

STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATION & EXPENSES

The goal of the Norcross High School Band program is to provide students an excellent music education. The Gwinnett County Public School System provides only a small portion of the funding necessary to run a successful program. Therefore, the Band Booster organization, Band member families, and the community work together to raise the funds needed to ensure that our Band continues to thrive. The participation of each Band member and family, both personally and financially, is vital for the ongoing success of our whole Band program.

Each student who participates in any portion of the Band program is asked to contribute a participation fee in the amount of \$50.00. This fee covers class expenses such as music, music stands, and instrument repair. **Students who participate in the extracurricular marching program are asked to contribute an additional \$650.00.** This fee is used to pay the expenses of Band camp, uniforms, travel, instruction and supplies associated with the marching program.

Note: These contributions do not include what the school charges for instrument rental and insurance. If a student rents a school owned instrument their rental charges are paid directly to the school.

The financial obligation may be met by either making monthly payments to the Band Booster organization or by participating in various fundraising opportunities that are made available throughout the year. These fundraising opportunities are noted elsewhere on the NHS Band website, in the NHS Band Handbook, and are discussed in detail at the monthly Booster meetings.

No student will be denied participation in the Band program because of an inability to make payments to their Band obligation. A family with financial concerns should contact a Band Booster co-president and/or the Band director in confidence. The president and/or director will work with the family to restructure the payment schedule, arrange participation in fundraising opportunities or provide other financial assistance. These arrangements must be made before the first payment is due or as soon as the hardship arises.

The fiscal year for the Band is April 1 - March 31 each year. Each student's Band obligation is tracked whether the payments are made by check or earned through fundraisers. A statement of each student's account is e-mailed to the student's family monthly. In order to cover the Band's expenses throughout the year we request that each Band member meet the following contribution deadlines:

Payment Schedule - Marching Band Students 2010 - 2011			
Due Date	Purpose	Necessary Minimum Contribution	Required Contribution to Date
April 15	Intent Fee	\$100	\$100
May 15	Marching Obligation	\$150	\$250
June 15	Marching Obligation	\$150	\$400
July 15	Marching Obligation	\$150	\$550
August 15	Marching Obligation	\$150	\$700

*This schedule was amended slightly for Color Guard students due to their later (May) tryout date, however all obligations are due in full by August 15.

Every student that participates in the extracurricular marching band program is expected to contribute their fair share to the program, either by participating in various fundraising opportunities offered by the Norcross High School Band Booster Club or by actual payments to the student's band obligation account. **The contributions paid by students cover the cost of band camp, contest fees, flags, instruments, instrument maintenance and repair, marching drill, music, professional instruction, and uniforms.** There are many opportunities for fundraising opportunities described elsewhere in this Handbook and on the Band Booster website at www.norcrossband.org. The obligation amount of \$700 for the 2010-11 school year may be paid prior to the marching season, with **minimum** payments due on the dates above. **At least \$550 must be paid** to the student's account before the student attends band camp July 25th – 30th.

Additional Payments – Winter Guard

Students participating in Winter Guard are required to make additional contributions. The cost for Winter Guard is determined primarily by the number of participants and is determined before Winterguard auditions occur in early Winter.

Band contributions may be paid to NHS Band Boosters (**please indicate student's name on check**):

- at monthly Band Booster meetings
- placed in the (secured) money box in Mr. Gilbert's office
- mailed to (all summer payments should be mailed):

Norcross High School Band Boosters
Post Office Box 922264
Norcross, GA 30010

Any overpayments to a student's account will be carried over to the next fiscal year for that student. Upon graduation, any overpayments may be transferred to a sibling's account or donated to the band's general fund.

A returned check charge of \$10.00 will be added to a student's obligation if a check is returned by the bank for any reason.

Other Band Expenses

Other expenses associated with Band are:

Uniform Expense

- Marching Band - New students in the marching program are required to purchase marching shoes and gloves.
- Color Guard – Students in the Color Guard are required to purchase apparel such as gloves, warm-ups, etc., as needed.
- Concert Band – Students in Concert Band class are required to purchase/obtain a white tuxedo shirt, black socks or pantyhose, and black dress shoes to complete their uniform.
- Symphonic and Wind Symphony Bands – Students in these band classes are required to purchase/obtain specific concert attire.

Spirit Items

There are many spirit items available that parents and students may wish to purchase to enjoy and to showcase their support of the Band. These include additional show shirts, polo shirts, stadium seats, license plates, magnets, throws and bags. Items available may change from year to year.

Spring Trip (every other year; optional)

One highlight of the NHS Band experience is the Spring Trip. This trip is taken every other year. Although it may or may not include an opportunity to perform, the trip is planned with music as a featured part of the itinerary, as much as is possible. Additionally, it allows students to perhaps experience a new part of the country and/or new venues.

The Spring Trip destination is usually announced in the preceding Fall and additional fundraisers are planned to help offset the cost (approx. \$500 - \$600). In recent years, the NHS Band traveled in to New York City, Chicago, and in 2011 will travel to Washington, D.C.