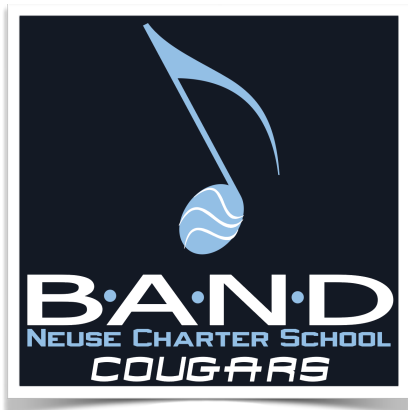




B·A·N·D
NEUSE CHARTER SCHOOL
COUGARS

2022-2023 HANDBOOK

MRS. LEAH WILLIAMS



Neuse Charter School
909 Booker Dairy Rd
Smithfield, NC 27577
Leah Williams, Director of Bands

Dear Neuse Charter School Band Families,

Welcome back to another school year at NCS! I am filled with excitement for a brand new year! Students gain valuable skills such as self-discipline, self-confidence, cooperative learning, teamwork, how to read music, music history and theory in band. Many studies have shown that learning to play an instrument helps your brain development in ways nothing else can. Music performance improves student's skills in math and language arts as well. It's an excellent place to meet great people and develop everlasting friendships.

This year we will be using Smart Music and Essential Elements Interactive (6-8) to help with your online band classes. Essential Elements Interactive is the website that supplements our band books. Smart Music gives immediate feedback to our young musicians. Our band book and concert music is found in this program. They can also play with the program at home and Smart Music will sound like the entire band is there playing with you.

Remember to sign up for Canvas. Canvas is a site that will help you and you child know about announcements, assignments and performances for band class as well as their other classes too. Our goal is to have open communication so everyone is well informed and understands the overall expectations for our band program no matter what level in band you are in.

Thank you,

Leah Williams

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Music Stores & Resources

Edwards Music, <http://www.edwardsmusic.com>

Music and Arts, <http://www.musicarts.com>

Woodwind and Brasswind, <http://www.wwbw.com>

Muncy Winds, <http://www.muncywinds.com>

Amazon, <https://www.amazon.com>

NC Bandmasters, <http://www.ncbandmasters.org>

Smart Music <https://auth.smartmusic.com/identity/account/login>

Mission Statement

"We, the band of Neuse Charter School, aim to inspire passion for music in our members and those in our community. We achieve our goals through diligence, performance, and perseverance. We create lasting relationships and memorable experiences among ourselves and those around us."

Expectations

"Genius is 1% talent and 99% percent hard work..." -Albert Einstein

It also comes from knowing what to do, how to do it, and the willingness to work over a long period of time to get the job done well. With this in mind, we hope each student will approach this band year with the desire to achieve and be successful in all that you do. These are the basic expectations for the band. All school-wide rules will apply in band class. Each individual class will discuss specific classroom procedures.

- Have your instrument, music, and other materials needed for class each day
- Play your instrument in class every day
- Show total effort at all times
- PRACTICE at home every day! (Essential to success!)
- Successfully complete ALL assignments
- Perform in all performances throughout the year

Mrs. Williams' students will Respect, Reflect, Represent, and be Responsible.

The Rules

1. Absolutely NO TALKING or PLAYING when the teacher is working.
2. All music making stops INSTANTLY when the teacher gives the signal.
3. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking in class.
4. Respect our Band.

Band

The Consequences

1. 2 Minutes without playing
2. 5 Minutes without playing
3. Detention- 30 Minutes, after or before school in band room. I will email or call the parent to find the best time to schedule this.

🎵 Certain behavior problems may result in an automatic office referral. 🎵

Our band performs in our community and outside of NCS. It is extremely important that we are always respectful when we are performing and traveling. You are representing yourself, the school and NC when we are visiting other states. Only students who can behave will be allowed to travel with the band.

You must demonstrate your outstanding behavior everyday.

Excellence is our way of life!

Grading Policy

Students will receive a letter grade for band based on the following:

Written Assignments (50 point)

- Practice logs
- Students will be asked to complete activities in Canvas online.
- Assignments are due on given due date. All assignments must be completed before the end of the quarter..

Performance and Playing Test (50- 100 points) Smart Music/ Essential Elements Interactive

- Students are expected to attend required performances and will be graded.
- Required concert dress for ladies is a combination of black/white; gentlemen should wear black dress pants and a white, long-sleeve dress shirt.
- If a performance is missed due to sudden circumstances (sickness, death in the family, etc.) a parent/ guardian ASAP should contact Mrs. Williams. Any performance missed will have a written composers report in place of the performance grade.

Honors Band Students in grades 11 and 12 will have one extra band leadership projects to complete each quarter.

Practicing

All band students are expected to practice daily. Students will be expected to work on their play-off song at home before playing the song as a test. All students should not sight read (play the song for the first time) for the test.

Concert Attire

For formal concerts: (When we are allowed to perform.)

All students will wear concert white & black attire as follows for formal concerts:

Boys:

White Dress Shirt

Black Dress Pants

Black Shoes/Socks/Belt

Bow Tie or Tie

Girls:

White Dress Shirt/Blouse

Black Dress Pants/Skirt

Black Shoes

*Black & White Dresses are acceptable

High School Girls: Will wear a concert black dress. (All Black Dress)

For informal events: All students will wear their NCS Band T-shirt and jeans.

Band uniform shirts are \$15 and will be sold through Custom Ink website.

Specific attire information will be provided prior to the performance.

Supplies

1" Band Binder

- w/ 20+ sheet protectors and more if they need them.
- w/ white lined paper
- Fine tip expo marker

Method Book

- 6 Grade- Beginner Band-Essential Elements Book 1
- 7 Grade- Essential Elements Book 2
- 8 Grade- Essential Elements Book 2 (We will complete 2.)
- High Schoolers [Foundations for Superior Performance](#)

Instrument- [Edwards Music](#) is recommended.

Instrument Specific Materials (DAILY)

Flute:

- Cleaning Rod (should come with flute)
- [Silk Swab for cleaning](#)

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones:

- Cork Grease
- Box Reeds (at least three at all times)
- Silk Cleaning Swab (Make sure you buy the swab for your instrument.)
- Neck Strap (Saxophones only)

Brass:

- **Cloth stored in your case to act as your own disposable "brass can".**
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Valve Oil (not trombones)
- Trombone Slide Cream or Oil (trombone only)
- Spray Bottle for water (optional for trombone)
- Cleaning Snake and Mouthpiece Cleaner

Percussion:

- Snare and Xylophone bell kit
- Percussion Mallet Set, <https://rb.gy/y4lbkb>.

Rehearsals

Each student is responsible for having their instrument, accessories, pencil, band binder with music in sleeve protectors, and method book for class each day. Participation in daily rehearsals is a requirement of every band member. Any after-school rehearsals and/or events are required. You will be given as much advance notice as possible - usually several weeks - for any after-school rehearsals. All events are on the attached calendar. If you are unable to attend an after-school or weekend rehearsal and/or event, a Music Event Absence Email must be submitted to a Director a minimum of three weeks prior to the scheduled activity.

Instrumental Storage

You must have a "tag on your bag" (case) to use the storage room! Students may drop off their instruments in the morning immediately upon arrival on campus and pick them up after school. Students will pick up their instrument shortly after dismissal. Instruments must go home every night for practice and security reasons.

Please help encourage your child with this.

NCS Band Websites

<http://neusefinearts.weebly.com/6th-grade-band.html>

<http://neusefinearts.weebly.com/7th-grade-band.html>

<http://neusefinearts.weebly.com/8th-grade-band.html>

<http://neusefinearts.weebly.com/cougar-band.html>

Essential Elements Interactive

<https://www.essentialelementsinteractive.com>

To use the Essential Elements Website...

1. Go to <https://www.essentialelementsinteractive.com/createStuAcct.asp>
2. Enter School Code: **NeuseChartBand93**
3. Choose a User Name and a password.
4. Write your user name and password in the Essential Elements book.

If you forget your account user name and password, I can reset it for you.

Canvas

A link to Canvas is on our NCS Home Page and also on our Band Page online,

<https://ncs.instructure.com/login/canvas>.

Students will need to access Canvas for Band announcements, calendar events, music and more. Parents should observe their students through Canvas.

Smart Music

Smart Music will be provide to all band students through the school. This program can help benefit your child's music literacy and give them confidence in performing. I will give each band student a Username and password for their Smart Music account.

This program is \$30 per year if you were to buy it on your own. Please make sure your child uses this program when they are practicing their instrument at home.

Practice Tips

1. Quality not Quantity, a small amount of focused practice everyday with a routine is much better than a large unfocused amount once a week.
2. Time entered for practicing records should reflect actual playing time on the instrument.
3. No matter which class, 100 minutes of practice per week is the minimum requirement. Some students may desire much more time.

Things Parents can look for to help with practicing:

1. Good Posture- sitting or standing, feel flat on the floor.
2. Embouchure (mouth placement)- Four "F"s
 - Firm corners of the mouth.
 - Flat Cheeks
 - Flat Chin
 - Fast Air
3. Percussion can practice all parts on a snare drum, practice pad or bell kit. (Even bass drum and crash cymbal parts.)
4. Positive comments about commitment and responsibility in response to your child during times of not wanting to practice will help your child in their success. Remind your child that success takes time and is not immediate.
5. If you notice a change in your child's attitude regarding band, please discuss the change with your child and contact Mrs. Williams's as soon as possible so your child can get back on track.

Neuse Charter School Band
School Owned Instrument Contract
2022-2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased that NCS had an instrument that your student can use for this school year. Please understand that this service comes with a small fee of \$100 to help insure that this instrument can be cleaned/maintained yearly. REPAIRS will be additional- so if the instrument is dropped/bent/broken- the repair will be an additional charge. A payment option of \$100 will be set up in your student's EZ payment portal. Please submit this payment within 5 days of execution of this contract.

Thank you

Leah Williams

Band Director

Lwilliams@neusecharterschool.org

Instrument Brand/Make: _____

Serial Number: _____

I, _____ (parent name), understand that I am responsible for the school owned instrument listed and that the yearly fee for use is \$100. I also understand that additional repairs are not included in the yearly fee and that I will have to fully pay for any damages to the instrument while in our care.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Calendar Dates

Date	Event	Place
August 18	Disney Field Trip \$75 Deposit for anyone new to Neuse.	EZ Payment Portal
September 14, 2022	Disney Field Trip \$255 Payment #1* Grades 8- 12	EZ Payment Portal
October 2022	Band Pictures	TBA
October 14, 2022	Disney Field Trip \$255 Payment #2* Grades 8- 12	EZ Payment Portal
November 14, 2022	Disney Field Trip \$255 Payment #3* Grades 8- 12	EZ Payment Portal
December 6, 2022 at 6 PM	Winter Concert	NCS- GYM
February 9- 13	Disney Field Trip (Grades 8- 12)	Disney
March 18, 2023	UNC- Pembroke Honors Band with Randall Stradridge	UNC- Pembroke
May 2, 2023	Spring Concert and Awards!	NCS-GYM
May 19, 2023	Graduation- 8th- 11th	NCS-GYM

**After room assignments are finished this amount might change.*

Photography Waiver for the Band

I am aware that participation in the Neuse Charter School Band will place my child in a position to have his/her likeness recorded in both still pictures and video. I grant my permission to the NCS band, host at any event, and any news media, to record, use for promotion, and/or publish without any compensation to me or to my family for use thereof.

Guardian Signature:
