

Riversprings Middle School 2017-2018 Band Handbook



Director of Bands: Luke McManus

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Riversprings Middle School Band program is to offer students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades an opportunity to learn about instrumental music in a positive, fun environment. It is our desire to give each and every student the experience of producing music and expressing creativity through music. We believe that every child has the right to develop a lifelong love of music. Our band program exists to help facilitate that development and to prepare them to meet the high school entrance level as stated through the Sunshine State Standards and the local high school.

2. GRADING POLICY

Nine week grades will be determined from the following:

Daily Participation.....	10%
Practice Records.....	20%
All musical requirements including performance attendance.....	70%

Daily Participation Grade (10%)

The daily participation grade consists of musical preparation, and bringing all required materials to class. Required materials are an instrument (including mouthpiece and reeds), folder of all assigned music, method book, pencil, and a positive attitude. If a student is late to class or missing materials (excluding instrument), one warning will be given per week. If the same infraction occurs within the same week after a warning has been given, an alternate assignment will be assigned/completed for a grade. Forgetting an instrument (that is, not being able to play for lack of equipment), is an automatic alternate assignment.

Practice Records (20%)

Students will be required to turn in one practice record for each week. The minimum requirement for a grade of 100% A is six days of practice for 15 minutes each day (Symphonic Band), and six days of practice for 10 minutes each day (Concert Band and Beginning Band). In the event that a student misses one day of required practice, they may perform a double daily amount required in order to make up for the missed date. Please note: This can only occur once per week. A student may not practice for 90 minutes on one day and receive full credit. Grade will be based on number of complete practice days in each week.

6/6 = 100% (or five days with one double time day)
5/6 = 83%
4/6 = 66%
3/6 = 50%

A blank practice record turned in on time may be considered for up to half credit. Additionally, for each day that a practice record is late, 10 % of the total grade will be deducted. For example: a full practice record turned in two days late would be accepted for 80%. Extra credit will be offered for students who complete practice record over any extended holiday or break.

Musical Requirements and Performance Attendance (70%)

Students will be given frequent playing assignments (playing tests) which will need to be performed as part of the student's grade. Most of the time, these assignments will be played by each student individually during class time. All students will be given many opportunities to make up any low scores before the end of the nine weeks. Additionally, students are required to attend every performance as a part of this grade. This includes concerts, parades, festivals, FBA, MPA and any other musical events in which the full band is performing. Please see the section below on absences for information on what constitutes an excused absence.

3. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Calendars are provided at the beginning of the school year. Any changes to the calendar will be made as far in advance as possible. Unless otherwise stated, all performances are mandatory. The students put a lot of time and effort into preparing for performance and should not have to worry about their peers letting them down by not showing up. Please note: while band is a privilege, students will not be excused from rehearsal or performance for discipline. Not allowing a student to perform actually punishes all students involved, and this will not be excused.

Mr. McManus must be **notified 2 weeks in advance** should there be a scheduling conflict. **Students will NOT be excused** from any concert or FBA event...so please plan ahead for your child. In case of an emergency please leave a message for Mr. McManus at the school (926-2300 x6801) or email at luke.mcmanus@wcsb.us as soon as possible and follow up with a written note. Emergencies will be considered for excusal on an individual basis and must be presented in writing. **Unexcused absences from performances will negatively influence student's grade, may result in a student not being allowed to attend band field trips, and possibly the promotional status to the Symphonic Band.**

Afterschool Rehearsal

Attendance to ALL other school rehearsals is mandatory. Students who skip rehearsal are likely to be excluded from playing at assessments, concerts, and may be excluded from band field trips. Failing to perform at a concert or assessment will lower student grade (see section 2 and 3). Excused absences may be given on a case by case basis, but Mr. McManus must be notified at least two weeks in advance. Please note that "not having a ride" will not be excused as many students make necessary arrangements in this situation.

Band is a year long course. A student who enrolls in band will remain in band for the entire school year. If a student decides not to be in band the following school year, the student will be scheduled into the Unified Arts rotation wheel. Please contact Mr. McManus with any questions or problems you encounter with regard to the band program.

4. CONDUCT

All students in the RMS band program are expected to follow the official Student Code of Conduct of Riversprings Middle School and the Wakulla County School Board at all times. Major or consistent infractions of this policy could be cause from removal from the program. In

addition, the following conduct standards have been designed to create a positive learning environment. They are expected of all RMS band members:

- * There will be no talking or disruptive noises while the director is on the podium.
- * Students will not use profanity or the phrase “shut-up”.
- * There will be no food, drink, candy, or gum allowed in the band room.
- * Students may not touch instruments or equipment that does not belong to them without permission from the owner and the band director...zero tolerance violation.
- * Theft will not be tolerated and is a zero tolerance violation.
- * Only percussionists may touch the percussion equipment.
- * Students will strive to maintain positive words and attitudes while participating in band activities and classes.
- * No use of profanity or otherwise inappropriate speech.
- * No student may say anything negative, insulting, or demeaning to others.
- * No spraying of perfumes, body sprays, hairspray... allowed in or around band room.

Non-adherence to these standards could result in one of the following disciplinary actions: lunch detention, written assignment, office referral, loss of privileges (including field trip attendance), and/or removal from the band program.

5. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES / UNIFORMS

During concerts / performances, all band members will be required to wear the assigned uniform...Mr. McManus will be contacting all parent/guardians of the apparel to be worn. Students must wear black, closed toe shoes (Dress shoes) and black socks or stockings/hose. All families will have adequate time to obtain the necessary items well prior to the day of the concert. **Students out of uniform will not be allowed to perform** and will be given an unexcused absence for the performance (See Attendance Policy).

All RMS band students are required to provide / purchase the following items:

- *\$20.00 Activity Fee
- *Band Uniform--price will not exceed \$75.00 depending on class placement.
- *Instrument (discussed in next section).
- *\$20.00 Band Fee
- *Blue jeans and khaki pants may also be needed.

To our Students and Families with Financial Difficulties:

Every effort will be made by the director and the school to ensure that every student with a desire to learn can participate in the band program regardless of financial capabilities. This is only possible if we are made aware of any difficulties. Students must be up to date on all payments to participate in any field trip or special event.

6. INSTRUMENTS / EQUIPMENT

Most students will be required to rent or purchase their own instruments by the start of the third week of school. You will be provided with this information and the opportunity to do so during

the first few weeks of school. There are a limited number of school-owned instruments. Students who are issued a school instrument will sign an instrument rental contract and pay a rental fee of \$45 for the year to cover general maintenance of the instrument. Students will be responsible for any damages beyond normal wear and tear. If the instrument rental fee is to be paid in installments, the first \$20 will be due at the end of August and the second payment of \$25 will be due at the beginning of the second 9 week grading period.

7. FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, the band will need to have fundraisers for the purpose of purchasing new sheet music, books, instruments, equipment, and FBA (Florida Bandmasters Assoc) participation events. Students in the band will be expected to participate in these fundraisers to the best of their ability. Students will not be penalized for non-participation in fundraising events but those who do participate will often be eligible for prizes, parties, and/or other rewards. Students may also be able to earn credit through fundraisers that can be used to help pay for band field trips.

8. TRAVEL

Occasionally it will be necessary for the band to travel to performances sites, festival, field trips, etc. The Wakulla County School Board field trip policy requires students to travel to field trip locations on school provided transportation. **Students are permitted to travel home from an event with a custodial parent as long as Mr. McManus has received a written notice signed by the principal/assistant principal stating that the transportation arrangements have been approved.** In the days leading up to a field trip, students may bring these notes to Mr. McManus and he will take them to the administration for approval or the student/parent may get the note signed on their own and then turn it in to Mr. McManus. These notes need to be received by Mr. McManus at least 48 hours prior to the start of travel.

When traveling with the band, students should remember that they are representing Riversprings Middle School and the entire RMS Band Program. All band rules and school rules and dress code will be in effect. Always behave in a manner which you would be proud for others to observe. Unacceptable behavior will be dealt with harshly.

In addition to the rules set forth by the school and the band handbook (see "CONDUCT") each trip will have specific rules and guidelines. These rules and a complete itinerary will be distributed by the director prior to travel.

9. AWARDS

The following awards / certificates will be presented each year:

- * Most outstanding Rookie: given to outstanding 6th grade student
- * Leadership Award: given to 8th grader who demonstrated exceptional leadership in band
- * Medal of Honor: given to 8th grader as the student of the year in the band program
- * Students who participate in Solo and Ensemble that score Superior from FBA
- * Members of the Jazz Band
- * Band students involved with FMEA All-State Band or Honor Band

Each award will be awarded upon the decision of the director. In some cases, more than one student may receive the same award. However, for honor awards (leadership, outstanding rookie, medal of honor) typically one student will receive the award.

RMS BAND CONTRACT

The following contract must be completed and returned to Mr. McManus no later than the end of August. This will count as part of your participation grade.

Note: Failure to return contract does not excuse students from the rules/regulations set forth in the handbook.

STUDENT NAME: _____

GRADE: _____ HOME PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____ EMAIL: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

1. _____
Name and relation to student Daytime phone #(s)
_____ (email address)

2. _____
Name and relation to student Daytime phone #(s)
_____ (email address)

I have read the handbook and agree to abide by all policies and procedures found within. I understand that non-compliance with these policies and procedures could result in removal from the band program.

Student Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

Wakulla County Schools

COMMITTED TO SUCCESS

NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The School Board of Wakulla County, Florida does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information for applicants and employees, or any other reason prohibited by Federal and State law regarding non-discrimination. See 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d); 34 C.F.R. 106.9; 34 C.F.R. 110.25.

In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. See 34 C.F.R. 108.9.

Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs, and activities of the School Board are required in advance to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodation.

The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to any opportunity or event associated with Wakulla County Schools.

The designated Equity Coordinator, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator as required by 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d) is Angie Walker, Executive Director of Human Resources, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327; 850.926.0065; angela.walker@wcsb.us.