

# New Hanover High School Bands Parent Handbook



R. Timothy McCoy, Director  
[newhanoverbands.org](http://newhanoverbands.org)

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## Meet the Director

Mr. R. Timothy McCoy is the Director of Bands at New Hanover High School. He has been teaching for 22 years in the public school system in West Virginia and North Carolina. Mr. McCoy graduated from West Liberty State College in Northern West Virginia. While in college he majored in percussion and piano. He was a part of numerous performance organizations such as marching band, concert band, percussion ensemble, jazz ensemble, steel drum band, string orchestra and choir. Mr. McCoy was also a member of the Wheeling Symphony for several years. During this time he also worked at Crescendo Camps in Rio Grande, Ohio and Lebanon Junction, Kentucky. He worked with over 128 bands in his 8 years at Crescendo.

In 1989, Mr. McCoy took the job at Oak Hill High School in Oak Hill, West Virginia. For 15 years, he led the band at this school. The school had marching, concert, jazz and percussion ensembles and he also led the Pit Orchestra on years there was a school musical. The Oak Hill Band performed in several national festivals and won first or second place at all of them.

In 2004, Mr. McCoy and his family moved to Wilmington to become the director of Bands at New Hanover High School. During his time here we have seen a major change in the way the band is perceived. They have become a much requested group in the county and region. The band program has expanded to add a full big band jazz band, a percussion ensemble and in the near future a steel drum band. They usually perform 40 to 50 times a year and this year won the first Marching Band Grand Championship in New Hanover High School history.

Mr. McCoy is also a performing musician in Wilmington, playing for many musicals at Thalian Hall with Opera House Theater Company and the Thalian Association, and also as a freelance musician with different organizations around town. Several of his students have been able to join him in these musicals, which make it that much more enjoyable. He also plays drums and keys for his Church. Mr. McCoy lives in Wilmington with his awesome wife Mary and two phenomenal daughters, Rachel and Tamara.



## Band website – [newhanoverbands.org](http://newhanoverbands.org)

Get the latest news and information about the Marching, Symphonic, Percussion and Jazz bands at <http://newhanoverbands.org>. The website is updated weekly and has forms, pictures, volunteer opportunities and more. Sign up for the Newsflash and get breaking news about band activities!

# The Band Year

## Band Camp

During summer vacation, the Marching Band begins to practice the field show they will perform at football games and competitions. The Band Director will schedule:

- ♪ some mini-camps which may last one or two days
- ♪ one week long Band Camp
- ♪ some sectional practice days

These sessions typically start the last week of July and runs through August. During camps and practices, the band not only rehearses the music they will be performing, but they will learn the "drill" routine that they will be marching while they perform the music.

During Band Camp all students will register on [ischoolband.com](http://www.ischoolband.com). This website helps the band director organize many band functions.

Once your student registers on <http://www.ischoolband.com> , you will go to the website and register using a code assigned to your student.



## Expenses for Band Camp:

**Show Shirt and Pride Shirt --\$25, Shoes--\$25, Gloves--\$5.** The shirt, shoes and gloves are required purchases and will be measured and ordered for you at a date to be determined. Show shirts are representative of the show and are worn only by band members. Pride shirts can be worn by band members and boosters. All shirts must be paid for before you receive them. Show and Pride shirts adhere to the dress code policy.

***All expenses must be paid by the end of band camp. If you will have trouble meeting this obligation, please see your Director or the Band Camp Chairperson to work out arrangements.***

Returning members will only have the T-shirts and gloves to purchase and/or shoes if needed.

### During Band Camp:

- ♪ **Drink plenty of water every evening, and each day before, during and after practice. If you feel thirsty, then you may already be dehydrated.**
- ♪ Eat good meals
- ♪ Get a good nights sleep
- ♪ ALWAYS eat a good breakfast. Don't eat greasy, heavy foods. **No Milk.**
- ♪ Be early for Practice!

- ♪ Wear a hat and/or sunglasses and light colored and lightweight clothing.
- ♪ WEAR SUNSCREEN EVERY DAY! It is most effective when applied before practice begins.
- ♪ Wear shoes that are comfortable and that provide support. You will be marching forward and backward on the pavement. Don't break in new shoes at camp. Do not wear sandals or flip-flops or go barefoot!
- ♪ Bring your own water jug/cooler each day.
- ♪ Drink your own water. Never drink after each other.
- ♪ Bring and eat a nutritious lunch.
- ♪ Have a good time learning the music and the show!

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- ♪ Ice/drinks
- ♪ Ice is needed for each day of band camp. Donations of Gatorade and water are usually requested ahead of time to help the students.
- ♪ Attend band camp sessions to make sure that students don't pass out in the heat and be ready to attend to any first aid needs.

After school practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 pm throughout the football season

## Football games

Mr. McCoy will notify students when they need to be in the band room on Football Fridays. Usually it will be between 5 and 6pm. Students will travel by bus to the game, and return to the band room around 11pm. Please be prompt when picking up your student.

The band may have the third quarter to get something to eat and are expected to be back before the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.. All other times band members are expected to be playing with the band.



### Volunteer Opportunities

- ♪ Truck loading and unloading – We need some Dads to help put instruments on and take them off the truck. Students are responsible for taking instruments in and out of the building. **A few extra hands will speed up the process and get your student in your car quicker!**
- ♪ bus chaperones (one chaperone required for every 10 students)
- ♪ Chaperones for football games are responsible for supervising students on the buses and during the game, and walking them to and from the bathroom
- ♪ Serving as Water Crew during the game
- ♪ Distributing and receiving uniforms from students and putting them in their proper places.
- ♪ Distributing gloves
- ♪ 50/50 raffle – Sell raffle tickets to spectators and announce winner at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Band gets 50% of all money raised
- ♪ Videotaping performances

# Competitions

## What to Expect and Etiquette at Competitions

Band competitions are festive occasions full of color and sound. Family members usually wear their New Hanover High School Pride gear and sit together to support the band during competitions. Spectators should not



enter or leave the stadium while any band is performing. Applause and cheering for bands is appropriate and encouraged.

Talking during performances should be limited. Remember we are there to support the hard work and effort of all competing bands. Admission to local contests ranges from \$5 to \$10. Things you may want to bring include; seat cushion, camera, and rain gear.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- ♪ Truck loading and unloading
  - Truck rental and gas
  - We need Dads to help put instruments on and take them off the truck. Students are responsible for taking instruments in and out of the building. **A few extra hands will speed up the process and get us to the competition and home quicker!**
  
- ♪ Food donations
- ♪ Bus chaperones
  - Depending on the competition, we are allowed 6-8 chaperones. Chaperones and bus drivers are admitted for free but any other children or friends must pay admission.
  - Chaperones for competitions are responsible for supervising students on the buses and during the competition.
  - Accompanying them to and from bathrooms and dressing rooms.
  - If buses are used for changing, chaperones need to be on or near the buses while students are changing into their uniforms.
  - Once our band leaves for the practice field, chaperones are released and may go into the stands to watch the competition.
  - Once our band performs and leaves the field, chaperones need to leave the stands and meet the band back at the buses. They need to stay on or near the buses while students are changing back into their street clothes and then accompany band students back to the stands, where they can view the remainder of the competition.
  - As chaperones we have the responsibility of supervising the band students, but there are 2 paid staff members that take precedence over chaperones: Mr. R. Timothy McCoy-Director of Bands and Mr. Khawon Porter-Colorguard Coach.
- ♪ Bandgrams are announced prior to a band taking the field in competition. A bandgram is a shout out that can be purchased at the competition for a small fee.

# Marching Band Shows

## ♪ 2007 – Prince of Egypt

- “Deliver Us”
- “Through Heavens Eyes”
- “When You Believe”

## ♪ 2008 – A Taste of Jazz

- “Roundabout”
- “Pegasus”
- “One More Time, Chuck Corea”

## ♪ 2009 – Jekyll and Hyde

*2009 Grand Champion Stallion Classic*

- “Prologue/Murder, Murder”
- “In His Eyes”
- “Façade”

## ♪ 2010 – The Music of Stevie Wonder

- “Superstition”
- “Don’t You Worry About a Thing”
- “Sir Duke”
- “Isn’t She Lovely”
- “You Are the Sunshine of My Life”

# Local Events

The band performs at many events in the community. The events vary each year, but there are several regular events including:

- ♪ Heart Walk
- ♪ Escorting Santa in Mall
- ♪ Carolina Beach Christmas Parade

- ♪ Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
- ♪ Azalea Festival Parade

# Senior Week/Senior Night

During senior week, the seniors are given little token gifts (or gift bags) of appreciation each day during this week. The gift bag items don't have to be expensive; they can be homemade. Please feel free to use your creativity with the gift ideas. A volunteer(s) is needed to coordinate this so that the seniors will receive a token gift each day of senior week.

Also, on Wednesday of senior week, the volunteer will pick up lunch for Mr. McCoy and all the seniors. This has been a tradition for the seniors only to have lunch with Mr. McCoy on a designated day (Wed.) during senior week.

At the end of the week a potluck dinner is held in honor of our senior band members. All Band Booster members are asked to bring in a dish to share. All seniors and their parents will be served first with all others to follow. The "Hospitality Volunteer" is in charge of coordinating this dinner.

The senior band members and their parents are recognized in a ceremony before the Homecoming game. They typically follow the recognition of the football players and the cheerleaders. The parents are given corsages to wear and the seniors are allowed to wear their "senior crowns."

Photos will be taken of each senior and their family members after the ceremony by the "Photographer/Videographer" volunteer and will be posted on the Band Boosters website.

## 8th grade night

All New Hanover County 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students are invited to play with the band at a designated football game. The band boosters provide pizza for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.



## Spring Fling

Spring Fling is a big, wet celebration to end the school year. The boosters organize the cookout and there are several ways to help including:

- Organizing the Potluck Dinner
- Grilling burgers, hot dogs, chicken
- Water activities & games (tug of war, etc.)
- Decorations
- Student awards

***Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend!***

# Graduation

The Symphonic band performs at high school graduation in Trask Coliseum each year.

# Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is offered in the spring semester. It's similar to a middle school band but more challenging. The band performs concerts several times during the spring semester. Band members wear formal black

### Examples of music:

- Movie Themes
- Rock Themes
- Pop Themes
- Standard Band Literature

### Performance Venues:

- St. Mary's
- Scottish Rite Temple
- Williston Middle School
- D.C. Virgo
- Brogden Hall

# Percussion Ensemble – The Slam Catz

The New Hanover High School has a percussion ensemble, which takes place during the spring semester. You do not have to be a drummer to become a member of the percussion ensemble. Instruments used in the ensemble include drums, xylophone, bells, and other percussion instruments. The percussion ensemble gives drummers a chance to perform and practice different types of music.

### Musical Selections:

- ♪ Parade Pieces
- ♪ Cadences
- ♪ Short Circuits

### Performances:

- ♪ · EOG Pep Rallies
- ♪ · Parades
- ♪ · Best Foot Forward

# Jazz Band - the Jazz Catz

The New Hanover High School Jazz Band, also known as the Jazz Catz, is a jazz ensemble. To become a member of the Jazz Catz, you must audition. The music played in jazz band is more difficult than typical concert or marching band music. Jazz band starts at the end of the first semester and goes through second semester. Jazz band members earn one credit. The Jazz Catz perform many times during the semester, often more than concert or marching band. Jazz band gives students a chance to play challenging, but fun music.



## Instruments in Jazz Band

Jazz band welcomes electric and bass guitars, drum sets, and keyboards. Along with those instruments there are alto, tenor and baritone saxophones, trumpets and trombones.

## Musical Selections

The Jazz Band performs a wide variety of music, including music from the following artists:

- Earth, Wind and Fire
- Michael Jackson
- Chuck Mangione
- The Beatles
- Many More!

## Jazz Band Dinner

Each spring the Jazz Band Dinner is one of the largest band fundraisers of the year. It is a catered event, with dinner and dancing.

# Fundraising Opportunities

The New Hanover High School Band raises funds for students and for the band as a whole. Money raised for the program goes toward new instruments, instrument repairs, competition fees, bus fees, uniform cleaning, trucks for transporting instruments, and band camp staff. Some examples of fundraising include:

- ♪ **Sponsorship program** – Provides funds necessary to purchase instruments, equipment and supplement transportation expenses to competitions and performances.
- ♪ **Car Washes** – the band holds an annual car wash each summer.
- ♪ **Jungle Rapids**- Students pay \$10 to participate in two activities and also receive 16 tokens. Five dollars goes into the student’s account to pay for end of year trips. Jungle Rapids is a very fun event!
- ♪ **Spirit Wear Sales** – The boosters organize spirit wear fundraisers a couple of times a year. Students sell school t-shirts, hoodies, magnets, and beanies to raise money for trips.
- ♪ **Jazz Band Dinner** – This is one of the largest fundraisers of the year.
- ♪ **Concessions** – The boosters have the opportunity to work concessions at various City of Wilmington events.



## Band Boosters

The Band Boosters are a group of parent volunteers that do whatever is needed to help the students and the program be successful. The Boosters handle chaperoning, hospitality, fundraising, equipment, building necessary items, etc. They enthusiastically support the band at all performances and events.

Booster meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm in the band room.

The general meetings are open to everyone and you are encouraged to attend to stay abreast of activities, fundraisers and band events.

The Band Booster Executive Board consists of officers elected by the general membership and the previous board members. Chairpersons are appointed according to involvement and interest in the organization. If you are interested in being nominated for an office, contact a member of the Nominations committee in March. Officer elections are held in April or May.

Membership in the NHHS Band Boosters shall be made available to anyone interested in the welfare of the NHHS Band, without regard to race, color, creed or national origin. Any parent or guardian who has a child enrolled in NHHS Band will automatically become a voting member of this organization. *All other members shall be non-voting members. Non-voting members may become voting members by actively participating in band functions and attending two (2) prior meetings.*

# Ways You Can Help...Volunteer Opportunities

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## Fundraising

- Responsible for setting up, maintaining and completing all fundraisers
- concessions
- Sponsorship program

The sponsorship program provides funds necessary to purchase instruments, equipment and supplement transportation expenses to competitions and performances.

The program offers opportunities for businesses or individuals to advertise in a printed program that will be distributed at 4 annual concerts and numerous Jazz Ensemble appearances throughout the school year. The levels of support vary from a \$25 Individual level to a \$500 Drum Major sponsor. Donation/sponsorship amounts receive a varying level of benefits including print, website, banner or live announcement recognition.

## Band Camp

Make arrangements for:

- Water/Gatorade/Ice
- Food for camp staff
- Chaperones for camp

## Chaperones

- Supervise students on bus trips, football games and competitions. See the Competitions sections for duties.

## Hospitality

- Coordinate any activity that requires or needs food (i.e., Spring Fling, Senior Week, 8th grade night, Jazz Band dinner, etc.)

## Phone Tree

- Call parents/guardians/students in your grade level as needed. Report to the Vice President
- Phone committee members will need a sheet to log calls to parents and who participated in the various events.

## Water/Snack Crew

- Coordinate all water/snack/ice activities including games, after school practice break, etc.

## Equipment

- Coordinate parents/student helpers at various activities to move equipment. Make sure there is a truck driver for competitions and that all equipment is in working order.

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## Uniforms

- **Coordinator Responsibilities**
    - Responsible for all uniform activities including fitting, hemming, repairing, handling and collecting.
    - Organizing distribution of uniforms and record uniform and hat numbers for each band member.
    - Sewing and minor uniform repairs
  - Extra parents are needed to help distribute and receive uniforms in the uniform room before and after games/competitions.
  - Will need three band members in case parent members are not available, one being the field conductor
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# Band FAQs

**Those are awesome lockers in the band room.**

**Can I get one?**

Yes, they are given out on a first come, first served basis. You provide your own lock.

**What is the Pit?**

Some of the percussion instruments at a Marching Band performance aren't practical to carry and move around the field. These are instruments such as timpani, marimbas, xylophones, chimes, gongs, and others. These instruments are placed at the front of the performing field and are collectively known as the "pit".



**What is the Pit Crew?**

Typically this refers to a group of parents and kids that move the pit instruments onto and off the performance field.

**What is a Section?**

Each instrument group (woodwinds, brass, percussion, etc.) is a section. Each section has a Section Leader, appointed by the Director, and is in charge of his/her section of the band. All students should adhere to the directions of the section leaders.

There will be sectionals which are rehearsals called by the Director and/or Section Leader. All students in the section are expected to attend all sectionals.

**What is a Drum Major?**

The Drum Major is the student in charge of all students while on the marching field. All Section Leaders and band members must follow the Drum Major's commands. The Director assigns the Drum Major responsibilities and Drum Majors must audition for the position.

**What is Colorguard?**

Colorguard is a non-musical section of the band that uses props, along with movement, to express dynamic passages in the music accompanying the show. Anyone interested in colorguard must audition for the position.