

TOMS RIVER HIGH SCHOOL NORTH MARINER BANDS



Introduction

Welcome to the Toms River North Mariner Band program. If you are a new member, we are so excited for you to start your journey with us. If you are a returning member, welcome back to another exciting year. The directors and staff are looking forward to another exciting year of making music, creativity, competition, travel, and performances!

The Toms River North Band program is one of the most prestigious and respected organizations at Toms River North. Other than making music during class, the band supports the school at various events, parades, and sporting events. We also offer a wide range of extra curricular ensembles and activities for students to expand their musical knowledge.

This handbook provides a “home base” for general information about our programs offerings. Please be sure to read it in its entirety so you can fully understand what is expected of you as a member of our organization. By adhering to the guidelines and ideals in this handbook, you can rest assured that you will have an excellent experience!



Band Class Overview

As a member of the Mariner Band program, you will have a variety of performance opportunities to choose from. The band itself is a curricular class that is scheduled for 8th period during the school day. Students in the band class will study music in a concert band setting.

GRADING

Event Attendance - 30%

Class Participation - 20%

Lessons - 20%

Assignments - 15%

Assessments - 15%

CLASS OBLIGATIONS

Concerts

The bands perform two concerts per year. One in January and one in May. These concerts are mandatory for all band members and are considered “performance” grades which are equivalent to two tests grades. In addition to the concert, students are required to attend a dress rehearsal, usually the Tuesday before the concert.

Concert Dates

Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal: January 13, 2026

Winter Concert: January 15, 2026

Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal: May 19, 2026

Spring Concert: May 21, 2026

Concert Attire

Students will be required to dress in dress clothes for all formal concerts.

Students should refer to the following guidelines for concert dress:

Men: Black dress slacks, black dress shirt (no polos), black dress shoes (no sneakers or Drillmasters), long tie or bowtie

Women: Black floor length dress or black dress slacks (no leggings or tights with shorter skirt or dress) and black dress top (no strapless tops or halter tops), black dress shoes (no large heels or flip flops)



LESSONS

All band members are required to take a weekly lesson in addition to their participation in band 8th period. Lessons can be taken during a lunch period, or after school on designated days, usually Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students are required to check in with a band director, and play for at least 30 minutes for the lesson to count.



MAKEMUSIC CLOUD

The North Band program utilizes an online classroom tool called MakeMusic Cloud to help assess the musical growth of it's students. The program is designed to work on a student's Chromebook or home computer or laptop, as well as two assignment stations located in the band library. Students will be required to complete MakeMusic assignments as per the directors discretion. If done at home or on a school Chromebook, students will need to use their own set of wired headphones to complete the assignment. Wireless headphones are not compatible with MakeMusic.

PARTICIPATION

Students are given a weekly class participation grade. Participation is not just about playing your instrument! Students should be prepared with a good attitude, ready to take part in discussions in class, and complete all assignments. Students should also expected to have their instrument every day, a black binder with page protectors for music, a pencil (NO PENS!), and be ready to play at 12:55PM.

General Guidelines

Attendance and Absences

BAND CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken every day during band class. Due to the size of the band class, attendance is determined by the student placing their phone in their assigned pocket on the band room wall facing the instrument closet. If a student's phone is not in their designated pocket, it is assumed they are absent and will be marked as such.

Students are expected to be set up with their instrument, music, chair, and stand by 12:55PM. Failure to do so will result the student being marked late.

BAND CLASS LATES

Students who are late to class must present a pass to the band director. Failure to present a pass will result in the student being marked late. As per Toms River North guidelines, students who accrue three lates will be written up for a cut.

DRESS REHEARSAL AND CONCERT ATTENDANCE

All dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

You are expected to be at every dress rehearsal and performance. All band events are located on our calendar at least 6 months prior to the event. Please schedule accordingly.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

If you are to miss a dress rehearsal or concert, please note that only certain circumstances are accepted as reasons to be excused from these events:

- Sickness - Doctor's note required for all ailments
- Death in immediate family
- Family wedding
- Religious holiday
- College entrance test

EXCUSED ABSENCES CONTINUED

In each of the cases listed above, an e-mail from your parent or guardian must be provided **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** of the planned absence, unless sudden or an emergency. The more time, the better! Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence, impacting the students grade.

Any other excused absence will be on a case by case basis at the directors discretion.

All excused absences from a performance will require the student to complete an alternate assignment.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences from any dress rehearsal or performance will negatively affect your grade. These events are considered tests and can affect you to the point of failing the band class for a marking period. Please be mindful of your absences.

Please note that attendance records are reviewed when a student is being considered for awards, student leadership positions, recommendation letters, and scholarships. Failure to adhere to our attendance policies may result in forfeiture of any or all of these opportunities.

Behavior

As a member of the Mariner Band program, you are constantly on display representing, the band, the school, and the town. You will be held to a high standard than many students at Toms River North. Any misconduct by a student will be subject to disciplinary action.

Peers - Every band member is expected to treat their peers with respect. This includes inside the classroom and school, outside of school, on trips, and on the internet and social media.

Staff - All staff members will be treated with respect. The staff of the Toms River North Bands, both curricular and extracurricular, have been hired due to their professional experience in their area. Any misconduct towards staff is unacceptable.

Behavior - Swearing, foul language, fighting, yelling, and public displays of affection are not permitted at any band event, in and out of the classroom. Furthermore, all student behavior records will be assessed when joining or returning to the band class and extra curricular ensembles. If a student is found to have a behavior issue before joining the band, or at the end of the year while in the band, their membership in the band class as well as any extracurricular ensembles will be revoked.



Hazing and Harassment - Any acts of hazing, harassment, or bullying will be dealt with through the district HIB plan. If a student is found to be committing any of these acts, they will be removed from the program.

Illegal Substances - Any circumstance where a band member is found in possession of an illegal substance will be handled according to the district substance policy. In addition, students should not be in possession of any over the counter drugs that can be considered dangerous. Any student found with a substance on them will be removed from the program.

Band Equipment

The Toms River North Band has many instruments for students to utilize during their time in the program. The program can supply most larger wind instruments and all percussion instruments for its students. The following instruments must be supplied by the student:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Trumpet

These instruments can be rented through local establishments such as Music & Arts.

INSTRUMENT CARE

It is imperative for students to keep their instruments clean and in working order. The condition of our equipment can directly impact the quality and perception of our performance. Should your instrument have an issue, please bring it to the directors attention ASAP. While minor repairs can be done in house, in some cases the instrument will have to be sent out for repair.

Please note - if an instrument is owned or rented by a student, it is the student and their parent or guardians responsibility to have their instrument repaired in a timely manner and on their dime. If a student is using a school owned instrument, the repair will be covered by the school unless the damage was caused by negligence by the student.

INSTRUMENT GUIDELINES

Keep your instrument clean at all times.

If it isn't yours, do not touch it! This goes for all equipment in the band room!

You are responsible for your instrument at all times. Please make sure it is stored in its correct spot in the band room or instrument closet.





Curricular Ensembles

Toms River North offers two curricular performing ensembles for band and percussion musicians. At the beginning of the school year, all band students are auditioned for chair placement in our ensembles. A student “holds” that chair for the entire school year.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is a large ensemble which all members of the band program are a member of. This ensemble plays music that is challenging, but made for most playing abilities.

WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is a smaller performance group made of the top players of the band program. This performance group plays more advanced and demanding music than the Symphonic Band. Each member that scores high on their yearly audition is invited to be a member. These students will play in both ensembles.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Due to the influx of drummers to the Toms River band program, drummers who make the Wind Ensemble will not play in Symphonic Band so those percussionists can have an opportunity to play music as well. Wind Ensemble percussionists are required to be in Percussion Ensemble and will rehearse on days when the Symphonic Band rehearses.

Extra Curricular Ensembles

The Toms River North Band Program offers a wide range of extra curricular performance opportunities for student musicians. These ensembles are meant to expand musicality, introduce students to new genres of music, and possibly offer an opportunity for students to play an new or different instrument.

Extra curricular ensembles through out the school year and are subject to teacher availability and student interest.

Stage Based Ensembles

JAZZ BAND - THE BLUE WAVE

The Toms River North Jazz Band offer students a chance to develop their skills in the jazz idiom. Genres performed by the Jazz Band include Swing, Bop, Latin, Funk, Rock, and more.

The Jazz Band runs in a big band format and is open to all student musicians at High School North. Please note that an audition is required to participate in this program. The ensemble runs from November-June and performs at two small ensemble concerts as well as travels to various jazz band festivals and competitions.

ROCK BAND - THE GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES

Toms River North was one of the first schools in New Jersey to offer a rock band as part of their program. The Grilled Cheese Sandwiches is an invitation only ensemble that is run as a hybrid ensemble. While it is overseen by a director, the ensemble is run by the members of the ensemble. The band learns all genres of Rock from all eras and performs at two small ensemble concerts plus a handful of other school events.

SMALL ENSEMBLES

The band program at Toms River North has run many small ensembles over the years. These ensembles are subject to student interest and teacher availability. Some examples of small ensembles that have performed in the past are:

- The Shore Four Sax Ensemble
- Flute Ensemble
- Brass Choir
- Woodwind Choir

Marching Based Ensembles

THE TOMS RIVER NORTH MARCHING MARINERS

As of 2025, the Marching Mariners are now an extra curricular ensemble for all members except Arts Academy students. All Arts Academy students are required to join the marching band program.

The Marching Mariners are an elite competitive ensemble that performs in parades, football games, and competitions. All members of the band program are encouraged to join the marching band. The marching band is also open to all music students in the school, regardless of their main ensemble! Other than performance opportunities, the marching band program can instill many positive qualities into its students that they can use after graduating high school. These qualities include, discipline, time management, healthy eating and hydrating, and many more!

TOMS RIVER REGIONAL INDOOR PERCUSSION - TRIPP

Toms River Regional Indoor Percussion or TRRIP was formed in 2021 to give music students another performance opportunity in the marching arts. TRRIP is open to all music students looking to learn a percussion instrument and for percussionists to keep their marching skills fresh during the offseason.



Extra Curricular Guidelines

These guidelines are geared towards the Marching Mariners rehearsals and competitions but are the same for TRRIP!

Attendance

The policy for extracurricular ensembles is the same as curricular classes, with a few more guidelines:

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

You are expected to be at every rehearsal and performance, including parades, competitions, and football games. All band events are located on our calendar at least 6 months prior to the event. Please schedule accordingly.

Please note - Extracurricular ensembles employ a three strike policy. If you accrue three unexcused absences, you will be removed from the ensemble. Please note that any dues paid will not be refunded.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

If you are to miss a rehearsal or performance, please note that only certain circumstances are accepted as reasons to be excused from these events:

- Sickness - Doctor's note required for all ailments
- Death in immediate family
- Family wedding
- Religious holiday
- College entrance test

In each of the cases listed above, an e-mail from your parent or guardian must be provided **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** of the planned absence, unless sudden or an emergency. The more time, the better! Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence, impacting the students membership.

Any other excused absence will be on a case by case basis at the directors discretion.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences from any rehearsal or performance will negatively affect your membership in the ensemble. Please be mindful of your absences.

Please note that attendance records are reviewed when a student is being considered for awards, student leadership positions, recommendation letters, and scholarships. Failure to adhere to our attendance policies may result in forfeiture of any or all of these opportunities.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals start at the listed time on the schedule. Please plan to arrive to any rehearsal at least 20 minutes before the noted start time. This time is used to unpack your instrument and get ready for rehearsal to start on time. Failure to be ready at the stated start time will result in the student being marked late.

MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS

Spring/Summer Rehearsals - The Marching Mariners begin their season in the Spring before the following fall season. Spring rehearsals are usually once a month and required for all members. Summer rehearsals begin the first week of July and consist of the following:

Weekly Wind Sectionals - Each wind section will have an hour long sectional with a director

Bi-Weekly Percussion Sectionals - Members of our drum line and front ensemble will have two practices a week with our drum staff.

Tuesday Night Basics - All marching band members will be required to attend a full band rehearsal once a week on Tuesdays during July. In these rehearsals members will learn marching basics as well as music performed at football games and parades.

Weekly Color Guard Sectionals - Members of our Color Guard are required to attend weekly rehearsals during the summer.

Band Camp - All marching band members are required to attend these mandatory rehearsals. Band Camp is usually the first or middle two weeks of August. If you can not attend these camps, please see the directors ASAP!

SPORTS CONFLICTS

Students who participate in sports are expected to work with their coach and the band directors so that they can meet their commitments to both activities.

BEHAVIOR

These guidelines are for any extracurricular activity:

-No leaving school grounds at any time. Students must bring everything they need for the day with them at the start of the day.

NECESSARY ITEMS

Marching band summer rehearsals:

- Three ring binder with page protectors
- Small notebook
- Pencil
- Sunblock
- Small fan/mister
- Large water jug

ATTIRE

Summer:

- Loose fitting athletic clothing - no jeans or khakis
- Athletic sneakers - no flip flops, sandals, or flat/skate shoes allowed
- No dark colored clothing - black, navy blue, dark green, brown, etc
- Hat
- Sunglasses

Fall:

- Loose fitting athletic clothing - no jeans or khakis
- Athletic sneakers
- No dark colored clothing allowed for night rehearsals

DIET

During the marching band season, it is recommended that students try to adhere to a healthy diet. Marhcing Band is a physical activity and requires students to have the energy to be physically active for long periods of time. Students should eat a healthy breakfast and make sure to hydrate during the day. Students are also required to bring a jug of water to all practices.

TRAINING

As a member of the Marching Mariners, students should expect to participate in physical activity. These activities include but are not limited to stretching, light jogging/running, push-ups, and various other activities to help build your body's strength and stamina. Please note that for students to be excused from these activities, a valid doctors note stating the reason for sitting out of activities must be presented to the band directors.

Performances

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Mariners perform at various events, mostly during the Fall however there are events scheduled throughout the year.

Football Games - The band is present at every home and away football game unless it conflicts with a competition. We will perform our field show during halftime at home games and during pre-game when allowed at away games. Students must sit with the band in their instrument sections for the entirety of the game. Students are given a snack during the third quarter of every game.

Parades - The Marching Mariners participate in several parades throughout the year. These parades include Veterans Day, Halloween, Columbus Day, St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, and various other events. Marching band members are required to attend these events.

Competitions - The Marching Mariners are a member of Tournament of Bands Region 7 competitive circuit. At these events, the band is judged on our ability to perform our show to the best of our ability both musically and visually. The band may also compete outside their competitive circuit if an opportunity arises.

INDOOR PERCUSSION

Competitions - TRRIP is also a member of Tournament of Bands Region 7 as well as Winter Guard International in 2026, TRIPP is also looking to join the Mid-Atlantic Percussion Society circuit. All guidelines for marching band also apply to indoor percussion.

JAZZ BAND

Festivals and Competitions - Starting with the 2025/2026 school year, the Mariner Jazz Band (newly named The Blue Wave) will begin to attend local Jazz festivals as well as competitions! Look for more information in the near future!

Travel Guidelines

These guidelines apply to both curricular and extracurricular travel.

-Please remain seated at all times

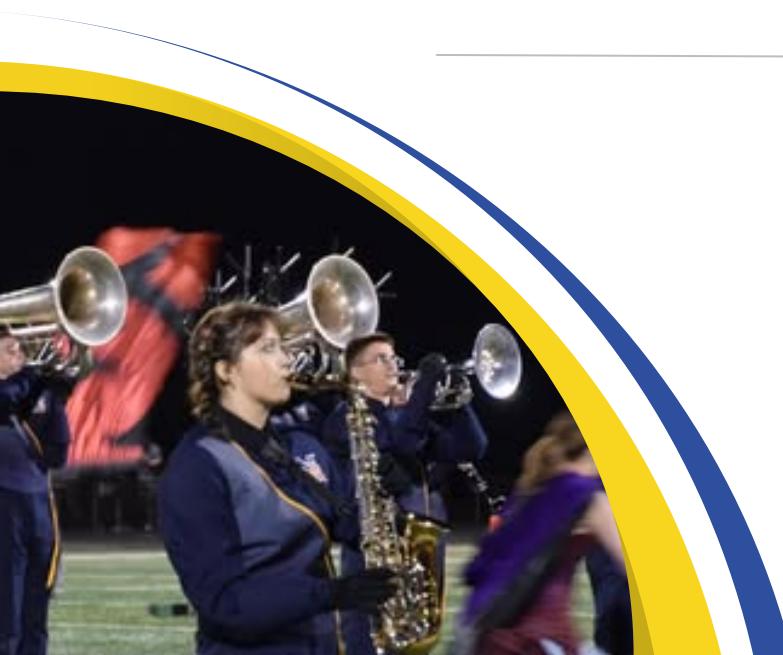
-The only musical devices permitted on bus rides are those with headphones. No bluetooth speakers.

-Please refrain from using the flashlight on your mobile device during bus rides as it may distract the driver.

-Profanity, screaming, and PDA are strictly prohibited

Marching Band only:

Starting with the 2025/2026 school years. Students will be grouped on busses by section. You must travel on the bus assigned to your section .



Uniform Guidelines

The uniform of the Marching Mariners, Mariner Guard, and TRRIP is a sign of pride. Students will be responsible for keeping their uniforms in good shape throughout their season. Please note that if you are not in accordance with these guidelines you will not be allowed to perform.

General guidelines for all members:

- All visible piercings must be changed to a stud type for performances.
- No long nails
- No colored nail polish. Students may have clear or “French” type nails.
- Hair color must be consistent for the entire season. If you are going to dye it, you must do so before the competitive season starts and can not re-dye it until after the season to protect our uniforms from staining.
- All Uniform pieces must be kept clean, neat, and wrinkle free
- You are not to remove any part of your uniform without permission from a staff member.
- While in uniform, you may not consume any food or drink that is not provided by the Band Boosters. This is to protect the uniforms from staining and damage.

Please note - If a piece of your uniform becomes damaged due to student negligence, or it is lost, it is the responsibility of the student to pay for repair/cleaning or replacement. Failure to do so will result in a school fine as well as removal from the program.

Wind and Percussion Uniform Guidelines:

- While in uniform, you will be required to wear long, black socks, a band show shirt, and athletic shorts or pants
- Winds will be required to wear black gloves. You will be issued two pairs for the season. Should you need another pair, they are \$5/pair.
- You will be required to purchase a pair of band shoes. Fitting and orders are done during the summer months. Price varies by year.
- Hair must worn up and must never touch the collar of the uniform. If wearing a shako (hat), your hair must be tucked completely into the hat.



Uniform Guidelines Continued

Color Guard Guidelines:

- Your show uniform is determined by your instructor.
- You will be responsible for purchasing various items during the season including but not limited to guard gloves, shoes, and body tights.

Uniform Storage

All band uniforms are stored at the school in our uniform closet. After each performance, students must hang their uniforms properly before handing them into parent volunteers. The uniforms will be checked before being put away. If a uniform is found to not be hung correctly, that student must fix it before being dismissed.

Financial Obligations

All members will incur some financial obligations. Some of those obligations are:

Membership Dues - Each member is required to pay a membership fee. This helps cover many parts of running the program including show production costs, insurance fees, instrument purchases, and food for your students!

Uniform Parts - As already mentioned, students will need to purchase various parts for their uniform including shoes, gloves, and proper clothing for under their uniform.

Fundraising - Each and every member and their families is expected to participate in various fundraising activities throughout the year. These events are imperative to helping the band run. Some fundraising events are our gift auction, hosting competitions, and other various events.

Student Leadership

In addition to the directors and staff, there are several student leader positions that are available for members to apply for. Applications are usually released in April and auditions and interviews take place in late May.

Requirements for marching band positions:

To apply for Drum Major, a prospective applicant must have participated in two consecutive full seasons of marching band.

To apply for a Section Leader position, a prospective applicant must have participated in one season of marching band.

Please note - Every student leader will be held to the highest standard. A student leader may be relieved of their duties if they are not performing their assigned duties.

Magnet School Students

Students that attend OCVTS magnet schools such as MATES, PAA, and ALPS are welcomed to join extra curricular ensembles at Toms River North, but are subject to a “no strike” policy. If the student misses any rehearsal or event for an unexcused reason, they will be removed from the program. Any event, performance, or other activity at the magnet school is considered unexcused.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is HIGHLY encouraged! The Toms River North Band Boosters are a group dedicated to helping our organization run smoothly and successfully. Booster meetings are held monthly and we urge all parents and guardians to get involved!

Membership Registration

All members of the band program are required to register by filling out the appropriate Google Forms as well as certain paper forms. These forms are available at orientation and can be accessed through our website (soon!).

Schedules

Students and parents will receive weekly schedules during competitive seasons. These schedules will also be available on the band website

Other Important Information

WEBSITE

Band Website - www.trnband1.com

Boosters Website - www.trnmm.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Band Instagram - @trnorthband

Guard Instagram - @trncolorguard

Percussion Instagram - @trnperc

Boosters Facebook - www.facebook.com/trnmmboosters

REMIND APP

The band uses Remind to contact students and parents when needed. We ask that you sign up for the appropriate Remind account to stay informed. Here is how to join:

On your phone, text the number 81010. In the subject of your text, please type the following text that applies to your group:

All Band Students - @northband1

Color Guard - @trnguard

Percussion - @hsnperc

Parents - @trnbndinfo

E-MAIL

Band Director -

Jon Grill - jgrill@trschools.com

Band Director - TBA

Booster President -

northbandpresident@gmail.com



We are excited and pleased
that you have decided to
become (or continue as!) a
member of the Mariner
Band. We are confident that
your years in this
organization will be the
experience of a lifetime.
Welcome aboard!!

