

# Welcome to North Lincoln Bands!

North Lincoln Bands is built on a strong tradition of excellence, combining outstanding musicianship and performance to create meaningful and engaging experiences for students. Through hard work, dedication, and a spirit of community, students build skills and memories that last a lifetime.

As part of the academic program at North Lincoln High School, band allows students to earn academic credit while participating in a variety of ensembles and performances. Many ensembles also include opportunities for honors-weighted coursework. Participation in performances and rehearsals beyond the school day is an important part of the full band experience.

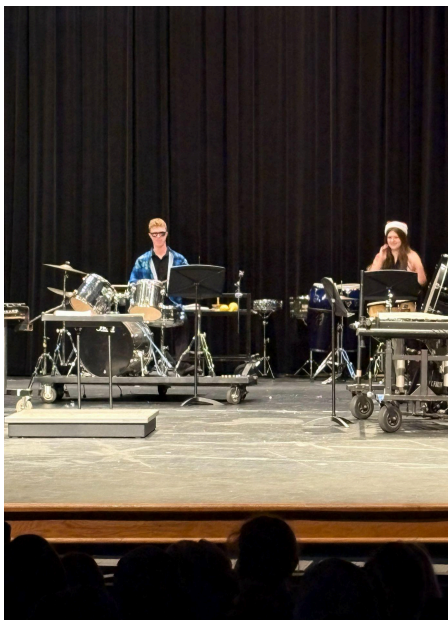
Being part of North Lincoln Bands means joining one of the most accomplished band programs in the region and across North Carolina. Students become part of a supportive and connected community, often building relationships with 80+ fellow members before the school year even begins. This handbook is designed to help new members and families understand what to expect and confidently begin their journey.

## Opportunities with North Lincoln Bands

North Lincoln Bands includes a wide range of ensembles and performance opportunities that allow students to grow as musicians, performers, and leaders throughout the year.

- Band of Knights (Marching Band) – the program’s flagship fall ensemble
- Concert Band
- Symphonic Band
- Jazz Ensemble
- Winter Guard
- Winter Winds
- Indoor Percussion / Percussion Ensemble
- Honors Bands (All-County, All-District, and All-State)

For more information, visit the North Lincoln Bands website ([www.bandofknights.com](http://www.bandofknights.com)).



## Band Classes at North Lincoln High School

Band is an important and diverse part of the curriculum at North Lincoln High School. Students enroll in band courses that support both their musical development and participation in various ensembles. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in band in both semesters to support continuous growth. Students in Color Guard who do not play a band instrument can enroll in Music Specialization during the fall semester and take other electives in the spring. Concert Band and participation in the overall band program are open to all students willing to commit to the expectations. Wind Ensemble placement is determined by audition.

In the fall, students typically take Concert Band or Symphonic Honors Band based on experience and placement. These ensembles focus on foundational musicianship and preparing for the holiday concert season.

### Fall Courses:

- Beginning Band
- Band Proficient Honors
- Music Specialization (guard class)

In the spring, students continue to build their skills through Concert Band and Symphonic Band while preparing for Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), spring concerts, and additional performances.

### Spring Courses:

- Band Intermediate
- Advanced Band Honors

**Please check out the sample schedule later in this packet for an example of how band can fit in your schedule.**



## **Band of Knights: The NLHS Marching Band**

The **Band of Knights** is the official marching band of North Lincoln High School and serves as the most visible and high-energy component of North Lincoln Bands. Each year, the Band of Knights presents a newly designed competitive show that combines music, movement, and visual performance. This competitive ensemble performs at home football games, select away football games, regional competitions, and special events throughout the fall season.

Participation in the Band of Knights is optional but highly encouraged, as it provides students with a unique opportunity to build teamwork, leadership skills, and performance experience. Many students describe marching band as their “fall sport,” combining physical activity with artistic performance and a strong sense of team.

Rehearsals are typically held after school throughout the fall, with the competitive season taking place from late September through late October or early November.



## **Pre-Season Rehearsals and Band Camp**

The Band of Knights season begins well before the first performance with a series of rehearsals. Band Camp and all other rehearsals are held at North Lincoln High School.

**Spring Practice** brings returning and new members together for marching fundamentals and an early taste of the Band of Knights experience. These series of practices are designed to be an introduction of our marching style, warm-ups, fundamentals, and life in high school marching band. For new members, spring process offers a chance to meet current members and make some friends so that band camp won't be such an unknown. It's also a time for those nervous or unsure about marching band to experience marching band before fully committing to it. Color guard typically holds a mini-camp at the same time. All interested members should try to attend.

**Rookie Camp** helps new members continue to build confidence and develop foundational skills through two half-day rehearsals. Rookie Camp is typically within the first few weeks of summer and is focused on teaching new members fundamentals that will prepare them for band camp. The end of Rookie Camp is when a commitment to joining the band is needed.

**Summer Rehearsals** are a series of evening rehearsals designed to introduce music and begin early preparation for the show. Students are asked to attend if they are in town.

**Band Camp** is the official start of the Band of Knights season and is required for all participating members. Held over two weeks mid- to late-summer, students attend band camp to learn music, marching drill, and performance techniques through structured daily rehearsals. Band camp emphasizes teamwork, preparation, and performance readiness, culminating in a preview performance for families and supporters.

Typical band camp days involve marching rehearsals in the relative cool of the mornings and musical rehearsals indoors in the heat of the afternoon. In week two, students will go outside for marching or learning drill in the evening. Each day begins with the full band stretching together before sectional rehearsals with highly qualified instructors.

On the last Friday of band camp, friends and family are invited to attend a special performance of what the students learned at band camp. Parents and volunteers play an important role in supporting students during band camp and throughout the marching season.

## 2026 Marching Band Calendar

<b>April 28-30</b>	Spring Practice	3:30pm-5:30pm
<b>May 27-28</b>	Rookie Camp (new members and leadership)	8:30am-12:00pm
<b>June 11</b>	Summer Practice (full band)	6:00pm-8:30pm
<b>June 25</b>	Summer Practice (full band)	6:00pm-8:30pm
<b>July 16</b>	Summer Practice (full band)	6:00pm-8:30pm
<b>July 20-24</b>	Band Camp - First Week	8:30am-5:30pm
<b>July 27-31</b>	Band Camp - Second Week	8:30am-8:30pm
<b>Aug 4</b>	Post-Camp Rehearsal	6:00pm-8:30pm
<b>Aug 6</b>	Post-Camp Rehearsal	6:00pm-8:30pm
<b>Aug 11</b>	Post-Camp Rehearsal	6:00pm-8:30pm
<b>Aug 21</b>	Away Football Game (@ West Lincoln)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Aug 28</b>	Away Football Game (@ Lincolnton)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Aug 29</b>	Saturday Mini-Camp	8:30am-8:30pm
<b>Sept 4</b>	Home Football Game (vs Maiden)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Sept 11</b>	Home Football Game (vs West Iredell)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Sept 18</b>	Away Football Game (@ East Lincoln)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Sept 19</b>	Lincoln County Marching Band Preview (@ Lincolnton HS)	All Day
<b>Sept 26</b>	Roundtable Tournament of Bands (@ NLHS)	All Day
<b>Oct 2</b>	Home Football Game - Homecoming (vs Newton-Conover)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Oct 10</b>	Competition (@ East Lincoln HS - Denver, NC)	TBD
<b>Oct 17</b>	Competition (@ Bassett HS - Bassett, VA)	TBD
<b>Oct 23</b>	Home Football Game (vs Bunker Hill)	6:00pm-10:00pm
<b>Oct 24</b>	Competition (@ East Burke HS - Connelly Springs, NC)	TBD
<b>Oct 31</b>	Competition (@ Cary HS - Cary, NC) <i>possible overnight trip</i>	TBD
<b>TBD</b>	Encore Performance (@ NLHS)	TBD
<b>Nov 29</b>	Lincolnton Christmas Parade	Afternoon
<b>Dec 5</b>	Denver Christmas Parade	Early afternoon

### After School Rehearsals

Aug 13-Oct 29 | Mondays (6:00pm-8:30pm); Tuesday and Thursday (3:30pm-6:15pm)

## Concert Season

The North Lincoln Bands concert program includes a series of performances throughout the year. The annual holiday concert features a mix of traditional and seasonal music. During the winter and early spring, select ensembles prepare for Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), where they perform for adjudicators and receive ratings based on performance and sight-reading.

Additional performances typically include a spring concert and a pops concert, offering a variety of musical styles and experiences. These events are open to the public and provide opportunities for students to showcase their growth and musicianship.



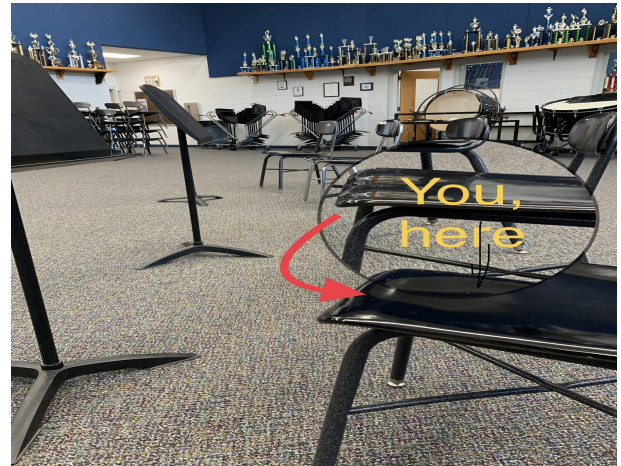
## Band Fees and Fundraising

The **band assessment** is set each year by the band booster board and the director as a part of our budget process. These band fees are only for marching band. Fees typically range from \$450 to \$800 depending on what the band is doing each year, selected competitions, and/or where we are traveling. In the spring, students will have the opportunity to register for marching band and will pay a \$100 deposit securing their spot in the group. This is important. Once you register you will be written into the marching production that we produce over the summer. Rental fees for students who use school owned instruments will be applied to help cover the cost of maintaining the instruments over the years.

It is important to note that **no student** will ever be denied participation in the band for financial reasons.

## Scheduling for Band

With the adoption of the 4x4 block schedule, it became more challenging for students to schedule band during both semesters. As you can imagine, it's hard to get better at your instrument if you don't play throughout the year. We ask that band members try to take band each semester. Approximately 85% of band students take both semesters. Every student is different. Some students struggle to keep band in their schedule as much as they would like while others have band and free periods to spare. Most of our students are college bound. Band looks good as an academic credit as well as an extracurricular activity on your college resume. You can receive honors credit for band which in most cases can help your GPA.



We have attached a sample schedule of a recent graduate who is now attending UNC Chapel Hill. This is just a sample. Your schedule could include other classes, Gaston College Classes, electives, AP classes, etc. This student enjoyed band all four years, was academically driven, and is now in a very prestigious college of their choice.



## Band Vocabulary

This section defines common terms used throughout North Lincoln Bands and the Band of Knights to help students and families better understand the program.

<b>Band Assessment</b>	The fees associated with participation in the Band of Knights (marching band), determined annually as part of the Band Boosters budget process.
<b>Band Banquet and Awards</b>	End-of-year event held every spring to honor all band members for their accomplishments during the school year. This is a final farewell to our graduating seniors. The next year's marching band Show is typically unveiled during this event.
<b>Band Boosters</b>	The Band Boosters are a parent-led organization that supports North Lincoln Bands through fundraising, event coordination, and volunteer efforts. Booster members play a critical role in helping provide resources, manage events, and support students throughout the year.
<b>Band Office</b>	The The Band Office is the central point of contact for the program and can be reached by phone at 704-736-1969 ext. 61716.
<b>Bands of America (BOA)</b>	A national organization that provides opportunities for performance, learning, and excellence through music education. BOA hosts regional marching band events and Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, and sponsors a summer music camp called the Summer Symposium. Learn more at <a href="http://www.bands.org">www.bands.org</a> .
<b>Blue Box</b>	Designated location for payments and correspondence to the treasurer, located outside Mr. Minick's office. Items placed in the Blue Box should be in a labeled envelope (name, amount, and purpose). Most checks should be made payable to North Lincoln Band Boosters unless otherwise noted..
<b>Color Guard</b>	An ensemble that uses flags, rifles, sabers, and other equipment to visually enhance the music performed by the band. Students audition annually to be part of the group. Often referred to as "guard," these members are part of the marching band. See also <b>Winter Guard</b> .
<b>District Band</b>	Students can audition for all-district band sponsored by the South Central District Bandmasters Association. Placing high enough in this ensemble can lead to eligibility to audition for NC Honors Band.
<b>Drum Major</b>	The student leader chosen by audition to conduct the band and serve as its highest ranking student leader.
<b>Fundraisers</b>	Fundraisers are organized events and campaigns that help support the financial needs of North Lincoln Bands, including equipment, travel, uniforms, and educational opportunities. Participation in fundraising helps keep costs manageable for all students.

<b>Honors Band</b>	A prestigious ensemble sponsored by the North Carolina Bandmasters Association. Students are eligible to audition based on district band placement. Learn more at <a href="http://www.ncbandmasters.org">www.ncbandmasters.org</a> .
<b>Marching Band</b>	The Band of Knights is the official marching band of North Lincoln High School. While participation is optional, it includes the majority of band students and combines musicians and color guard into a unified performance ensemble. The marching band performs at football games and competitions, blending music with visual performance. The ensemble includes woodwinds, brass, battery (on-field percussion), the pit (stationary front ensemble), and color guard.
<b>Pit Crew</b>	A group of dedicated parents and supporters who transport pit instruments and props to and from performances and assist with setup on and off the field. The pit crew also helps transport larger instruments for concerts.
<b>Roundtable</b>	Band of Knights' annual marching competition held at North Lincoln High School in September or October. The Roundtable is a highly anticipated annual event for the community as well as our largest fundraiser. All band family members are needed to help run this historic event.
<b>Rookie Camp</b>	A two-day event typically held shortly after the school year ends where new members learn marching basics and musical fundamentals. These half-day sessions provide individualized instruction and help students connect with fellow band members.
<b>Spring Practice</b>	A series of spring rehearsals for returning and new members that introduce marching fundamentals, music, and expectations. These practices help new members become comfortable with the Band of Knights before the start of summer rehearsals.
<b>Show Shirt (i.e., Band T-Shirt)</b>	Each fall, the Band Boosters provides each member with a show shirt designed to reflect the theme of the marching band show. These shirts are worn to show pride in the program and may be used as a casual uniform. Additional shirts are available for purchase. These are great for competitions!
<b>Summer Uniform</b>	A uniform used for early-season performances in warm weather. Each student wears their issued show shirt, black knee-length shorts (not athletic shorts), and mostly white athletic shoes. Shorts and shoes are not provided. This allows the band to maintain a polished appearance while performing in hot conditions.
<b>The Show</b>	"The Show" refers to the annual marching band production performed at football games and competitions. Each year's show is unique and evolves throughout the season as students refine music and visual elements. Sometimes major changes are made over the course of the season. The show reveal is a highly anticipated moment for returning members because they know we will be bringing to life the music and visual ideas for several months.

<b>Uniforms</b>	Each band member is assigned a uniform tailored for proper fit. Uniforms are cleaned at home and returned to the school after use. Students are responsible for storing all uniform parts properly. The uniform includes accessories, gloves, gauntlets, shoes, socks, and a hat with plume. Band hats and plumes are kept in separate boxes.
<b>Winter Drumline</b>	An indoor percussion ensemble that performs during the winter season. Students compete at local, regional, and national events on gym floors similar to Winter Guard. Participation is optional, and additional fees may apply
<b>Winter Guard</b>	A post-marching season activity for color guard members from November through April. Varsity and Junior Varsity ensembles compete in regional circuits using choreography, dance, and equipment such as flags, rifles, and sabers. Members perform routines set to recorded music on a tarp in gymnasiums. Anyone is eligible to join, even if they did not participate in Color Guard during marching band season. While Color Guard members are not required to participate in Winter Guard, many choose to do so to spend more time with their friends and strengthen their dance and equipment skills. Varsity and Junior Varsity typically attend the same competitions but compete in different classifications. Participation is optional, and additional fees apply. See also <b>Color Guard</b> .
<b>Winter Winds</b>	An indoor ensemble similar to marching band, performed on a smaller scale in a gymnasium. Students develop both musical and visual performance skills while learning a new show and competing across the region and occasionally at world championships.
<b>Winter Programs</b>	A group of indoor ensembles, including Winter Guard, Winter Winds, and Winter Drumline, that allow students to continue performing and developing their skills after the fall marching season