



The Normal Marching Band

2026 Season Commitment Form

Student Name

The student listed above will participate in the Normal Marching Band during the 2026 school year. We understand that participation in the NMB is voluntary, but by signing this statement, the student and parent/guardian have firmly committed to these conditions regarding attendance at rehearsals and performances as posted on the calendar at www.normalmb.org. (The full calendar can be found under "EVENTS.")

Unavoidable scheduling conflicts in June must be preapproved by the directors by emailing budzinsr@unit5.org and carterp@unit5.org. Families should make every effort to schedule vacation around these rehearsals and avoid other conflicts. Students' failure to request time off from work is not an approved absence. **Members whose position is earned by an audition (drum line, color guard) are required to attend all June rehearsals.**

The following NMB Camp Weeks are mandatory for all members to attend in their entirety (without exception): July 28-31 and August 3-6. All rehearsals after August 6 are part of the competitive season and are also mandatory (without exception). Attendance at all performances is mandatory (including but not limited to parades, football games, field show competitions, and exhibition performances.) Please avoid scheduling back-to-school appointments during mandatory rehearsal times.

Absences are considered "excused" when school is missed due to a student illness or death in the family. In these cases, please email the directors in advance at budzinsr@unit5.org and carterp@unit5.org. At the directors' discretion, students with unexcused absence(s) may be dismissed from the group. Absences restrict the band's ability to learn new material or make changes/improvements to the competitive show. For this reason, it may be necessary to limit students' subsequent performance participation after an absence, either temporarily or permanently, even if the absence is excused. In the case of extended/frequent absences and/or mental health days, absent students may be replaced or written out of the portions of the show that were covered in the missed rehearsal(s). The NMB Handbook includes additional information about attendance.

The Marching Band Dues cover individual student expenses, including but not limited to: uniform shirts/jackets, summer supplies, and show design/equipment costs. The 2026 NMB Dues are \$450 total, payable as:

- \$150 deposit, due with this form by March 16
- \$150 payment, due by June 8
- \$150 balance, due by July 25

Households with two or more NMB performers receive a \$50 discount per student. Each sibling pays \$400 in dues, with the discount applied to the final payment in July.

Each NMB member (or their family) is responsible for payment in full unless individual fundraiser proceeds from the student's Presto account are applied. Payments can be made by check, payable to the Unit 5 Music Parents, or by credit/debit card (through Presto, with a service charge.) See the NMB Handbook for additional information.

The Unit 5 Music Parents recognize that there are families who benefit from assistance in meeting these financial obligations. As such, multiple individual fundraisers are offered. It is expected that students who are unable to pay their dues raise funds through one or more of these fundraisers. The NMB Dues are not subsidized by the district's free/reduced lunch program. Families who have difficulty meeting the payment schedule are asked to contact the NMB Lead Parent Coordinators (nmbvolunteers@gmail.com) for an alternate payment plan as early as possible. It is our philosophy that financial obligations should never keep a student from participating in the NMB, though communication is vital. Students (families) who have not been in contact to make alternate arrangements AND whose fee ledger is not current may be subject to removal from the NMB.

- Check here to indicate that you have completed the online NMB Member Information Form at normalmb.org/formschecklist
- Check here to indicate that you have read and understand the NMB Handbook posted at www.normalmb.org

Student Signature/Date

Parent or Guardian Signature/Date



The Normal Marching Band

Medical Release Form 2026 - 2027

Student Name

Date of Birth

In the event of illness or injury or need for dental care, I give my permission for my student (listed above) to receive treatment and/or medication by qualified personnel. I agree that the cost of any treatment will be my responsibility. This agreement will be in effect during all band- and guard-related activities once this form is submitted, through June 1, 2027. To the best of my knowledge, the information below is complete and accurate.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Emergency Medical Information

#1 Guardian/Emergency Contact Name

Cellular Phone #

Relationship

#2 Guardian/Emergency Contact Name

Cellular Phone #

Relationship

Student's Physician

Office Phone #

Student's Current Medical Status: *Please complete this form as accurately as possible. Contact the band directors if the student's medical condition, allergies, or medications change over the course of the year. Your thorough and complete responses will be kept confidential and will enable first responders to provide the safest treatment possible, if necessary.*

Allergies (include medications, foods, bee stings, environmental allergens, etc.)

Current Medications and Doses/Regimen (include inhalers, insulin, any tablets/capsules taken daily, etc.)

Diseases/Injuries (include asthma, diabetes, recent surgeries, etc.)

Insurance Information

Insurance Company

Phone number

Primary Subscriber Name

Subscriber ID #

Policy or Group

Employer Name

My child is permitted to take the following medicines if needed:

Acetaminophen (Tylenol)

Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil)

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)

Other (please list)

Please list or attach additional information that would be helpful in caring for your student:



The Normal Marching Band

Student Conduct Agreement for the 2026-2027 Season

Student Name

Normal Community and Normal West High Schools are proud of the students who represent their schools and community through participation in co-curricular activities. Each student must abide by the following rules and regulations in order to participate in the school-sponsored Normal Marching Band. In addition to the regulations below, all policies set forth in the Unit 5 High School Student Handbooks apply.

Trust Statement: The marching band is frequently spread across a variety of rehearsal/sectional settings, school buses, performance sites, etc. It is impractical for the entire group to remain together under the direct supervision of a band director, so trust is foundational. If a student's behaviors demonstrate that they are unable to function in this kind of environment, the entire marching band process breaks down. It is of the utmost importance that marching band members conduct themselves accordingly. Unlike an athletic team with a bench, short term exclusion as a consequence leaves an empty spot on our team. For this reason, when a student violates conduct expectations, it can become necessary to remove a student for the duration of a season instead of a portion of a season. We acknowledge that the band consequences are more severe than athletics in this case. This is necessary to preserve the success of the entire organization, by allowing the band to permanently fill the spot left by a missing performer.

Physical Appearance: In performances and competitions, the band is evaluated based on standards of uniformity and professionalism. This includes appropriate attire and grooming: members' hair must be long enough that it can be worn in a ponytail or dance-style bun (depending on the performance) or short enough that it does not extend over the eyebrows or ears in the front or touch the collar in the back. Any artificial hair coloring treatment must result in a naturally-occurring hair color. Students should be free of facial hair or be clean-shaven. Jewelry, makeup, and visible fingernail polish are not permitted during performances. Students are expected to dress and maintain a physical appearance in accordance with commonly acceptable standards of decency, health, and safety. Words or pictures on articles of clothing or other possessions which advertise or promote illegal drugs, alcohol products, cigarettes/vapes or other tobacco products, or any other items not legally usable by high school students will not be permitted. In order to perform, students must adhere to all uniform policies as outlined in the *NMB Handbook*.

Language and Gestures: Students are responsible for their language and gestures, whether spoken, posted online, or sent via electronic device. Profane or obscene language is unacceptable at school, at rehearsals/performances, while traveling, and in any setting where a student's conduct reasonably reflects on the Normal Marching Band.

Harassment, Messaging, and Social Media: No type of harassment will be tolerated, in person, on social media, or otherwise. By definition of the High Schools' Student Handbook, harassment includes but is not limited to bullying as well as racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual harassment. All band-related social media posts reflect not only on the account that authors the post, but also our organization as a whole. Students are expected to display positivity, sportsmanship, professionalism, maturity, and support of other students and bands. If unable to do so, students should refrain from posting. Students may not post photos/videos of other students/staff in band-related contexts without consent, and must comply with school expectations for respectful digital citizenship. *These expectations extend outside of our rehearsal setting because they impact the relationships in our setting.* Some sections in the NMB elect to use the BAND App to communicate instrument- or equipment-specific information, sectional times and locations, and other details. This communication is considered an extension of the students' participation in Marching Band. As such, students are expected to communicate in an appropriate manner. Please limit discussion to NMB-related topics. The NMB does not support group chats outside of the BAND App platform (through apps like GroupMe, for example.) Any messaging via social media, other apps, or SMS/text messaging is subject to the same conduct expectations as spoken word. To summarize: if you would not say something out loud in the presence of a band director, do not send it from your phone. While it is not possible for Unit 5 staff to monitor and moderate all social media posts, these guidelines are enforceable by the directors and school officials when violations are brought to our attention. Some sections elect to have a "section" account on Instagram. These accounts must be set to private, and access should be granted only to those who are affiliated with the NMB. These accounts must also follow @normalmarchingband and allow @normalmarchingband, @ironmenbands, and @normalwestbands to follow back.

Insubordination: As a Unit 5 student, you have an absolute obligation to follow verbal and written instructions from any faculty member and to properly identify yourself to any staff member in regard to all aspects of your behavior and conduct at school and school activities. While traveling as a member of a school activity, students are to respond to the instructions of any designated chaperone as though they are a faculty member. Should a student have a concern with instructions given by a chaperone, they should respond respectfully and alert a band director as soon as possible.

Display of Affection: Behaviors which are not appropriate for public places make other people uncomfortable, show poor judgment, and are demeaning to the individuals involved. Demonstrate respect for yourself and others by conducting yourself in an appropriate manner at all times while on school property and/or participating in a school-sponsored activity. Inappropriate displays of affection will be defined as such at the discretion of the activity's director, including but not limited to prolonged kissing, sitting on laps, or physical contact inappropriate for a school setting. While traveling, students are not to enter any hotel room other than the one to which they are assigned.

Theft or Possession of Stolen Property: Students responsible for stealing school or private property or for being in possession of stolen or reported-as-stolen property will be subject to all school and district policies set forth in the Student Handbook as well as local law.

Academic Eligibility: Students must maintain passing grades in five or more courses to be eligible to participate in the NMB. Students must also pass five or more courses in spring semester prior to participate in the fall season.

Additional Behaviors: School rules apply. Students whose behaviors result in in-school or out-of-school suspensions demonstrate an inability to meet basic expectations for behavior/trust and are subject to limited, conditional participation or removal from co-curricular music activities, at the discretion of the band directors.

Drugs, Alcohol, Vapes, and Tobacco: Students who are in physical possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, vapes, or any other type of controlled substance or students who have consumed such substances are subject to punishment in accordance with local law and school district policy. Students who are of legal age to possess these substances are not exempt from this policy.

Statement of Policy for Extracurricular Participation as Related to Drug Use, Alcohol Use, and Inappropriate Behavior (quotation taken from *High School Student Handbook*): "Normal Community/Normal West High School considers its student members of IHSA sanctioned teams and extracurricular clubs to be representative of the school. Participation in extracurricular activities, including but not limited to clubs and interscholastic teams, is considered to be a privilege. Because these students represent our high school, the standard of student conduct is necessarily high and without exception. It is the policy that any student engaging in gross misconduct of possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages and/or drugs, or engaging in illegal or inappropriate behavior which reflects poorly on Unit 5 Schools and their educational philosophy and objectives, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions including but not limited to immediate suspension from the team or club for which the student is currently participating."

Students found in violation of any of the above regulations or any of the regulations set forth in the High Schools' Student Handbook or Normal Marching Band Handbook will be subject to school consequences and/or dismissal from marching band and/or other co-curricular music activities, at the discretion of the director(s). In addition, the student will be subject to any applicable laws and school district policies. When possible and appropriate, students found in violation of any of the above regulations while traveling as a member of a school-sponsored activity will be sent home immediately at the expense of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The terms of this Agreement begin once it is signed and extend until the final day of the school year, band season, or any summer band trip that occurs after school gets out, whichever falls last. (Signing this Agreement in the spring for the next school year's marching band season acknowledges that the agreement is in effect immediately, through the end of the following school year, for example.) A violation during the "off season" may render a student ineligible to participate in the next season. Note that, at the band director(s) discretion, factors such as severity of the offense and whether it occurred during a band activity may be considered when determining consequences. At the discretion of the band director(s), consequences for substance-related offenses may be reduced if the student is enrolled in a school-approved alcohol or drug counseling program.

Student Signature/Date

Parent or Guardian Signature/Date