



North Penn Marching Knights
Chaperone Information

Updated 7/2021

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- Head Chaperone will notify chaperones via text and/or email of departure times for away games and competitions at the beginning of each week, or as soon as the band directors determine times.
- Head Chaperone will issue bus assignments and chaperone badges approximately 30 minutes prior to departure from the school. Three or four school buses are typically used for away games and competitions, while two – four air conditioned Coach buses are usually procured for overnight competitions.
- Prior to boarding the buses, the NPMK assemble in their sections outside and adjacent to the buses. Drum majors release Seniors to board the buses first, followed by Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen. Seniors are allowed to place their belongings on the bus prior to assembling with the band while all others place their belongings on the bus after they are released by the drum majors. Both band directors, head chaperone, and the nurse usually travel on bus one while the staff divides itself among all the other buses. Each bus should have two chaperones.
- A numbered sign will be posted in the front window of the bus as well as in the side window adjacent to the door of each bus. Sign an tape can be found in bus bag.
- Headcounts – Assign a senior to count as soon as students have boarded. One chaperone does a second count. Compare counts and if anyone gets a different count, recount! Once count is complete, text count to head chaperone.
- Board no more than 30 students per bus. This number may change year to year depending on the size of the band. Save first two seats for the band directors and additional seats for each chaperone and nurse (bus one). Some large instruments/equipment may be placed in one of the front seats; however, most instruments are stored beneath the bus. Students usually stack their uniform bags in several seats. You may have to inspect these designated seats to make sure the bags are safely/neatly stacked and won't fall on students or block the aisle. Students should be asked to double up in a seat before asking adults.

- Introduce yourself, other chaperones and the bus driver. Make a short announcement:
 - Remind students they must travel on the same bus for the trip to and from the game/competition so that we get accurate counts.
 - Go over basic bus rules or ask the bus driver to address these.
 - Ask for two clean up volunteers or assign them yourself. Give them trash bags.
 - Remind students to throw away their trash in designated trash bags.
 - Request they close windows before departing the bus.

- Students do bring small portable speakers to play their popular music. You probably won't hear it, but it shouldn't be so loud as to disturb the bus driver. Request for a change in music if you hear inappropriate language or lyrics. The band directors do allow students to sing "bus" songs as long as they are appropriate and not offensive.

- Inappropriate physical display of affection is prohibited. (e.g. prolonged kissing, heads in laps). It's okay for them to rest their heads on another student's shoulder as they often fall asleep this way. Back massages are ok as long as they are appropriate.

- Swapping seats is fine as long as they stay seated and don't keep popping up. No standing.

- Students usually change into uniforms as soon as the bus comes to a complete stop. They are not allowed to change while the bus is moving. Time allowing, the directors will give the students a restroom break upon arrival and this has to occur before changing into uniforms. One chaperone from each bus should accompany a group of students to the restrooms. School docents are very helpful and will direct everyone to the restrooms.

- Band directors/staff have given clear instructions to the students on what type of appropriate clothing to wear under their uniforms. All adults leave the bus to give the kids more room to spread out their belongings so they can quickly change. Chaperones need to stay close by in case students need a uniform part or need a uniform repair.

- Personal items such as backpacks, jackets, and blankets are allowed in the stands at games, but all personal items must be left on the bus for competition. Guard members do take a jacket for right after the competition when it is cold and they place these in the blue chaperone wagons. Make sure windows and storage doors are closed for security reasons before leaving buses.

- For football games, chaperones sit in the same section with the band to help look after their belongings when they are away from the seating area. Do not allow spectators to sit in our area. At competitions, chaperones sit together with the other NP families to cheer the band before their performance. The nurse and one chaperone accompany the band to the field for their performance.
- Upon arrival at competitions, all adults (including the bus driver) exit the bus to allow students more room to change. Chaperones should be on hand to take care of uniform issues. Once MKs line up to begin their block practice, all chaperones are dismissed to watch the competition from the stands. Meanwhile, the band practices and 2-3 chaperones and a nurse stay close to the band to help with uniform malfunctions and sick MKs. All helping adults need to remain quiet and respectful during warmup so as to not distract the MKs. Directors will notify chaperones to “water” the students soon after the final warm up (usually when they break for their section pep talk). Distribute bottles as follows:
 - 2 to the pit
 - 2 to the color guard
 - 1 to battery
 - 1 to each section
- Remind students to squirt the water into their mouths without placing their mouth on the bottle since these bottles are shared. Help MKs turn down their pant hems right before they perform when they are given the command by one of the instructors.
- After the performance, all chaperones should return to the MKs to help with crowd control. Meaning they should block all spectators while band leaves the field. They typically change and hang out until the awards ceremony, but may stay on track standing at attention in their uniforms if they are the last band to perform.
- Candy grams: one chaperone should collect the candy/flower/toy grams. Chaperones distribute labeled candy grams to students before leaving the game or competition. This will be time consuming in the beginning, but easier as names are learned and students settle into a preferred bus.
- For the return trip home, chaperones and the designated senior should repeat the head count procedure. It is best to make the final head count after everyone has changed out of uniforms, returned from the restroom and are seated.

- Approximately 15-20 minutes from the high school, wake up any sleeping students and have all students call/text their parents to give approximate arrival time. Request they close all windows, pick up the trash in their area and take all personal belongings with them.
- Parents waiting to pick up their child at NPHS after a competition usually flash their emergency lights as a way to congratulate and welcome the band. Horn blowing is a noise violation and prohibited.
- Stay behind with the two clean up volunteers while they collect trash and check that the bus is clean and windows closed. Give all lost and found items, bus signs and badges to the head chaperone.
- Please contact Deb Neild or Joe Santanello if you have any questions or concerns and especially if there is a disciplinary issue.
- Joe Santanello, Director, Marching Knights: santanij@npenn.org
- Deb Neild, Head Chaperone: daneild@verizon.net cell – 267-218-0277