



TRIANGLE BRASS BANDS

Watson Brass Band

The Triangle Youth J. Perry Watson Brass Band is the top performing ensemble in the youth band program. The band is under the direction of Jesse Rackley.

Triangle Youth Brass Band

The Triangle Youth Brass Band is the second performing ensemble in the youth band program. The band is under the direction of Matthew Edwards.

Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band

The Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band is the third and newest performing ensemble in the youth band program. The band is under the direction of Robin Gorham.

Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble

The Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble is under the direction of Alvin Taylor.

Youth Brass Bands Handbook



Mission:

The Triangle Youth Brass Band program was formed in 1997 as part of the Triangle Brass Band's expansion of its educational endeavors. The mission of the Triangle Youth Brass Band program is to provide engaging, transformative musical experiences to the finest high school brass and percussion players through exceptional performance in the British Brass Band medium. Our talented, dedicated, and professional staff strive to inspire and educate our players to help them reach their fullest potential.

Staff:

Jesse Rackley - Artistic Director/Conductor, Watson Brass Band
 Matthew Edwards - Conductor, Triangle Youth Brass Band
 Robin Gorham - Conductor, Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band
 Alvin Taylor - Director, Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble

Expectations:

- Be in rising 9-12 grade.
- Be accomplished on your instrument.
- Be enrolled in your school band program for the full academic year.
- Make a commitment to all dates on the schedule.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Dress rehearsals are usually on different nights based on concert dates. Refer to the schedule for rehearsal and concert dates. The WBB and Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble will rehearse at Green Hope HS in Cary. The TYBB will rehearse at Salem MS in Apex. The TYABB will rehearse at Davis Drive MS in Cary.

Tuition:

Membership tuition for the Triangle Youth Brass Band program is TBA. Last season it was \$340 and we expect a similar amount for 25-26. A \$20 audition fee will be due at the time of registration and another \$100 deposit due once acceptance into the program is confirmed. Both, the audition fee and deposit, are subtracted from your total tuition. They are not an additional fee. Tuition covers operational costs such as rehearsal space, concert hall rental, new music, guest artist fees, and other basic expenses. **Tuition payments are non-refundable** and arrangements may be made for late payment or for payment in installments.

Triangle Brass Band Owned Instruments: New for 2025-2026

The Triangle Brass Bands will provide players with cornets, baritones and Eb tenor horns. There is a rental fee that covers cleaning of the instrument at the end of the season. If damage to an instrument occurs members will be responsible for all repairs. Students and parents will be required to fill out and sign a Triangle Brass Bands instrument loan form. The Triangle Brass Band Operations Committee monitors the condition of the instruments, during the program year, and will contact you, if the instrument is damaged while in the student's possession.

Tour:

Each season the Triangle Youth Brass Band program goes on one tour, usually to the North American Brass Band Championships. Historically, the tour payment is in the \$400 range and all efforts are made to not miss much school. All members are required to attend the tour and conflicts should be handled with the Artistic Director before the season begins.

Concert Dress:

Concert dress for WBB/TYBB is all black with colored vests. We will use this for all performances during the season. This includes long sleeved black button-up shirt, black dress pants, long black socks and black dress shoes. Only the vest will be supplied by the band. This will be the uniform for males and females.

TYABB/TYPE concert dress will be all black. This includes long sleeved black button-up shirt, black dress pants, long black socks and black dress shoes.

Music:

Youth Brass Band members will be supplied with a leather bound music folder. All music must be kept in this folder and may not be removed. **Please do not put any other music in your folder; it is for brass band music ONLY.** You are responsible for maintaining all music in the folder. If you lose a part, let the director know so a replacement can be obtained.

Private Lessons:

Most of the students in the Triangle Youth Brass Bands already take lessons. We do not require it, but we STRONGLY recommend it. Individual attention from a professional teacher or player can be invaluable and will help improve your playing at a faster pace. If you need help finding a teacher, our directors can help you.

Equipment Responsibilities:

All members are required to help with set-up and break-down for concerts. Each section will have a specific responsibility. Volunteers are also expected to help with the load-in and load-out of equipment at our storage facility. Details will be provided the week of each concert.

Communication:

Since our members are spread out all over the region, we use e-mail and Remind to communicate important information. Prior to rehearsal on Mondays members are required to check e-mail for weekly updates.

Attendance:

Attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is mandatory for members. Only your required school band functions are excused absences; all other absences are considered unexcused. **ALL** absences must be cleared prior to, not after the event. Any conflicts with dress rehearsals and performances, including the tour, must be brought to the attention of the Artistic Director ***before accepting membership into the Triangle Youth Brass Bands.***

While required school band functions are excused, extra-curricular school functions such as musicals and plays are not. Members are expected to not add other activities on top of Triangle Youth Brass Bands' scheduled events. If a member misses more than one rehearsal they may be in jeopardy of dismissal from the program.



Rehearsal Etiquette:

We strive to run the Triangle Youth Brass Bands in a professional manner. What sets us apart from other groups are the standards to which we hold ourselves. We feel strongly that, in order to get the desired results, we must follow these guidelines. Refusal to follow these guidelines will diminish the quality of the program and may result in dismissal.

- To be early is to be on time. Members are expected to be warmed up and tuned before rehearsal begins.
- Members are expected to come to rehearsal prepared. The music is hard; practice it.
- When the conductor is on the podium, there is **NO TALKING**. This includes discussing musical issues. Learn to communicate ideas without disrupting the rehearsal.
- When the conductor cuts off the band, stop playing immediately and listen.
- When the conductor is not working with your section, listen, as it will apply to something you play later.
- Members will be given a music folder for which they are responsible. Do not take brass band music out of this folder, or put other music in it.
- Have a pencil at all times in rehearsal.
- Members are expected to acquire and bring the necessary mutes.
- Be respectful of Triangle Brass Band owned instruments, only water may be consumed.



Code of Conduct

The Triangle Youth Brass Band program provides an opportunity for talented high school brass and percussion players to develop their skills by performing in a British brass band. To meet these objectives, it is necessary that our members conduct themselves in a way that benefits all of those involved. While some conduct can be interpreted as either beneficial or detrimental, other specific activities listed below are prohibited and can lead to dismissal from the group and loss of tuition. These activities are:

1. Verbal or physical abuse of another member or director.
2. The use of obscene language, either orally or visually.
3. Illegal use of a controlled substance including alcohol. This includes underage drinking.
4. Being disruptive during a rehearsal or performance.
5. Being disruptive during a band trip, such as NABBA.
6. Unauthorized use of another person's cell phone or other electronic device.
7. Deliberate damaging of Triangle Brass Band property. This does not include reasonable markings in music.
8. Deliberate damaging of a host's property at a rehearsal or performance site.
9. Theft of property belonging to another member, director or host site.

In the case of dismissal, no refund of tuition will be given.

Attendance

Members are expected to adhere to the attendance policy set forth in the handbook. All absences must be cleared by the director ahead of time.

Host Site Behavior

The Triangle Youth Brass Bands use various host sites for rehearsals and performances such as Wake County Public Schools, the Cary Arts Center, and the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Each site has specific rules concerning the behavior of people while using the facility and those rules should be followed.

Use of Triangle Brass Bands Instruments

Many of our participants use instruments that belong to the Triangle Brass Bands. We ask that you care for our instruments as if they were your own. If you damage or have a problem with an instrument, you are responsible for getting it repaired.