**How do I know what is going on?**

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| **northroyaltonhighschoolband.com**  Director Vitale’s Site | **northroyaltonbandboosters.com**  Band Boosters’ Site |

These two websites offer loads of information, dates, requirements, deadlines, contacts, etc.

Please check them frequently to stay informed!

**Band Calendars**: Found on Mr. Vitale’s Director’s Site under *Forms & PDF’s*. One Calendar is just for band camp and the other is for events all year long.  Highlight your student’s report times (which is ALWAYS 15 minutes prior to the time listed). Make note of special days: picture day, sectional time changes, painting sessions, etc.  Add these times to your personal calendars.  Hang copies of the calendar in your student’s room and on the refrigerator and by the door and wherever else they might see it around the house.

Double-check the calendars on the website periodically as they can change!

Look for emails from North Royalton Band Boosters and like us on Facebook to get additional info.

**“To be early, is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late, is to be in trouble.”**

**Being ON TIME and READY is HUGE!!**  Any unprepared or late student, affects all 250+ bandos, directors, etc.  Always plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.  For example, while on Friday, 8/6, the Flute/Clarinet sectional practice time is listed to start at 9:00 , Bando should be in band room by 8:45 am and have their instrument and themselves ready to start playing at precisely 9:00am.

**When does the marching band perform?**

**Performances**: Bandos will learn three distinct performances during marching season:

* Pregame – performed before home games
* Football Show – performed at Friday night football game halftimes until Contest Season starts
* Contest Show – performed at Band Fest, Contests and halftimes after Contest Season starts

**Parades:** NR Home Days Parade, Broadview Heights Memorial Day Parade, WALT DISNEY WORLD

**State Marching Band Contest:** Please make note of the possible dates for this to take place. DO NOT PLAN ANYTHING ON THESE DATES UNTIL WE KNOW OUR OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENT FROM THE OMEA.

**Make sure you come see your bando perform as much as you can, wearing your PURPLE NR gear to show support!  The time goes by so fast that you will be glad you did!**

**What stuff do I need to get for my student?**

The official Required Equipment List is on the Director’s website under *Forms & PDF’s*.  Some highlights:

**White band t-shirts**: ALWAYS worn under uniform at every marching band performance and picture day.  Suggestion: Buy 2 - one for Friday night football games and one for Saturday competitions.

**Purple polos and khakis:** Worn for select events as indicated by the Directors, usually:

* **NR Home Days Parade** (August)
* **Parent Preview Night** (August) - bandos showcase on the football field what they learned in camp, specifically just for you, the parents J
* **BAND-O-RAMA** (May) - a combined performance with 6th grade band and jazz band
* **Broadview Hts. Memorial Day Parade** (May)

**Khakis:**  Your student will need khaki pants and knee-length khaki shorts.  The directors will communicate which will be worn prior to each event.  The entire band must wear the same uniform, so make sure you know.

**Black band shoes**:Purchased through Royalton Music Store and must be worn with marching uniform and purple polo and khakis. Bandos pick up shoes at the High School. It is important for your bando to try them on right when you pick them up so you have time to exchange them at Royalton Music before the season starts!

**Other Marching Band items**:Be sure to stop in at Royalton Music before band camp to get:

* **black gloves** -variety of sizes and styles
* **flip folders** - cellophane sheets to put music in
* **lyre** - holds flip folders on instrument so bandos can read the music and march

**What do these strange terms I am hearing actually mean?**

**Bando**: An endearing term we call our band kids.

**Uniform Pick-up**: Freshman try-on/pick up day will be announced shortly. Your bando must be present as they will have to try on the uniforms for the volunteers to check for proper fit.  This is a chaotic event, but the volunteers will be there to assist them – and you.  (Please note: 1) Parents are not allowed back in the fitting area  2) Due to limited sizes, uniforms might not always be a perfect fit, and some pants may need hemming.)

**Sectional**: Practice for the specific instrument or group of instruments rather than full band

**Painting Session**: Bandos learn their dots (“painted, colored” spots on the parking lot to help them learn the contest show performance).  Unless your bando is in “leadership,” they are not painting anything, using paint, making signs, etc. Bandos are encouraged to bring candy to share to make it more fun!

**6 to 9**:  Wednesday night practice sessions that run through all of marching season.

**Extended Rehearsal:**  Extra class and dedicated practice time that occurs every Monday after school until 3:45 through marching season.

**Sheet Music**: Given to bandos at the two June band camp days.  **ENCOURAGE THEM TO** **PRACTICE AND MEMORIZE IT AS MUCH AS THEY CAN BEFORE BAND CAMP STARTS.**  Most new bandos will find it difficult to learn their music while also learning how to march the shows.  Knowing the music before band camp will make things much easier for them.

**Student Mentor**: An upperclassman specifically selected to help guide and support your bando learn the ropes.  They usually play the same instrument as your bando.

**Parent Mentor**: An experienced parent who has volunteered to answer questions and support the parents of new band members within their section.  Parent mentors help new parents understand the ropes but are not a substitute for the Director’s or Band Boosters websites nor for students reaching out to their student mentors..

**Shadow:** Two bandos that “share” the same spot in a performance, meaning they will take turns occupying that spot during performances.  Not all freshman bandos have “a shadow”.

**Fruit Sale:**Huge fundraiser for the band.  This typically involves a “blitz weekend” where your bando will buddy up with a friend and sell door-to-door in a specific neighborhood as well as “personal sales” and “online sales” which follow the blitz.

**Senior Night:** A night to celebrate the Band Seniors and their families.  There is a catered dinner for seniors and their parents prior to the game and celebration on the field at halftime.  Underclassmen also get a treat that night as they will get served pizza, beverages and desserts before the game.

**What else should I know?**

**Checking off music**: When school starts, bandos will begin testing to confirm they have correctly memorized their music by getting the different songs and sections checked off by their section leader, field commanders or band directors.  There are checkoff milestones each week of the season.  Not having music checked off on schedule will prevent your bando from signing up for a seat on the bus (the seat they will sit in all season), will mean they are required to attend extra practice sessions until caught up, and can negatively affect their band grade. Bandos can re-test as often as needed to get their music checked off.

You can decide that your bando won’t take the bus back to school after a Friday/Saturday performance.  **YOU MUST WRITE AND SIGN A NOTE TO MR. VITALE AND HAVE YOUR STUDENT HAND IT TO HIM DIRECTLY BY THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THAT EVENT.** No exceptions or late notes or emails will be permitted. This is to ensure we have an accurate head count of each bando at each performance.  We do not want to leave anyone behind, ever!

If you don’t have purple NR gear, don’t worry.  There are plenty of opportunities to augment your wardrobe through band **Spirit Wear** and **Band Boosters Membership Gear**.  Plus, there is the ultra-exclusive annual **Contest Hoodie**.

**Concert Season:**At the end of Marching Season, all musicians (including those who participated in Royalettes or Royalaires during Marching Season) are required to try out for their placement in one of the four concert bands.  (Some Freshmen are placed in Concert Band due to schedule conflicts with Freshmen Band.)  These bands perform the Holiday Concert as well as the adjudicated concerts in the second semester.  The four concert bands are:

* Freshmen Band
* Concert Band
* Symphonic Band
* Wind Ensemble

We encourage all bando parents to join the **Band Boosters Organization**. We are a support, fundraising group of parents.  We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in High School Media Center.  We are friendly & informative!  Come see what we are all about!

**Band Camp and Marching Season is a lot all at once.**

**Talk with other parents, set up car-pooling, and reach out to any of us to ask questions.**

**We are here for you!**