

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023 SNHS Band Family! Over the coming months you will get to know many new faces and have some of the most enjoyable, memorable times of your life! The Marching Band provides opportunities for students to develop musicianship, leadership, and responsibility. Our goal is to captivate our audiences with an exciting musical/visual experience AND enjoy doing it!

The Marching Firebirds is one of the most visible, dedicated, hard-working groups on campus, and we represent our school throughout the state and beyond. We will travel! Dedication, hard work, **and parental support** are *essential* to providing high quality entertainment and experiences for all involved. In the interest of safety, a standard sports physical is required in order to participate.

Feel free to print this handbook for your reference throughout the season. It will remain posted on the band website as well. Most of your questions are answered here! Please note that *dates are subject to change*.

The SNHS Band website is www.snhsfirebirdband.com. Please check it **regularly** for the **calendar**, booster/fundraiser information, and other information. Please follow our band Instagram account: [_southern_nash_band](https://www.instagram.com/_southern_nash_band)

A Remind messaging account has been created. To sign up to receive messages, follow the steps below. **All parents and students MUST JOIN**. This will be our primary way of quickly sending out information or last-minute changes.

Parents: Text @53f4f to 81010

Band students: Text @snhsm to 81010

Color guard: The guard instructor will provide specifics on how correspondence will be sent/shared. In the meantime, please be sure to join the appropriate student or parent remind group.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me. I am looking forward to meeting you and having an awesome year!

Sincerely,



Matthew Ray

msray@ncpschools.net

252-451-8520 ext. 137

Band Camp: July 24-28 AND July 31-Aug 4 9AM-5PM daily

Students are required to attend the entire 2-week camp. Arrive early to camp days. DO NOT BE LATE! Stretch will start 5 minutes before rehearsal (ex. If rehearsal starts at 9, we will begin stretch at 8:55). It is strongly suggested that all students arrive at least 15 minutes prior to rehearsal. Bring lunch each day of band camp!

Below is a list of everything you need *every day* we have camp (and for most practices):

- Instrument/equipment and all accessories (valve oil, reeds, etc.)
- A 3-ring binder (at least 1”) with plastic sheet protectors (musicians only)
- A Pencil (musicians only)
- A refillable water bottle/cooler/Camelback, non-disposable
- Lunch (band camp is not the time to diet) –students need to bring lunch with them daily
- 1-2 snacks
- White or light-colored shirt (dark colors absorb heat)
- NO JEANS!
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, towel
- Bug spray
- Shoes and Socks (**no flip-flops/crocs/slides allowed**)
- Last but not least – bring a positive attitude

***Students without these items **will call home** to have a parent bring it to them.

Rehearsals:

Regular rehearsals during the school year are tentatively scheduled for Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 2:45-6:00. Regular rehearsals begin the first week of school and all are required. Rehearsals may be canceled if school is out or if school releases early.

Students are expected to be picked up within 15 minutes after rehearsal is over. Please be prompt with picking up your children in a timely manner!

Pre-Season Calendar:

Some of these dates are *very likely* to change. Please visit the website and **check your e-mails regularly** for changes. Dates may be added or removed due to potential scheduling conflicts. Again, stay up-to-date on changes by subscribing to Remind messaging and frequently checking e-mails and our website.

Apr 1	9am-5pm	Mattress Sale
May 13	1pm-5pm	Camp Day
June 10	9am-5pm	Camp Day
June 13-June 17	Disney Trip	
July 24 -July 28	9am-5pm	Band Camp
July 31-August 4	9am-5:pm	Band Camp
August 4 -----	4:00-5:00	Band Parents --- <u>Mandatory</u> Parent Meeting
	5:15-5:30	Family/Friends Preview on practice field
	5:30	Cookout in Cafeteria
Tuesday, August 15	6pm-8:30pm	Rehearsal
Thursday, August 17	6pm-8:30pm	Rehearsal
Tuesday, August 22	6pm-8:30pm	Rehearsal
Thursday, August 24	6pm-8:30pm	Rehearsal

See a full calendar at www.snhfirebirdband.com for football games, competitions, parades, and other band events.

Football Games:

The Firebird Band performs at all home football games. These are **required**; arrival times will be announced at practice. The Band plays the National Anthem prior to each game as well as performing pep band music in the stands during the game and doing their field show for halftime. Snack and drink donations are needed at every game for students to enjoy during the 3rd quarter.

Competitions:

The Firebird Band will likely be attending 4-5 competitions this year. All competitions are on Saturdays. They usually take the **entire day**, so please plan accordingly.

- Students may not leave early, except for reasons discussed with the band director **ahead of time. Documentation will be required.**
- Students will not be allowed to return to the bus once our performance is over – they will need to take everything that they need with them into the stadium. If an emergency arises and they need to get to the bus, they **must** be accompanied by a chaperone.
- Itineraries for each competition will be handed out the week of the competition.
- Students should bring some spending money to each competition for food.
- Transportation is provided for competitions.
- It is **imperative** that everyone have access to the Remind Messaging System in case of an emergency at a competition. This is how we will communicate.
- MANY parent volunteers are needed for every competition (bus chaperones and pit crew).
- Snack and drink donations are needed for competition days.

Performance Assessments/Grading:

If the director and/or staff members feel as though students are not ready for a performance (due to absences, lack of focus at rehearsal, lack of preparation, laziness, etc.), we reserve the right to remove students from performances. If a student does not know his/her music/drill well enough to perform it, they may cause harm to others and potentially bring down the band's rating. **All students are expected to pull their weight.** Please know our goals are to perform to the best of our ability, proudly represent SNHS, and have fun doing it. In addition, students will be expected to maintain good grades and behavior in all classes. Participation in marching band is a privilege. Classroom grades will be checked frequently and students are expected to **pass all classes**. If a student is deemed to be at risk of failing, they may be removed from the program at the discretion of the director until they can show evidence that their grades are up to par.

****Fair Share**:**

The Fair Share options for this season for all Marching Band members is detailed below:

- Dues are \$325 per student.
- Receive \$25 off if you pay in full by August 4th. You will only have pay \$300.
- Dues paid after August 4th, will be \$325.
- Any fees not settled by November 4th of 2023 will result in an additional \$25 late fee and legal action may be taken to collect the debt owed.

Once money is paid in and receipted, refunds will not be given. Guard uniforms will not be ordered for anyone until the initial deposit is paid in full and contracts are received.

*****Students with outstanding fees from previous seasons will not be allowed to participate in a new season. Payments will only be returned if the season is cancelled for some reason. No exceptions. FAILURE TO MAKE PAYMENTS ON TIME MAY RESULT IN A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM until the monies owed are up-to-date.**

Recommended Payment Schedule:

- April 1 – **completed registration and \$100 deposit**
- June 10 – **physical forms due**
- August 4 – **remaining \$200 due at or before booster meeting**

Fair Share funds are used for:

- Purchasing Music and Drill
- Competition Fees and transportation
- Props, flags, rifles, and other equipment
- Staff members to assist in teaching/designing the show
- Show T-shirts (the generic grey band shirt is sold separately)

Guard members will be required to purchase their own accessories (shoes, gloves, etc.). Band members are **required** to purchase their own shoes through the band boosters.

There are a variety of fundraisers available to assist in the completion of payment. For most fundraisers, a portion of the profit will be applied directly to the student's Fair Share.

Participation is **required** in **ALL** fundraisers, as this will keep the Fair Share cost from rising in the future.

Checks need to be made out to: Southern Nash Music Boosters. **Returned checks will result in a \$25 fee.** We can accept credit/debit cards – there will be an additional 3% charge for each swipe. Contact Karen Wall at karann0531@gmail.com at any point during the band season if you have questions regarding payments. For more information, please see the band website and **attend our monthly parent meetings.**

Please know that **Mr. Ray is not the person to contact if you have questions regarding any fees/payments.** Payments must be made to the band booster organization. The school and its employees do not have access to the band booster account.

There is a drop box on the door to the band office. Beside the drop box on the door is a pocket containing envelopes and a pen. Please mark your name and any pertinent information on the envelope clearly using the pen so that we can easily identify who is making a payment and what the funds are for. The box will be checked once per week. If you need a receipt, please write "receipt needed" on the envelope. If you wish to use your own envelopes to secure your payments, you are welcome to do so, but all money must be placed in the drop box on the band office door.

Southern Nash Music Boosters – Parent Helpers:

The SN Music Booster organization is the primary organization committed to the success of the Firebird and Cobra band programs. This organization is an independent non-profit organization (501.C.3) and is run primarily by band parents. The organization handles the band's finances, volunteer opportunities, food, transportation, equipment, etc. For each student that pays marching band dues, two band parent memberships will be included for the parents/guardians of each student. Booster meetings will be held on the **second Monday of every month at 7:00pm** in the band room (note: dates/times/location may change occasionally). **All parents** of band and guard members ***MUST*** attend these meetings regularly.

Pit Crew:

The Marching Firebirds need several volunteers to help build props, move props, move instruments, load equipment, and move equipment. We also need a few mechanically minded people to keep our equipment in working condition. Our Pit Crew is needed for every performance. Please attend our booster meetings to find out how you can help!

The Trailer:

If you have a large truck, we need you! The band equipment trailer (24 feet) needs to be pulled to every competition. Please attend our booster meetings or contact a band booster officer (info on band website) to find out how you can help.

The Internet:

***DO NOT post photos or videos of the band on the internet (especially YouTube). Please respect the wishes of others when posting personal photos/videos on the internet. Disciplinary action (including potential dismissal from the program) will be taken if photos or videos are being used without consent.

Rules and Policies

(please review these with your children prior to participation)

Rules/Expectations:

- Be respectful to everyone
- Be respectful of all instruments, equipment, and facilities
- Follow all directions
- Be on time
- Always do your best
- Be positive
- Take pride in your band and in your school
- The SNHS dress code and behavior policies apply to **all** rehearsals and events

Behavior Policy:

- Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco are *strictly prohibited*. Involvement with any of these items *at any time* will result in disciplinary action and potential removal from the band.
- Follow rules and directions at ***all times***, including rehearsals, trips, and any time you are representing the SNHS Firebird Band. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action and potential removal from the band.
- Take care of and have pride in all equipment including uniforms. Take care of these items as though *they are your own*. Damage to equipment or uniforms due to carelessness, neglect, or misbehavior can result in disciplinary action, possible fees, and potential removal from the band.
- Fair Share fees are *not* refunded if a student is removed from the band due to disciplinary action and the remainder of the contract is expected to be paid in full.
- If a student is suspended or repeatedly in ISS for any reason, the band director reserves the right to dismiss that student from the program. Inappropriate behavior in any setting will not be tolerated.

Attendance: - **this will be strictly adhered to this season – attendance will be taken at all practices – it is each child’s responsibility to keep up with his/her absences and to turn in documentation/notes for absences**

- Attendance is **vital** to EVERYONE’s success. Remember, when you miss a rehearsal, *it affects the entire band and your grade*.
- ****No more than 2 rehearsals may be missed for any reason****
- The Band Director **must** receive a written note, e-mail, or phone call from the PARENT in the event of ANY ABSENCE.
- Attendance is **required** at each rehearsal and every event (football games, competitions, parades, concerts, etc.). Attendance/participation is tied to each student’s grade.
- Missing a rehearsal or performance without an excuse will result in disciplinary action, a grade reduction, and the student may be removed from the band or future performances.

More Info:

- Rehearsal/arrival times indicate the time you should be *in rehearsal* and *ready to go*. Stretches will begin 5 minutes prior to each rehearsal. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.
- Have all of your **equipment, music, drill/dot sheets, water bottle, and pencil** at **every** rehearsal.
- DRINK WATER and apply sunscreen before rehearsals.
- If there is a last minute schedule change due to inclement weather, a Remind message will be sent out. Otherwise, assume that the rehearsal or performance is still happening at the scheduled time.
- It WILL BE HOT during band camp and WE WILL SWEAT! Students are expected to stay hydrated and maintain good eating habits. In the event of extreme temperatures, we will adhere to the NCSHAA guidelines. (which can be found at <http://www.nchsaa.org/>).
- Students need to invest in water jugs or thermoses so that they can stay hydrated. It is requested that for band camp, students fill up their jugs with ice and water prior to leaving home each day. We will (hopefully) have water on-site for refills as needed.
- Electronic devices are **prohibited** during rehearsals and events. If these items are visible or make an audible noise during rehearsals, disciplinary action will be taken. Students will be allowed to use electronic devices during extended breaks (i.e. lunch or dinner).

Indoor Percussion – Winter Guard

We hope to have both indoor percussion and winter guard groups starting in November. Fees will be set based on the number of students participating. Hopefully we can keep the number under \$400/student. Rehearsals will begin mid-late November and competitions will start in February. The indoor/winter season should be ending late March or early April. Dates have not been set yet.

Concert Band

We will have a concert band throughout the fall semester during the school day. The marching band students will combine with them for a winter concert performance in early December. There will be a separate concert band for 2nd semester. This group will be attending the annual NC Music Performance Adjudication event mid-March. In addition, they will put on a concert in early-mid May and perform at the annual graduation ceremonies.

Jazz Band

The jazz ensemble is a course available for students to take in the spring semester at SNHS. This is an honors level course and will require extensive knowledge of music and music theory. The jazz band will perform a spring concert as well as participate in the annual Blooming Festival parade in Nashville the 2nd Saturday in May.

All-District, All-State, All-County

There are opportunities for students to participate alongside other students from other schools. Many of these opportunities are competitive. Students wishing to attend all-district will prepare for an in-person audition to be held in early January. Any students who place high enough in all-district may be asked to audition for the All-State ensemble in early March. The all-county ensemble is generally selected by the band directors of the respective high schools in NCPS.