

*Rocky River  
Middle School Bands*

*HANDBOOK  
2017-2018*

**Director: Mr. Michael Komperda  
Band Tutor: Mrs. Bettyjeane Quimby**



## ***Rocky River Middle School Music Department***

1631 Lakeview Ave., Rocky River, OH 44116

Phone: (440) 356-6870

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8/14/2017

Dear RRMS Band Parents,

Welcome to another exciting year in the music department at Rocky River Middle School. This year Mrs. Bettyjeane Quimby and I will be teaming up for a great year of learning and music making. I am very excited to continue to be a part of this program, which has a rich heritage of talented musicians and fine ensembles. For those of you who do not yet know me, I was born and raised in the Cleveland area, graduating from Bay High School, before I earned my Music Education degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. I am beginning my 9<sup>th</sup> year teaching, having spent six as the middle school and high school band director in Vermilion before joining the staff here in Rocky River.

My goals as a teacher are threefold: to teach the students the skills necessary to succeed on their instrument of choice; to create a musical environment in which the students explore new ideas, feelings and artistic experiences; and to help the students become lifelong learners, improving the quality of their life so they can make the world around them a better place. No matter what the setting may be (classroom, concert stage, or parade route), every situation is first and foremost an educational experience. I would ask each of you to help your student musician learn from every experience they have, and support them in their efforts.

As many of you know, learning a musical instrument is very difficult, and takes quite a bit of practice in order to become proficient. I know musicians who have played for 50 years and still practice on a daily basis! Even though it may not always be the most pleasant experience (especially at first), ask your young musician to play for you every once in a while, and encourage them to keep with it. I will give them as many tools as I can possibly think of to help them enjoy music and improve as instrumentalists, so if you ever have concerns (or delights) about your son/daughter's playing, please let me know so we can address them.

Along with this letter you will find several pieces of information, which you should read carefully with your student musician. Then, please fill out the last page of the handbook and return it to me by **Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Komperda  
Director of Bands, Rocky River Middle School  
[Komperda.michael@rrcs.org](mailto:Komperda.michael@rrcs.org)

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## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Grading:**

- 30%- Positive, Prepared Participation- this includes: having all materials, staying on task, demonstrating leadership, preparing music for rehearsal (i.e. practicing); students will be notified when they lose a day's points.
- 20%- Daily playing quizzes; these will be short exercises announced at the end of the previous week. At the beginning of each class period, about 4 students will be chosen at random to perform the quiz for either Mr. K or Mrs. Q. Students may be chosen more than once in a quarter (average of the two grades), and every student will play at some point each quarter. Students who have not been chosen by the last week will play a quiz on the last day of the quarter. Quizzes may be made up by appointment within one week of taking the quiz.
- 30%- Concert Attendance- see attached Attendance Policy; in the event that there is not a performance in a quarter, this percentage will roll into the Participation category.
- 10%- **one** of the following assignments:
  - 1 concert review (forms available in band room)
  - Solo or ensemble approved by Mr. Komperda or Mrs. Quimby
  - Equivalent project of student's choice (must be approved by Mr. Komperda)
    - Possibilities could be, but are not limited to: participation in a non-school music ensemble, mini-research paper
- 10%- Class assignments (permission slip turn-in, short written assignments, supply checks)

### **Materials:**

#### *School (REQUIRED)-*

- Instrument in good, working condition (valves oiled, corks greased, etc. BEFORE you sit down to play); case must have luggage-style name tag on it
- 1" 3-Ring Binder with 5 dividers & blank, lined paper; NO plastic sheet protectors
- Music
  - *Standard of Excellence* (red or blue depending on grade)
  - *Scale and Rhythm Chunks* (available at Rettig Music & Educator's)
  - Sheet music as assigned
- Pencil(s) with eraser
- Accessories as necessary- cork grease, valve oil, cleaning equipment (soft cloth, swab, cleaning rod- depending on instrument), etc.
- PERCUSSION- sticks/mallets in good condition (see website under Instrument Resources)
- REEDS- *multiple* good reeds, reed holder \*\*\***Please note that as of the August, 2015 reeds are no longer available for purchase through the school district. Reeds may be purchased through any music store, and both Rettig Music and Educator's Music deliver to the school every week.**

*Home (SUGGESTED)-* a quiet place/time to practice, music stand (may be purchased from any music store), tuner/metronome (ask Mr. K), good music for listening

### **Instrument Lockers:**

Instrument storage lockers and combination locks will be provided (A \$7.00 fine will be charged if a combination lock is lost). Combination locks must NEVER be left unlocked (during class or otherwise) to avoid potential theft. If locks are found to be unlocked at any time, points will be deducted from your daily participation grade and detentions will be assigned if the situation persists.

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## **Classroom Procedures:**

- **Be on time.** This means that you are in your seat with all of your materials, ready to play 6 minutes after the bell rings to dismiss you from your last class.
- **Be prepared.** Students should come in to each class ready to perform, that is, play their very best every day. This is more than just showing up with instrument in hand. It will require work outside of class- preparing music, exercises in a book, completing assigned written work, or being ready for a playing test. If we have been working on something in class, please master it at home. This way nobody (including teachers) will be bored by endless repetition! Preparation also includes entering the room ready to act like a musician, helping others in the section, and doing more than just playing the notes on the page.
- **Play only in the Band Room.** Avoid playing in the instrument locker room. If you must warm-up before class starts you may, however, make sure that your playing is preparing you for class, not simply making noises. When Mr. K or Mrs. Quimby steps on the podium, you should immediately stop what you are doing and listen for instructions.
- **Be quiet when the teacher is working.** There will be times that I have to work briefly with one section. During these times, please silently go over something in your own music, or quietly ask/answer a question to your neighbor.
- **NO GUM!** This requires no further comment.
- **Make good use of our time.** Incredible musical moments can happen out of the blue. Every minute you spend out a class is time that you could be missing something special. Raise your hand to ask for permission, then put a check by your name on the roster at the front of the class.
- **Ask questions.** If you are ever confused or frustrated, please see Mrs. Quimby or me and talk to us about it. We can help, and are almost always available after school to do so.
- **Be responsible.** If you are distracting yourself or others, you should expect consequences
- **Be respectful.** If you respect yourself, your teachers, your classmates, and your materials, we will have a great year. Every single person is equally valuable to the ensemble as a whole.

## **Concert Attire (ALL bands):**

**Girls:** Dress, blouse style top with skirt or dress pants  
(No jeans, tennis shoes, or hats) Any colors are fine

**Boys:** Dress shirt, dress pants, dress shoes, dark socks, and long tie  
(No denim, tennis shoes, or hats. Sweaters and/or sport coats are optional) Any colors are fine

Please take note of concert attire now to prevent problems once concert time comes. The unique aspect of being part of a band is being able to be part of something bigger than yourself – group mentality will help build success, and it is important that all members of the group are dressed appropriately.

I am well aware of unique circumstances (financial hardship, etc.) that prevent students from having necessary attire. If this situation applies to you, simply talk to me in private and make me aware of the situation. Attire will be provided with no questions asked.

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## **Rocky River Middle School and High School Music Department Performance Attendance Policy**

The commitment that a Rocky River student musician makes to a performing group is important; each student is an integral part of the group and shares in the efforts, progress and achievement of the ensemble.

In Rocky River, we desire to continue our proud tradition of performing accomplishments in music education with the active and committed involvement of all musicians. A student's participation in our music performances is essential, and we make every effort to provide students with a schedule of all outside-of-the-school-day performances at the beginning of the school year.

We recognize, however, that, on a rare occasion, an absence from a performance may occur.

This music department policy for performance attendance clarifies opportunities and consequences when a student misses a performance. It has been designed to apply to both band and choir, as well as to span grades 6-12, in order to facilitate a student's familiarity with, and remembrance of, the policy.

### **Quarter Grades in 6-12 Band and Choir Classes**

A student's quarter grade in band and choir classes consists of the following components:

- 50% class participation (daily participation, embouchure, posture, carriage, etc.)
- 20% written and performance assessments (octet checks, music play-offs, concert critiques, etc.)
- 30% performance participation:
  - Note: All performances within a given quarter receive one grade, regardless of the number of performances. An absence at one of the quarter's performances will subject that quarter's final performance participation grade to one of the five (5) levels below.

### **Absence Levels**

#### **Level 1: Student permitted to complete an alternative assessment\* for up to 100% credit of performance participation.**

- Illness with documentation (doctor's note or an excused absence from school required)
- Family emergency, including but not limited to: death in the family, hospitalization, situation beyond the control of the parent and student.
  - Examples of non-emergencies: concert tickets, major or minor league sporting tickets.
- 30 calendar days notice of major life events (e.g., weddings, college graduations, military ceremonies)
- Extreme unusual circumstances will be determined at the discretion of the director.

#### **Level 2: Student permitted to complete an alternative assessment\* for up to 85% credit of performance participation.**

- All absences that do not qualify under Level 1 turned into the director at the beginning of the school year (Band by Monday 8/15/16, Choir by Friday 9/2/16) with signed syllabus using the director-provided form (e.g., family vacation, non-RRHS activities, concert tickets, major or minor league sporting tickets)

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**Level 3: Student permitted to complete an alternative assessment\* for up to 75% credit of performance participation.**

- 30 calendar days notice of absence not described in Level 1 (e.g., family vacation, non-RRHS activities that arise after start of the school year, concert tickets, major or minor league sporting tickets).

**Level 4: Student permitted to complete an alternative assessment\* for up to 65% credit of performance participation.**

- 14 calendar days notice of absence not described in Level 1 (e.g., family vacation, non-RRHS activities that arise after start of the school year, concert tickets, major or minor league sporting tickets).
- Illness without documentation (e.g., teacher notified by parent call/email only and no doctor's note provided).

**Level 5: Absence is unexcused. Alternative assessment is not an option. No credit awarded for performance participation.**

- Less than 14 calendar days notice given.
- Excuse provided by student without parent involvement (e.g., email from student, verbal notification from student, etc.).

## **\*Alternative Assessment**

Whenever alternative assessment credit is available, the alternative assessment is due by the performance date, or within the school-allotted number of makeup days following an absence due to illness.

## **Athletic/Activity Conflict Hierarchy**

Students are encouraged to participate in multiple activities of interest to them. At times, however, these activities' schedules may conflict. At Rocky River, we have the following hierarchy in place for all students participating in athletics and activities:

1. Any OHSAA tournament game/OMEA performance takes precedence over a "regular" season game or concert. For example: OMEA State Contest is takes precedence over the Avon Relays, and basketball playoff game takes precedence over the holiday choir concert.
2. A performance or a game takes precedence over a rehearsal or practice.
3. A performance, game, rehearsal or practice takes precedence over a team dinner or similar social activity.
4. If a conflict arises between a regular season game and a school-sponsored concert, the student will be permitted to choose between the two events without penalty.

## **Rocky River City Schools Music Department**

Mr. Kirk Taylor, department chair

Mrs. Mary Fancher

Mr. Michael Komperda

Mrs. Karen Mahoney

Ms. Allison Paetz

Mrs. Bettyjeane Quimby

Ms. Sharon Risko

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## **The answers to many of your questions...**

### **Instrument Responsibility/Care:**

Instruments are expensive, as many of you already know. They are also quite delicate. It is imperative that instruments are kept in good, working condition, otherwise students have to create bad habits in order to make sounds on their instrument of choice. Students should complete a few tasks regularly and thus, bear the greatest part of the responsibility of keeping their instruments working.

**Flute-** use cleaning rod and handkerchief to swab out moisture when done playing; periodically check to make sure screws and springs are in place (please ask Mr. K/Mrs. Q for assistance)

**Clarinet & Saxophone-** swab out body of instrument (barrel to bell) and wipe off mouthpiece when done playing; place reeds carefully in reed holder; “rotate” reeds; apply cork grease when joints feel too tight; periodically check to make sure no screws are sticking out (ask teacher for assistance); using a soft toothbrush (not the one you use to brush *your* teeth) and toothpaste, brush out mouthpiece every once in a while

**Trumpet-** apply valve oil 2-3 times per week (if it is dripping off valves, you’ve used too much!); check tuning slides and apply slide grease when necessary (as little as possible); brush out mouthpiece with mouthpiece brush and water (on a weekly basis); if you really want to clean your valves, use nothing more abrasive than a cotton swab

**Trombone-** apply slide cream about once a week (remember to wipe off slide before applying new cream); spray slide with *water only* every time you take it out of your case; check tuning slide and apply slide grease (not cream) if necessary (you can borrow some from a trumpet player or Mr. K); brush out mouthpiece with mouthpiece brush and water (on a weekly basis)

**Percussion-** keep sticks/mallets in a safe place (i.e. stick bag or instrument case); follow proper steps for packing and unpacking instruments (how to rest them on the floor/set them on the stands) as prescribed by Mr. K

Instruments are not like other household tools- they DO NOT RESPOND WELL TO SOAP AND WATER!

Woodwind instruments should never, ever be near water (i.e. sink, bathtub, pool, out in the rain). Brass instruments are more resilient to water- they can withstand room temperature water, but both soap and hot water will take the finish right off of the instrument. Likewise, spraying instruments with any kind of household cleaner (i.e. Lysol) may kill germs, but these products do not mix well with students putting them in their mouths and inhaling. All instruments should be kept away from extreme temperatures (i.e. not left in the car on hot or cold days) and should not be stored in rooms with really low humidity (i.e. basements/attic). A good general rule of thumb is: don’t do anything to your instrument that you wouldn’t do to yourself. When in doubt, please contact Mr. K or Mrs. Q with questions about instrument care.

### **Music Responsibility:**

Music is really expensive, and some of the music in the library is old and cannot be replaced. Students are expected to take care of their music as well as their books and materials for other classes. All music (not including their book), warm-ups and other handouts should be kept in their band binder, and each student is expected to keep all music in good condition.

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### **Instrument Cleaning Day (aka “Care and Feeding of Your Instrument”)**

On December 12-13<sup>th</sup> (18<sup>th</sup> for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade), the MS bands will be running our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Brass Bath/Instrument Cleaning day, where students will clean their instruments in class and I will review basic maintenance. This event has always been a success as students learn routine maintenance in a classroom atmosphere after the holiday concerts have been completed. Students will need to have the following equipment on that day:

<b>Trumpet/Baritone</b>	<b>Clarinet/Saxophone</b>
Bottle of Valve Oil Jar of Tuning Slide Grease *Mouthpiece Brush *Valve Casing Brush *Trumpet Snake *Cleaning Cloth	Cork Grease **Small, soft-bristled toothbrush (children’s) **10 soft pipe-cleaners or cotton swabs *Cleaning cloth
<b>Trombone</b>	<b>Flute</b>
Jar of Slide Cream Jar of Tuning Slide Grease Spray Bottle *Mouthpiece Brush *Trombone Snake *Cleaning Cloth	Cleaning rod Cleaning cloth (handkerchief/bandana) *Cleaning/polishing cloth **10 soft pipe-cleaners or cotton swabs

Items without asterisks should already be in the students’ possession; items with asterisks will be needed for the first time on cleaning day; items with 2 asterisks will be passed out to students on cleaning day. All of these items will be checked in class for a grade on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Music Store Visits to RRMS**

Representatives from Rettig Music and Educator’s Music visit RRMS every week to deliver instruments, pick up instruments for repair, take orders from students and deliver any items that students have ordered. This is an extremely convenient service that has been underused by students in previous years. Essentially, all you need to do is contact the music store by phone, order the desired item, pay over the phone and the item is delivered that week. You may also visit the RRMS “store” on the Rettig Music website ([rettigmusic.com](http://rettigmusic.com)). Band students are typically the busiest students because they participate in several extra-curricular activities, making it hard to make trips to the music store. Please take advantage of this weekly visit from the music stores to make things easier on you throughout the year. Contact information is listed below:

Rettig Music – Visits RRMS every Monday  
 26469 Center Ridge Road  
 Westlake, OH  
 440-808-0900; [www.rettigmusic.com](http://www.rettigmusic.com)

Educator’s Music – Visits RRMS as needed  
 13701 Detroit Ave  
 Lakewood, OH  
 216-226-6166; [www.educatorsmusic.com](http://www.educatorsmusic.com)



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## **Repertoire (Curriculum) Expectations:**

I hope to expose students to a wide variety of music with the hope that some of it will inspire them to pursue that music on their own. I assume that all of the students have begun to form their own musical taste, and I hope to help the students expand their idea of what is possible in music and what good music is. Picking your “favorite” music is a lot like picking your “favorite” flavor of ice cream. You may really love Rocky Road, but you like to eat strawberry, mint chocolate chip, and orange sherbet too. There’s no such thing as liking *too many* flavors of ice cream, and there’s no such thing as liking *too much* music. That being said, I don’t expect that every student will love every piece that we play in band. I will promise you that every piece I put in front of the students and every piece that we listen to in class will be what I consider to be quality repertoire. This music will definitely stretch the students’ technical and musical abilities, but it may also challenge their tastes. All I ask is that parents and students give all of the music a chance before deciding whether or not you think it’s “good.”

## **Solo and Ensemble**

This is an annual event that takes place among schools in the Greater Cleveland area and is open to all band members who demonstrate aptitude on their instrument. Solo & Ensemble provides students with the experience of working up a piece of music alone or in a small group in order to enhance musical skills. 50 RRMS band members participated in Solo & Ensemble last year and it was a major success. In December or January, information will be posted to the website about how to choose music, when to rehearse with me, and other important details that will assist in preparation. For planning purposes, please know that there is a \$9 fee per soloist, \$5 fee for each ensemble member (per event), and \$30 fee if a student is in need of an accompanist. These details barely scratch the surface of this event, but it is important to be aware of the event as well as the financial responsibility that goes with it.

## **“Homework”**

Just like math, science, or social studies, learning music requires a little bit of individual time every day in order to build the physical and intellectual muscles required to play a musical instrument. Occasionally, the students will be given a small written or listening assignment based on something we have done in class, and we do expect students to complete those assignments. So, when you ask about their school day don’t forget to ask about their band homework! In addition to these occasional assignments, the students have one, ongoing task: practicing. In order to really make the band excellent, each person needs to put in at least 20 minutes of individual practice at least 5 days per week. Not only will each student improve, but the ensemble will sound better by leaps and bounds. Hopefully, the students are inspired enough to sit down and do this by themselves every day, but every once in a while a little nudge from a parent can help them stay on track.

*Please look over the attached sheet for some helpful tips on practicing.*

## **Private Lessons:**

Of course this is not required, but if the student really just can’t get enough music or would like some more individual work, private lessons are a great way to improve under the guidance of a professional musician. If we encourage a student to take private lessons, it is not an indication that the student is not working hard enough or lacks talent, it is an attempt to help the students have a full, joyful musical experience in any way they can. Lessons can be a bit of a financial burden (often costing between \$15-25 for a 30-minute lesson), and we understand that an extra \$80 per month may not fit into the family budget. If you have any questions or concerns about the cost of lessons (or instruments, supplies, etc.), please contact Mr. Komperda. We want all of our students to have a positive musical experience, and do not want finances to prevent any student from participating as fully as he/she is able.

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## **Fundraising**

Fundraising is necessary for the success of the RRMS band program. Funds raised from the many events held throughout the year support our students through the purchase of new music, repair of classroom equipment, and enrichment opportunities. Please check the "Fundraising" tab of the website regularly for more details. Below is a selection of the main fundraisers you can expect during the 2016-17 school year.

- **Band Backers:** The Rocky River Band Backers are a 501(c)3 organization that supports the curricular and extracurricular instrumental music programs in Rocky River. They do a variety of fundraising, publicity, and volunteer coordination throughout the year and we are SO thankful that they have stepped up to help us grow. More information can be found at [www.rrbandbackers.org](http://www.rrbandbackers.org)
- **Rocky River Band Day:** On November 28, 2017, the RRMS bands will hold a fundraiser at Rettig Music where students can purchase discounted solo and ensemble music, tuners, reeds, and other maintenance supplies. This evening also allows all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to then purchase their Standard of Excellence Book #2 (the blue book) and for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to purchase their SOE Book #3 (the green book). This evening directly benefits Rocky River band members as we earn a portion of the profits throughout the evening. Students are also given exclusive access to discounted equipment. If students are ready for a step-up instrument, this would also be a great time to explore those options.
- **Mattress Fundraiser:** On May 12, 2018, the RRCS bands will hold our annual mattress sale in the Wagar Gym of RRHS. Unlike last year, this is NOT the same day as the All Schools Band Concert, but mattresses are still discounted at 40-60% at this sale and the proceeds directly benefit the band program. Details will be shared as they become available.

## **RRMS PTA and RREF**

The RRMS PTA and the Rocky River Education Foundation have continually showed their support of the RRMS bands through annual grants. Funds received through these grants have been used to purchase new music, tuners, method books and other necessary equipment. Please consider joining the RRMS PTA and supporting the RREF in any way possible as the money comes right back to our students.

## **Financial Concerns:**

Unfortunately, learning a musical instrument does require a financial commitment. We try to provide as many materials as we can, or at least make materials more affordable/easier to procure. Your child's musical education is priceless, and money should not prevent any student from receiving this education. If at any time, you feel that your student's participation is putting an unbearable strain on your family, *please* let me know so we can try to work out a solution.

## **Website**

Please bookmark the RRMS Band website and check it regularly. Concert reminders, fundraising announcements, and student assignments will be posted frequently. Also, on each grade level tab of the website is a link to a parent email form. Please fill this form out with at least one parent email address, as I will get all contact information from here.

## **Contact Information:**

Mr. Komperda- [komperda.michael@rrcs.org](mailto:komperda.michael@rrcs.org), 440-356-6870

Mrs. Quimby- [quimby.bettyjeane@rrcs.org](mailto:quimby.bettyjeane@rrcs.org)

# Rocky River Middle School Bands

## PRACTICE GUIDE

You've heard people say "Practice makes perfect," but in order to be successful we should say "Practicing **perfectly** makes perfect." In other words, your diligence when you practice is what determines how quickly you improve. Practicing can be dull, tedious, and frustrating, *but it shouldn't be!* If you set yourself up for success, it will be rewarding, worthwhile, and hopefully enjoyable. Valuable practice time looks and sounds different for everybody, but the following tips are good starting points for anyone learning how to practice.

### **When to practice:**

- *Practice as frequently as possible-* a half-hour every day is better than an hour every two days, which is better than two hours every once in a while. Developing muscles and skills for music is no different from developing athletic skills- running a couple miles every day will build endurance better than trying to go out once a month to run a marathon!
- *Practice in frequent, short sessions-* set small goals for each practice session, and take short breaks once they are achieved. Don't sit down and try to practice for two hours in a row- try to play in 15-20 minute chunks.
- *Make a practice schedule for yourself-* if you set aside time each day to practice, you'll be more likely to actually do it, instead of just randomly trying to find time to practice.

### **Where to practice:**

- *Find a place that is distraction-free-* sitting down in the living room, with your computer, TV, and iPod on is not likely to yield much success. Give yourself the opportunity to spend some time focused on yourself, your instrument, and the music so that you can achieve something every time you sit down to play. Also, let your parents and siblings know (politely!) that you're going to practice and you would appreciate some time without any interruptions.
- *Be consistent-* if you designate a particular place where you practice well, try to practice there all the time. Re-creating positive conditions will lead to more consistent, successful practicing.

### **What to practice:**

- *Focus on the basics-* spend the majority of your practice time on fundamentals including long-tones, scales/technique, articulation exercises, rudiments, and breathing. Practicing is all about building your musical vocabulary- practicing skills in isolation will help you recognize and achieve them in "real music." Spend about 1/3 of your practice time on long-tones and tone-building exercises; spend another 1/3 of your practicing on building technique; and the remaining time on repertoire (band/orchestra music, solos).

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### **How to practice:**

- *Start successfully-* start each practice session with something simple that you can play well, with good fundamentals. This will put you in a positive frame of mind, and lead to a more enjoyable practice session.
- *Work slowly-* take time to process your playing- realize there are very few skills that will come to you immediately, but with consistent practicing you will develop them! Never push your way through problems, just relax and enjoy the process of making music.
- *Use a metronome and a tuner-* practicing is about getting to know yourself as a musician, and these tools are impartial judges that will make you aware of your pitch and rhythmic tendencies and smooth out any issues.
- *Extend as you go-* do not begin your practicing with material that is either loud and fast or really soft and slow. Start in the middle, and as you work, gradually expand out to the limits of your pitch and dynamic ranges.
- *It's all about how you make the sound-* for winds: think air support and embouchure; for percussion: think relaxed hands/arms and good grips.
- *Spend time listening-* there are thousands of recordings of great musicians and listening to them will build your "musical vocabulary," and develop your ear for good tone. More importantly, listening to music will hopefully inspire you, and it should be a fun experience.
- *Be musical-* whatever you may be practicing; work on expressing through the music.

We hope that these tips set you on the right track to successful practicing, which will open up the incredible possibilities of music even more to each of you. If you have any questions or want some suggestions of materials for practice or listening, please ask us. Practice daily, practice intelligently, and practice musically!

~~Mr. Komperda & Mrs. Quimby

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## RRMS Band Schedule 2017-2018

Date	Event	Group	Time
<b>September</b>			
9/7- Thursday	RRMS Jazz Ensemble Auditions	6/7/8	3:30-6
9/8- Friday	RRMS Jazz Ensemble Auditions	6/7/8	3:30-6
9/20- Wednesday	First RRMS Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal	Jazz	7-8:30pm
<b>October</b>			
10/3- Tuesday	Tuesday Night Practice with RRHS Band	8th	6:30-8:45
10/6- Friday	Band 8 Performance @ Homecoming Game	8th	5:45 Report 6:20 Parade
<b>Nov./Dec.</b>			
TBA	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual RR Band Day @Rettig Music 26469 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake	All	3:30-7:00pm
<b>December</b>			
12/5- Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> /Jazz Holiday Concert (Gym)	7/8/Jazz	7:00pm
12/12-13 (& 18- 6 <sup>th</sup> )	Instrument Cleaning Days (bring materials)	7/8/(6)	During Day
12/14- Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Holiday Concert (RRHS Aud.)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7:00pm
12/18- Monday	Jazz Band Performs during RRMS Lunch	Jazz	During Day
<b>February</b>			
February TBA	OMEA District Honors Band Rehearsal (RRMS Band Room)	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade TBA	6:00-9:00pm
2/21- Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert (Gym)	7 <sup>th</sup> & Jazz	7:00pm
2/22- Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert (Gym)	8 <sup>th</sup> & Jazz	7:00pm
2/24- Saturday	Greater Cleveland Solo & Ensemble Contest (Mayer Middle School- Fairview)	Students TBA	All Day
<b>March</b>			
3/9 & 11	RRMS Musical (selected Pit Orchestra students)	TBA	7:00pm
3/10- Saturday	District Honors Band Concert (Brecksville-Broadview Hts. High School)	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade TBA	All Day, Concert @3pm
3/26-Monday	RRMS Jazz Festival (Commons)	Jazz	7:00pm
<b>May</b>			
5/3- Thursday	67 <sup>th</sup> Annual All Schools Band Concert (RRHS) 7 <sup>th</sup> : Report @5:30pm, Perform @6:00pm 6 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> : Report @ 7:30pm, Perform @7:45pm	All	6:00pm & 7:45pm
5/19- Saturday	RRMS Jazz & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band to Cedar Point	8 <sup>th</sup> & Jazz	All Day
5/21- Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band & Jazz Performance at KIS	6 <sup>th</sup> & Jazz	10:00am
6/11-14	RRHS Marching Percussion Camp (RRHS Band Room) *Percussion Only RRHS Marching Sousaphone Camp (RRHS Choir Room) *Tubas Only	8 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-4:30pm  1:00-2:15pm

\*\*\*RRMS Jazz Rehearsals will take place every Wednesday starting 9/20. Sectionals will start at 6:30pm, then the full group rehearsals will run from 7-8:30pm.

\*\*\*All times/dates may be subject to change, but notice will be given *at least* a month prior to scheduled event.

# *Rocky River Middle School Band Handbook*

## Daily/Weekly Band Schedule

**Monday:** Monday (B) or Monday (C) – Alternating\*

**Tuesday:** All Woodwinds\*\*

**Wednesday:** All Brass/Percussion\*\*\*

**Thursday:** Full Band

**Friday:** Full Choir

\*See schedule below for which Mondays are band/choir days

\*\*On Tuesday, brass and percussionists who are in choir go to choir. Brass or percussionists not in choir will go to study hall.

\*\*\*On Wednesday, woodwind players who are in choir go to choir. Woodwind players who are not in choir will go to study hall.

### **Monday (B) and Monday (C) Schedule**

Please write all of these down in your Planbook so you know ahead of time which day is which. There is also schedule posted outside of my office. If you have questions – just ask!

#### **2017**

**August 28 – Monday (B)**

September 11 – Monday (C)

**September 18 – Monday (B)**

September 25 – Monday (C)

**October 2 – Monday (B)**

October 9 – Monday (C)

**October 16 – Monday (B)**

October 23 – Monday (C)

**October 30 – Monday (B)**

November 6 – Monday (C)

**November 13 – Monday (B)**

November 20 – Monday (C)

**November 27 – Monday (B)**

December 4 – Monday (C)

**December 11 – Monday (B)**

December 18 – Monday (C)

#### **2018**

**January 8 – Monday (B)**

January 22 – Monday (C)

**January 29 – Monday (B)**

February 5 – Monday (C)

**February 12 – Monday (B)**

February 26 – Monday (C)

**March 5 – Monday (B)**

March 12 – Monday (C)

**March 19 – Monday (B)**

March 26 – Monday (C)

**April 9 – Monday (B)**

April 16 – Monday (C)

**April 23 – Monday (B)**

April 30 – Monday (C)

**May 7 – Monday (B)**

May 14 – Monday (C)

**May 21 – Monday (B)**

June 4- Monday (C)

***Rocky River Middle School Band Handbook***

*In lieu of a signature, please complete the RRMS Band Parent Info Form on the RRMS Band Website ([www.rrcs.org/rrmsband.aspx](http://www.rrcs.org/rrmsband.aspx)) to acknowledge that you have read the RRMS Band Handbook. This should be completed by Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.*