<i>TBA</i>	<i>Mackinaw Island, MI</i>	

*****Please Note:** Additional field trips may be added to this schedule. Field trips are optional activities and attendance is not required.

Description of Band Performances:

Parents, family members, friends and community members are highly encouraged to attend any performance in support of our students and bands.

NCC Musicians Night Football Game: This performance will take place annually and showcases the NCC High School Marching Band along with the STA and STS Middle School Bands. Bands march perform the halftime show with NCC High School Marching Band.

Christmas Concert: This performance is a tradition in the NCCE band program. Students will perform seasonal musical selections along with a variety of other favorites.

Solo & Ensemble Festival: This event allows 7th and 8th grade students to prepare a solo (1 player) or ensemble (2 or more players) to perform in front of a judge for a rating based upon the students' performance. Most students have been successful at receiving 1st and 2nd division ratings and thereby earning a medal. Students who choose to participate are offered coaching and additional assistance to prepare for a successful experience.

MSBOA Band Festival: This concert is an opportunity for our fine musicians to perform for 3 judges that will give them a rating on their prepared performance. There is also a sight-reading portion of this performance that will be judged as well. This is comparable to our MAP testing and, as all performances, attendance is mandatory. Our students "compete" with area bands to show what our band program is doing in light of learning, reading and expressing music.

Spring Concert: This performance is a selection of fun pieces that put the newly acquired skills each band as learned throughout the school year to use. Students really enjoy this concert because they are showcasing their new abilities in a very fun concert!

Concert Etiquette

This should be the easiest part of being a good musician.
(Yes, this also is a part of your grade.)

Be on time!

- ❖ To be early is to be on time.
- ❖ To be on time is to be late.
- ❖ To be late is to be missed.

Be Prepared

- ❖ Have all the pieces of music you need, all the parts of your instrument, have all the parts of your “concert dress”, and have anything else you might need.
- ❖ Please do not show up in part of your uniform.
 - ~ Come fully dressed in “concert dress,” or
 - ~ Come completely in street clothes and then change when you get here. (If you do this, you will have to get here with enough time to change BEFORE your arrival time.)

Make sure your instrument is in good working order.

- ❖ Oil valves, grease slides, etc. (You should be doing this all along – not just before the concert.)
- ❖ Soak reeds correctly. (You should be doing this every day – not just before the concert.)
- ❖ Percussion:
 - ~ Check on stage – make sure all equipment is in the right spot, tuned correctly, and well organized for moving around.
 - ~ Mallets and beaters placed neatly and carefully.
 - ~ Instruments set up for good eye contact with conductor.
 - ~ Check with other percussionists who might be using the same equipment on a different song.

Warm-Up

- ❖ Warm-up correctly – a concert warm-up should be almost identical to your everyday warm-up.
- ❖ Don't wear yourself out before the concert. 😊

Going on Stage

- ❖ Stay focused as we move to the stage. Concentrate on what you are about to do.
- ❖ Sit or Stand the right way at the right time.

On Stage

- ❖ No unnecessary movement – everything you do is visible – especially from percussion.
- ❖ No talking / whispering on stage at all.
- ❖ When not playing, sit up tall and listen to what is being played.
- ❖ Wait for the audience to stop applauding before moving music and instruments.
 - ~ You have one very easy job while the audience is applauding: **sit tall and smile.**
 - ~ Turn to face the audience when your conductor asks you to stand for applause.

In the Audience

- ❖ You have one very easy job while in the audience: **Be silent and listen.** Zero noise of any kind.
- ❖ Percussionists keep mallets in mallet bag while in the audience.

After the Concert

- ❖ Do not play after the concert (except a correct Warm-Down).
- ❖ Everyone helps clean up the stage including:
 - ~ ALL Percussionists help move all equipment CAREFULLY.
 - ~ All woodwinds and brass help with chairs and stands.

**Music expresses feeling and thought,
without language; it was below and before
speech, and it is above and beyond all
words.**

Percussion Equipment Contract:

Nouvel Catholic Central Elementary School provides most of the percussion instruments that students are expected to play during school hours. The total cost of our percussion equipment is tremendously high. Because the school has invested so much money in making sure our percussion students have quality equipment, it is very important that every percussion student take excellent care of all our equipment. This includes playing with proper technique, and moving equipment correctly.

Equipment Cost:

Timpani: \$4,000 - \$6,000 each
Bass Drum: \$1,200+
Xylophone: \$2,500+
Chimes: \$3,500 +
Crash Cymbals: \$600 - \$1,000/pair
Bass Drum Mallet: \$80
Triangle: \$50
Tambourine: \$75
And much more!

The student listed below agrees to take excellent care of the equipment entrusted to them as a member of the Nouvel Catholic Central Elementary School Bands. **Students will cover them after class, put away mallets and accessory instruments in a manner determined by Mrs. Burtch and will return all “floor instruments” to the proper places before leaving the band room.** Percussion students have the right and responsibility to keep non-percussionists away from all percussion instruments. If anyone is found to be destroying an instrument or mallet, the student(s) and parent(s) will pay for its replacement or repair as determined appropriate by Mrs. Burtch.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

****Please consult with Mrs. Burtch for a list of equipment that is needed for percussionists at each grade level. This equipment is split up across 6th, 7th, and 8th grades so that it does not all have to be purchased at once. Please note that the total cost of all these mallets is still less than what most wind players ultimately pay for their instruments.**

Please Print/Detach/E-sign this paper & the percussion page above and return with student. Please bookmark or download the Handbook for future reference.

Nouvel Catholic Central Elementary School Bands

2136 Berberovich Dr., Saginaw, MI 48603

Ellen Burtch, Director ~ Email: eburtch@nouvelcatholic.org

<http://nouvelbands.weebly.com>

We (the student and parents/guardian) have read the enclosed handbook, especially those areas concerning: required uniform, performance dates, class expectations, routine practicing and responsibility.

Thank you for your support in giving your child a quality musical experience!

Print Full Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

PLEASE DATE: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP BY August 31st, 2021.

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