

Frequently Asked Questions about Being in the Niceville Band

1. “With so many required subjects, will I be able to fit band into my schedule?”

All high school students are required to take one full year of **Fine Arts** to graduate. **Band counts as that graduation requirement.** Additionally, Niceville HS is on a 7-period day which allows students to fit in the most class choices. Some subjects can be put off until your junior or senior year when less is required and there is even more room in your schedule. **Since you have to take a Fine Arts course anyway, it might as well be band!**

2. “Band takes too much time. Will I have time to study?”

Nearly 300 band students have proven that time is available. Many students in band are at the top of their class, in honor society, etc. This year we had 3 of the 7 National Merit Finalist for NHS. We placed over a dozen band members into division 1 universities last year on full scholarship – most of whom are NOT music majors. They were recruited to those schools because they played their instrument so well and their grades were so HIGH! Band members learn to manage their time. The marching band generally rehearses only 2 days a week during the first 12 weeks of school. **You will get your homework done if you manage your time appropriately!**

3. “Can I be in sports and band?”

Yes. Sometimes we have to work out schedules, but it can be done. We have students in *EVERY* sport *EVERY* year! Band students are given a calendar of events for the entire year to know ahead of time when band activities/performances are planned. **If you plan to participate in a sport, we encourage you to plan judiciously especially if it is one that takes place during the first 12 weeks of school (the approximate length of the marching season).** We offer **Fall Sports Alternative Course of Study** for those involved in a fall sport that directly conflicts with marching band. (call the band office for more info on this program)

4. “I’m in middle school and have never marched before. Will I be able to do it?”

There are many past 9th graders in the Niceville Band right now who asked themselves the same question, but tried it and were glad they did. The NHS marching band camp takes place 2 weeks before school starts and is required. During that time we will teach you marching fundamentals and more advanced playing fundamentals as well as learning music for the fall, issuing uniforms, and will basically get you ready for the high school band. *If you have a positive attitude and are willing to learn, you will do fine!*

5. “I’m tired of band – should I quit?”

After all the years and \$\$ you have invested, you are now getting to the point where you are good enough to really enjoy it. High school band is so different from the middle school experience. In the past five years we have performed in the Rose Parade, the Fiesta Bowl Parade, the College Band Directors National Convention, the National Adjudicators Invitational and the Loyola University Concert Festival. The Niceville Band is one of the best in the nation and is getting better and more exciting every year. We need *you* to make it happen. Don’t drop out now when you’re on the threshold of getting the most out of it and enjoying it to the fullest. **At the very least, try band in 9th grade!!**

6. “With the economy so bad right now I don’t think my family can afford the financial commitment of high school band”

We have among the lowest fees in a three county radius. In addition, we offer financial assistance to those who need it and a variety of fund raising opportunities to pay down your nominal band fees. Our Band Booster organization is among the most solvent in Northwest Florida!

Visit our band’s web site for more info:
www.nhseaglepride.com

What Band Has Done for Me . . .

“Band has provided me an outlet through which I am able to express my creativity.” *11th grade clarinet player*

“Because of the Eagle Pride I feel as if my musical abilities have been enhanced and I know I will cherish my memories later in life.” *9th grade tuba player*

“Band adds balance to an academically loaded schedule and makes me a well-rounded person. It provides me with music, friends, teamwork, and life-skills.” *11th grade French horn player*

“Band has greatly influenced my appreciation of all kinds of music.” *12th grade euphonium player*

“I’ve not only learned to follow but also how to lead!” *11th grade flute player*

“Band exposed me to so many different kinds of people allowing me to really expand my friendships!”
..... *9th grade French horn player*

“Band taught me so much about self discipline, manners and basic maturity. I have been amazed how much of what I learned in high school band that I’ve used in college - and I’m not a music major!”
..... *College Freshman – Louisiana State University*

“In no other club do you get this kind of experience and insight into life. It is the trip of lifetime. It is an experience that can't be fully encapsulated in writing. I learned that leadership is not about having all the right answers; it's about knowing where to find them!” *12th grade student leader*

What Band Has Done for My Child . . .

“The NHS Band means the world to my kids! Of course they enjoy the teamwork, friendships and fun. Another benefit is that the work ethic instilled in band members helps them to be strong academically, too. And now my kids are lifelong musicians; I feel certain that they will derive joy from music their entire lives because of the Band.”

“Band gives students passion of purpose, the ability to exude self-confidence, learn high integrity and instills the persistent drive for excellence. It liberates the leader in every student and it is just plain fun!”

“Band has provided for both our children discipline, high expectations (musically and behaviorally), and a level of musicianship that far exceeds many college instrumental organizations.”

“Band gave my children a place to feel safe and secure in a big and sometimes confusing high school world. It gave them their band family who helped them through the hard times and celebrated the good times. Band was the glue that held them together through their high school years.”

"Playing an instrument in the band room and on the stage, on the marching field or in the stands, allows my children the opportunity to increase their music skills AND have tons of fun!"

“‘There will be rewards that will surprise you!’ sums it up for us. We never cease to be amazed by the rewards our family has experienced by our children participating in band – the thrill of hearing our teenagers (boys!) discuss the qualities of a piece of classical music at the dinner table, the sense of pride at working with a group for a common goal, and then to benefit beyond high school with a music scholarship – we could go on and on.”

“Band has taught my children that hard work not only leads to success, but can be a lot of fun along the way. Band has instilled in my children a sense of pride, not just in their own abilities, but in their section, their band, their school and their community. Band has given my children opportunities to do things and go places they could have never done on their own. That’s what it means to be a part of the Eagle Pride Band!”