

WELCOME TO THE RRHS BAND PROGRAM!

(AN ORIENTATION TO THE WONDERS OF
HIGH SCHOOL BAND)





Rocky River High School

20951 Detroit Rd. • Rocky River • Ohio 44116

440.356.6800 • www.rrcs.org

Rob Winton, Principal • Monica Asher, Assistant Principal

Brian Gergely, Assistant Principal • Mark Wagner, Director of Athletics & Activities

May 30, 2017

Dear Freshman Band Students & Parents,

Welcome to one of the finest high school instrumental music programs in the state of Ohio! The Rocky River bands are consistently lauded for their excellent performances by parents, community members, students, and music professionals. Perhaps more importantly, the students in the RRHS Bands are tremendous ambassadors of the school and the community each time they put on their uniforms and perform. Moreover, the RRHS Band is a great community of individuals who support each other, help when needed, and often become lifelong friends.

We hope that the following guide will serve to answer many questions you might have to make the transition to high school as smooth as possible. You will find information compiled by the two of us as well as a section of information compiled by recent Freshman band parents. If you have questions or concerns beyond what is included in the following pages, please do not hesitate to reach out to “experienced” band members and parents who are EVERYWHERE or to one of us. We are looking forward to working with each and every one of you and can’t wait to watch you grow for the next four years!

Sincerely,

Mr. Taylor & Mr. Komperda

First question: When do I need to show up???

Summer Dates of Note:

Monday-Thursday, June 12-15th

RRHS Sousaphone Camp 1:00-2:15pm RRHS Choir Room

RRHS Percussion Camp/Auditions 2:30-4:30pm RRHS Band Room

(Percussionists provide pair of sticks, music/instruments will be provided)

(If you need a school instrument to practice over the summer, you may come during these times- just set up a time with Mr. Komperda.)

Monday, August 7th

Freshman Instrument Check-Out 2:00-3:00pm RRHS Band Room

(only if using a school instrument for Marching Band- baritones, tenor saxes, percussion, etc.)

New Marcher Orientation 3:00-4:30pm RRHS Band Room

Tuesday-Friday, August 8-11th; Monday-Friday, August 14-18th

Marching Band Camp 10:00am-12noon RRHS Band Room

1:30-4:30pm RRHS Band Room/Stadium

Friday, August 11th (TENTATIVE)

Combined Band/Athletics Event Evening TBA RRHS Stadium

(Sponsored jointly by the Rocky River Marooners and Band Backers)

Sunday, August 13th

Band Student & Parent Picnics 1:00-3:00pm Student/Parent Locations TBD

(Aside from fun social time, includes VERY important info about the upcoming season)

Monday, August 21st

RRHS Convocation 7:00-9:00am RRHS Auditorium

After that...

The Marching Band rehearses during class (1st period), and every **Tuesday night** during the football season from **6:30-8:45pm** at RRHS. The band performs at every Friday night (and one Thursday night) football game, as well as two Saturday Band Festivals (TBA), and the Marching Band Concert on November 4th.

After THAT...

“Marching Band” is over for the year, and the extracurricular expectations diminish significantly. We hold auditions (students will sign up for an after school/evening time slot) for the concert bands towards the end of the marching season to place the students into one of two bands that both continue to rehearse during 1st period.

Outside of the school day, there are several more performances (concerts in December, March & May, OMEA Contest in March, Memorial Day, and Commencement), and any other commitments are optional based on student interest. These would include the jazz ensembles, pep band, various honor bands, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and pit orchestra for the musical.

Some Notes (♪) From the Directors

A note (♪) about rehearsals:

Yes, for two weeks of the summer we do ask a lot of our summer-fun-loving students, but please know that this is the MINIMUM amount of rehearsal we can schedule in order to put out the OUTSTANDING product that thousands enjoy each and every year. We do require you to be in attendance for EACH rehearsal for which you are called (i.e. Clarinets need not attend the Percussion Camp). In order to accomplish what we all set out to do, we need to work efficiently. In order to minimize our rehearsal time and allow students to be at their additional activities (i.e. athletics, work), we try to have our practices when there are no required school activities.

In the event that conflicts with other school activities arise, let us know as soon as possible as the earlier we know, the easier it is to adjust a schedule or work out a compromise. With 200 students in the band we also cannot possibly schedule around every other non-school activity in which students may be involved. We simply ask for your flexibility and willingness to work with us as much as possible. Our rehearsals DO NOT work when people are missing- it totally changes how other students learn our on-field work when there are “holes” (missing people) around them, then have to spend time teaching that material later when the group could be moving on to something else.

A note (♪) about Freshman Workload:

Many students and parents look towards the beginning of high school with some anxiety about the amount of work required of high school students on top of the greater extracurricular commitments. There is no doubt that there is more “stuff” in high school, but it can all be extremely positive. Successfully dealing with increased commitments does require planning ahead, using time wisely, flexibility and communicating effectively. Sound like a chance to develop crucial life skills??? In fact, a significant number of students report that the “marching band” quarter is their most efficient time of year because they have to schedule things properly. Many students also log their highest GPAs during this quarter.

RRHS Marching Band Staff

Director: Mr. Kirk Taylor 440-356-6822

taylor.kirk@rrcs.org

Assistant Director: Mr. Michael Komperda

komperda.michael@rrcs.org

Pom & Flag Advisor: Mrs. Pam Lewis

rrhspomsflags@rrcs.org

Instrumental Advisor: Mrs. Bettyjeane Quimby

quimby.bettyjeane@rrcs.org

Percussion Instructor: Mr. Scott Shaughnessy

2017-18 RRHS Band Officers

TBA by end of school year

2017-18 RRHS Class Reps

TBA during Band Camp

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AS A FRESHMAN BAND PARENT
...COMPILED BY FORMER FRESHMAN BAND PARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN THERE...

General:

- Do not forget to put any and all performance/rehearsal dates on your own family calendar(s) immediately to avoid any “unpleasantness” down the line. The directors put a great value on performances, and a lot of time and work goes into them, so they can be understandably frustrated when they are informed of an absence the week of a concert. Make sure you understand the district attendance policy which can be found in the “Band Letter” (see below).
- Get to know the band website- it has most of the information you will need (report times, etc.) throughout the year.

www.rrcs.org/RRHSBAND.aspx.
- On Twitter, you and your child (if allowed) should follow:
 - @RRHSBand (Band Twitter account - kept up by Mr. Taylor)
 - @rrhsbando (RRHS Band Officers Twitter account- kept up by officers)
- Marching Band/Concert Band/Wind Ensemble are CLASSES and meet 1st period all year.
- Make sure you read the emails which come in from Mr. Taylor **AND** rriverbands@gmail.com (this is RR Bandbackers). There is **A LOT** of information in those emails (times, sign-up links, needs, etc.) so don't ignore them!
 - RR Bandbackers is a non-profit which supports ALL bands in the RRCS. There are volunteer chairs under that organization who take care of many of the marching band needs (ie. hospitality, uniforms, chaperones, etc.), general band needs, and fundraising throughout the year.
- Mr. Taylor will send out a band letter in late-July/early-August to all band parents - a longer version will be posted on the RRHS Band website. **READ IT** (even though it is long).
- **If your child also plays a fall sport, DO NOT BE DAUNTED!** As long as they communicate with both their coach AND Mr. Taylor and make a commitment to both activities THEY WILL BE FINE. It will make for a busy Fall, but it is doable and a fantastic learning opportunity for your child and a great way to jump into RRHS with both feet.
 - Encourage your child to be proactive with both Mr. Taylor and his/her coach and to figure out an equitable way to split his/her time as soon as he/she gets schedules. These adults are used to doing this and are really flexible within reason. One of the great things about RRHS is they really encourage the kids to be involved in multiple activities as long as the division of time is equitable and the student is proactive & committed to both activities. (General rule of thumb: performance/game/meet TRUMPS practice. Practice time should be split 50/50 if they are scheduled simultaneously).
- Get involved as a parent; it's a great way to meet other parents outside of your student's grade.
 - Volunteer to chaperone, work hospitality, or to help host an after party with an upper-classman's parents leading the way.
 - Go to the Band Parent Picnic in August and send your child to the simultaneous one for the kids. You will get the scoop on everything that happens, expectations, etc. You can sign up to volunteer (there will also be lots of emails with links, etc.). It's a fun time and a great way to meet other parents outside your student's grade with whom you will be spending A LOT of time!

Marching Band:

- Send your child with lunch \$\$ for Band Camp. You may assume they are coming home, but they may end up going to lunch with old/new friends. A HUGE part of band camp is bonding.
- Your child will be put in a squad for the season which functions like a mini family, with squad leaders making sure everyone is in the right place and knows what's going on.
 - Most squads communicate with each other via group texts with reminders on report times, uniform requirements, etc.
 - Each week, a member of the squad is responsible for making psych-up bags with goodies for their squadmates that they deliver on the morning of games. The upperclassmen usually do the first couple of games so the freshmen get the idea, but be prepared for your student to have to make psych-up bags twice during the season. (Also be prepared to hear about it on Thursday when they have to bring it in on Friday morning ;-))
- Upperclassmen take the freshmen under their wing during the marching band season. They really bond during Band Camp and the kids are so much more comfortable walking into RRHS the first week of school because they already know 200+ people.
- **TNP = Tuesday Night Practice. This is EVERY TUESDAY once school starts.** It runs from 1st week of school through early-November from 6:30-8:45pm. This is their chance to get on the HS field to practice.
 - There will be long lines in the parking lot to pick up after TNP and kids take MUCH LONGER than you anticipate to get out and sometimes they run late. I suggest having your child text you when they are going back into the building or are putting away instruments and not leaving to pick them up until then (unless you like sitting in a really long line ;-))
- Same as above goes if you are picking up your child after a game.
 - Do not assume they will be ready as soon as the bus returns or as soon as the game is over. They have a lot of organizing with their instruments and uniforms before they can leave and it takes them longer than you think it will.
- Your child will take a "gig bag" with them to all games with their music/items.
 - STRONGLY SUGGEST that they take warm gloves and hats in their gig bags if the weather is going to be cold and/or windy. I PROMISE they will NOT be the only ones (the upperclassmen have figured this out already) and they will be glad they have them!
- There IS a Marching Band Concert after the season. It's a great time to hear them one last time before they go into Concert Band and Wind Ensemble.

Band Parties:

- After each football game, traditionally, a group of parents organize a PARENT-CHAPERONED party for the kids with food, etc.
 1. Encourage your child to go to these! Many seniors/juniors will offer to take the freshman to the parties after the games straight from RRHS (especially the first one). They take them under their wing (see above) and really want to get them acclimated.
 2. Your student may ask to stay out longer than normal for these parent-chaperoned after-game parties. Consider allowing it as it is a good time for bonding and making new friends.

Rest of the Year:

- There are 2 jazz bands at RRHS - Jazz Ensemble and Friday Jazz.
 1. Music for auditions/tryouts is usually available sometime in early September and tryouts are around that same time.
 2. Information & sign-ups will be posted on the walls in the Music Wing and Mr. Taylor will tell the kids, but it will be up to them to follow through.
- There are currently 2 bands at RRHS (Concert Band and Wind Ensemble).
 1. Auditions for both bands will be in early-November immediately after Marching Band season.
 2. All students go through the audition process; however they are not required to audition for Wind Ensemble.
 1. Concert Band auditions are for seating only; there is no audition for membership.
 2. Wind Ensemble membership is by audition only.
 3. Both bands continue to meet first period for the remainder of the year.
 4. For EITHER group, encourage your child to get their music early and to practice prior - the music in both groups is definitely a step up from MS music.
- There are SO MANY musical opportunities available to your children at RRHS (pep band throughout the year, pit orchestra for the musical, etc).
 1. Again, as with Jazz Band, Mr. Taylor will tell the kids and sign-ups will be in the Music Wing, but it will be up to the kids to follow through if they are interested.
 2. If music is their thing, encourage your child to listen for opportunities and to GET INVOLVED! They will not be sorry!
- GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED! There are so many fantastic and fun people - YOU will not be sorry, either!

Glossary of Band Terms

Band Camp

Lasts for two weeks in August. These are the rehearsals that determine the success of the group in the upcoming year. Fundamentals are learned (or reviewed), squad leaders are chosen, music is introduced, rehearsed & memorized, drill is taught and re-taught, many friends and memories are made. "Miss a day, miss a lot."

Band Festival

A non-competitive event in which several (usually 5-10) marching bands perform their "festival show." We usually attend 2 of these per year on Saturday evenings. These are a fun way for us to perform at a high level and experience the different styles, techniques, and music of a variety of bands.

The "Band Letter"

This document will be mailed home to all incoming RRHS Band members in late-July and contains every piece of logistical information you could need for the upcoming school year including a detailed calendar of events. Read it well... there will be a test...

Band Party

A fun, SUPERVISED, gathering of marching band students after a football game. Each band party is hosted by one or several families as an opportunity for the hard-working band students to unwind and socialize. ALL RRHS Band students are invited.

Band Officers

Student leaders elected by the band members and directors who are responsible for working with the directors to carry out a variety of tasks from helping sort music to running the Band Student Picnic.

Concert Band

The general term for a musical ensemble made up of wind and percussion instruments. Concert band is what meets 1st period from November-May, and represents the "core" of the instrumental music curriculum. RRHS has two concert bands call the "Concert Band" and the "Wind Ensemble."

"Contest"

The shorthand term for OMEA District or State Contest which is an adjudicated festival in which both the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble participate. Scheduled sometime in March, the bands will travel on a Friday evening or Saturday morning to perform and earn ratings (scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest, or "Superior") from 4 judges. Bands that earn a "Superior" rating overall at District Contest will qualify to perform at State Contest at the end of April or early May. Please note that while the weekends are noted on the calendar, we will not know exact times and days until a couple weeks prior, so please try to keep these evenings free. This is our "playoffs" or "state testing" and in many ways is the most "serious" performance of the year- we need everyone there!

Drill

The name given to the various formations the band makes on the field, and how they get from one to the next. Drill is mapped out on “charts.”

8-to-5

The size of the basic step used in marching. Each step is 22.5” long meaning that one would take 8 steps in 5 yards (i.e. from one yardline to the next)

Friday Jazz

For students preparing to be in Jazz Ensemble in a future year, or who are looking for a more “casual” jazz experience. Rehearses Friday mornings before school.

Fundamentals

The basics of our marching technique.

Hospitality

We provide a snack (not dinner) for both our own and the visiting band during the 3rd quarter. This kindness is usually reciprocated by the home bands when we travel to away games. Snacks are made possible by small donations from band parents for each home game (more info in Band Letter)

Jazz Ensemble

The most advanced jazz group at RRHS, meets Tuesday & Thursday before school.

Music Checks

In order to ensure that each student is doing their part, section/squad leaders will perform a music check during the week before the first time a show is performed. While students need not worry about “perfection,” they must demonstrate that they can perform the music MEMORIZED at an acceptable performance level. They do count towards quarter grades and students may make up checks or appeal a score to Mr. Taylor or Mr. Komperda.

OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association)

The professional organization of music teachers in Ohio that organizes and supports many events and music education in general.

“P’s & F’s”

The Pom Squad and Flag Line that perform as part of the marching band.

Pep Band

A “mini” marching band that plays for various RRHS athletic events and activities. Participation is optional, but performance in at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the events earns a student a “Pep Band” pin.

Pit Orchestra/Pit Band

The ensemble that provides the instrumental accompaniment for the spring musical at RRHS. This music is very advanced, professional level music, and the ensemble is formed by invitation. It meets during the second half of the year after school and some evenings.

Section

All of the students who play the same instrument.

Section Leaders

One student in each section who is responsible mostly for the musical performance of that section.

Squad

Groups of 5 students, usually of the same instrument, who move together on the field. This is a student's "immediate family" in marching band. Squads are labeled by letter and students are numbered 1-5 in their squads.

Squad Leaders

One student in each group of 5 (the "1" of the squad) who is responsible for their "squadlings" marching, playing, and general well-being in marching band.

TNP (Tuesday Night Practice)

The RRHS Marching Band rehearses every Tuesday night during the marching season from 6:30-8:45 (...yes, these are required...)

Uniforms

Our marching band uniforms are provided by and are property of the school district. Each student will be fitted during Band Camp, and will wear the uniform for each marching band performance throughout the year. Students must purchase gloves, shoes and suspenders through the school and provide their own black crew length socks. More info on ordering these items will be made available during Band Camp.

RRHS Marching Band Performance Schedule (as of 5/18/17)

Aug. 25 - FAIRVIEW (All games are on Friday unless otherwise noted)

Sept. 1 - BUCKEYE

Sept. 8 - COLLINWOOD

Sept. 9 - Solon Band Festival

Sept. 15 - @ Holy Name

Sept. 22 - @ Ashtabula Lakeside

Sept. 23 - Parma Band Festival

Sept. 29 - @ Bay

Oct. 6 - VALLEY FORGE - Homecoming

*Oct. 12 - @ Normandy (THURSDAY night)

Oct. 20 - PARMA SENIOR

Oct. 27 - ELYRIA CATHOLIC - Senior Night

Nov. 1 - Marching Band Concert (7pm @RRHS Stadium)

*Nov. 4 - Possible Playoff Game (SATURDAY)