

# RIVER BEND MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2023-2024

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**[RBM Music Website](#)**



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# COMMUNICATION

## **BAND WEBSITE**

The RBMS Band website is a great place to find general information regarding our program. The Band website is updated on a continual basis to reflect the most current information. Please visit our website [here](#) for more information and bookmark our page.

## **SCHOOLGY**

Schoology will house copies of all class resources as well as course information, assignments, and events. Parents can join the specific Schoology for each class to keep up to date on assignments and upcoming events.

## **PARENTVUE / STUDENTVUE**

ParentVUE / StudentVUE provides access to student schedules, assignments, grades, notes, 24/7.

## **INSTAGRAM**

Instagram will be used to celebrate achievements and showcase our Band students. Instagram is a wonderful social media site to engage our students, parents and community with our school Band. Follow **@BandatTheBend**.

## **EMAIL and PHONE**

E-mail will be the main channel for communication. Phone calls will be made if disciplinary action occurs, praise is warranted, and/or any request on the parent's behalf to speak via phone. Please call the main RBMS phone (571) 434-3220 to be directed to my voicemail.

Please feel free to contact me! The best way to reach me is by email.  
I will do my best to respond within 24 hours (**work weekdays**).



# ENSEMBLES

**Band 6** – Beginning Band: Band 6 is a curricular ensemble. Most of our meetings occur during the regular school day, and students receive a grade. Band 6 is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade River Bend Middle School students, regardless of prior experience in music.

**Band 7** – Intermediate Band: Band 7 is a curricular ensemble. Like beginning Band, most of our meetings occur during the regular school day, and students receive a grade. Band 7 students have a few additional after school rehearsals and performances. Band 7 is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have at least one year of band experience.

**Band 8** – Advanced Band: Band 8 is a curricular ensemble. Advanced Band students receive a grade and meet during the school day. There are several after school events for Advanced Band students, including field trips to assessment and King’s Dominion (please see the field trip section of the handbook for more information). The Advanced Band is open to River Bend Middle School students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who have at least 2 years of playing experience or students who pass an audition.

**Jazz Band** - Jazz Band is an extracurricular audition based ensemble. Jazz Band is open to all band students by audition only. Students must be enrolled in a Music class at RBMS to participate in Jazz Band. Jazz Band meets weekly before school. Students in Jazz Band are expected to uphold high performance standards by demonstrating superior rehearsal techniques and practicing their music outside of rehearsals. Jazz Band has several concerts and performances throughout the year.

**Chamber Ensemble** - Chamber Ensemble is an extracurricular ensemble. Chamber Ensemble is open to all band students. Students must be enrolled in a band class at RBMS to participate in Chamber Ensemble. The Chamber Ensemble meets weekly before school. Students in Chamber Ensemble are expected to uphold high performance standards by demonstrating superior rehearsal techniques and practicing their music outside of rehearsals. Jazz Band has several concerts and performances throughout the year.

## VBODA DISTRICT 16 OPPORTUNITIES

*(Virginia Music Educators Association > Virginia Band & Orchestra Association)*

**All-District Band:** All-District Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students by audition. Students must be in good standing in Band to audition. The audition consists of major scales, a prepared etude, and sight-reading. Auditions for All – District Band occur in January. All- District Band occurs in the Winter.

**All-District Jazz Band:** All-District Band is open to Jazz Band students by audition. Students must be in good standing in the Jazz Band to audition. The audition consists of scales, a prepared etude, and improv. Auditions for All – District Jazz Band occur in March. All- District Jazz Band occurs in April.

**Solo & Ensemble Festival:** Solo & Ensemble festival is open to 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students must be in good standing in music class to participate in the festival. For the festival, students prepare a solo or small ensemble piece and perform for judges.

## **Band Materials for 6th Grade**

All students will need: **Binder, Music Book for instrument (*provided by RBMS*), & Pencil.** Below are other accessories specific to instrument:

- ★ **Flute:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Cleaning rod, cleaning swab, finger rest
- ★ **Clarinet/Alto Sax:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, 2 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, mouthpiece pad, \*Thumb rest (\*for Clarinets only)
- ★ **Oboe/Bassoon:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, 2 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, reed case, soaking cup for reed
- ★ **Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Synthetic light valve oil, slide grease
- ★ **French Horn:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Rotor Oil, slide grease
- ★ **Trombone:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Slide grease, mini-spray bottle
- ★ **Percussion:** Alfred's Drum Method Book, A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion Book, Percussion bell kit/learning kit (includes practice pad, bell set, snare drum sticks, and mallets)

## **Band Materials for 7th Grade**

All students will need: **Binder, Music Book for instrument (*provided by RBMS*), Korg CA2 or TM60BK Tuner, & Pencil** Below are other accessories specific to instrument:

- ★ **Flute:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Cleaning rod, cleaning swab
- ★ **All Clarinets/All Saxes:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, 2 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, mouthpiece pad, \*Thumb rest (\*for Clarinets only)
- ★ **Oboe/Bassoon:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, 2 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, reed case, soaking cup for reed
- ★ **Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Synthetic light valve oil, slide grease
- ★ **French Horn:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Rotor Oil, slide grease
- ★ **Trombone:** Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician, Slide grease, mini-spray bottle
- ★ **Percussion:** Alfred's Drum Method Book, A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion Book, Percussion bell kit/learning kit (includes practice pad, bell set, snare drum sticks, and mallets)

## **Band Materials for 8th Grade**

All students will need: **Binder, "Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician" Book for instrument (*provided by RBMS*), Korg CA2 or TM60BK Tuner, & Pencil.** Below are other accessories specific to instrument:

- ★ **Flute:** Cleaning rod, cleaning swab
- ★ **All Clarinets/All Saxes:** 2 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, mouthpiece pad, \*Thumb rest (\*for Clarinets only)
- ★ **Oboe/Bassoon:** 2 reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease, reed case, soaking cup for reed
- ★ **Trumpet/Baritone/Tuba:** Synthetic light valve oil, slide grease
- ★ **French Horn:** Rotor Oil, slide grease
- ★ **Trombone:** Slide grease, mini-spray bottle
- ★ **Percussion:** Percussion bell kit/learning kit (includes practice pad, bell set, snare drum sticks, and mallets)

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION ON RENTING INSTRUMENTS**

- ★ All rented instruments will come with: instrument, protective case, mouthpiece for all brass, mouthpiece, ligature, and mouthpiece cover for all clarinets and saxophones, neck strap for saxophones, and seat strap for bassoons.
- ★ **Tubas, Baritones, and Bassoons will rent from River Bend! Too expensive in stores. Be on the lookout for school rental information soon.**
- ★ School rentals are available! We reserve these instruments for student families with financial hardship first. If you would like to be put on a waiting list to rent from River Bend after we take care of all our financial needs students, please let us know now. **Information on how to rent from River Bend will be available soon!**
- ★ **Another great accessory for your student is a music stand!** This is helpful in making sure the student is practicing with proper posture for air support and a good sound. Amazon is a great place to look for one.
- ★ **Renting vs. Buying:** I suggest renting for the first year. If you prefer buying an instrument, **please contact us or your local music store for the best brands.** There are many “cheap” instruments on Amazon, Costco, Walmart, and other online sources that are not worth your money. They will play but are poorly made and use cheap materials that will fall apart after a few months of playing. And if you want to get it repaired? Most repair technicians won’t touch them. These instruments will **not** allow your student to progress successfully as they get more advanced. You can buy some **great used instruments on ebay**, just please consult with us first! Any instrument you rent from a music store will be acceptable!
- ★ **INSTRUMENT BRANDS TO STAY AWAY FROM:**
  - **Flutes:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Lazzaro, Jean Paul
  - **Oboes:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Yinfente, Amoon, Selmer
  - **Bassoons:**
  - **Clarinets:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Lazzaro, Etude, Kaizer
  - **Saxophones:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Eastar, Antigua, Nuvo
  - **Trumpets:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Taylor, Harrelson, Lätzsch
  - **French Horns:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Antigua
  - **Trombones:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Bundy
  - **Baritones/Tubas:** Glory, Mendini/Cecilio, Etude, Antigua
  - **Anything from Amazon, Costco, Walmart, etc...**

# REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE

## **Band 6**

- ☐ River Bend Music T-Shirt (provided)
- ☐ Plain **Black** pants and/or Black long skirt
- ☐ Plain **Black** Shoes & Socks

## **Band 7**

- ☐ River Bend Music T-Shirt (from Band 6)
- ☐ Plain **Black** pants and/or Black long skirt
- ☐ Plain **Black** Shoes & Socks

## **Band 8**

- ☐ Plain **Black** Dress Shirt
- ☐ Plain **Black** Dress Pants and/or Long Skirt
- ☐ Plain **Black** Long Dress
- ☐ Plain **Black** Socks and Shoes
- ☐ No sandals, colored sneakers, flip-flops, white socks, any other color than black.



# CONCERT & REHEARSAL POLICY

**Band is a performance-based course.** Therefore, students are **REQUIRED** to attend all rehearsals and performances listed on the Calendar of Events. Students will receive a grade based upon attendance at these events. It is expected students stay for the entirety of the concert to receive full credit.

All absences require e-mail communication between the parent and director. Verbal and written excuses from the student are not acceptable. When requesting an excused absence, the director must be notified at least a month in advance.

**Excused Absences** from rehearsals and/or performances are accepted for the following reasons:

- ☐ Medical Emergency
- ☐ Death in the Family
- ☐ Religious Holidays
- ☐ One time family event such as a wedding (must be approved, in advanced, by the director)

**Unexcused Absences** are from rehearsals and/or performances (examples):

- ☐ Failure to previously arrange an absence with parent/teacher notification
- ☐ Failure to resolve a non-curricular activity that meets outside of the school day (e.g. club and travel sports teams)
- ☐ Failure to arrange transportation
- ☐ Vacations (not discussed at the beginning of the year)
- ☐ No Show

## **MAKE-UP POLICY FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FOR REHEARSAL(S) & PERFORMANCE(S)**

In the event a student should have an unexcused absence for a performance and/or rehearsal, the student will be required to do the following by the concert date, or they will receive a 0:

- Submit a video recording performing all concert music independently in concert uniform.
- Students will be graded on their performance based on the [VBODA Concert Performance Assessment Rubric](#).
- The highest possible grade for the missed concert and/or rehearsal will be 80% (B-) of the total points allotted.

## **CHAIR SEATING**

Students will be arranged in various ways for class / concerts and will be at the discretion of the Band Director. Any student not in the required concert attire will be seated in the back of their section along with points being deducted from their final grade.

# GRADING

| Category                     | Description   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Major Summative (75-100 PTS) | <p><b><u>A. Concert Participation</u></b><br/>It is vital to the success of the Band that every student attend Band concerts. Performances not only showcase individual talents of students but also create a sense of community among performers.</p> <p><b><u>B. Before-School Participation</u></b><br/>Before School rehearsals prepare students for concerts, as they can rehearse as a full Band with all students across their grade level. Dates are listed on the calendar of events.</p> <p><b><u>C. Assessments</u></b><br/>Playing / Written Tests will be given throughout the school year. Playing tests and Quizzes will include pieces/ or exercises that are being studied in class.</p> |
| Minor Summative (20-50 PTS)  | <p>Minor Summative may range from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music Theory and History Worksheets</li> <li>• General Assignments (i.e. Handbook Acknowledgement Form)</li> </ul>  |
| Daily Practice               | Daily practice is expected and essential for students to succeed on their instrument.   |
| Late Summative(s)            | <p>If the summative is 10 days late, the highest possible grade will be 80% of the total points allotted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>(Excluding concerts and rehearsals – see page 5 for more details)</i></li> </ul>  |
| Grade Revision Policy        | Only playing tests and written assessments shall be eligible for revision. All revision tests will need to be scheduled with Ms. McHugh or Mr. Durgin within 10 days of the initial assessment. If the student has not made-up a missed assessment, the student will receive a 0.   |

**\*\*Please note: Extra Credit will not be offered for Music Classes at RBMS\*\***



# CLASSROOM POLICIES

## CLASSROOM RULES

1. Show respect to everything and everyone!
2. Only water is permitted. (no gum, candy, food, colored drinks)
3. Tech is not needed unless specified. (no air pods, phones, watches, etc.)

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will be attentive throughout class. Students may only talk during designated times.
2. Students will have their instrument, music, and supplies, for every class.
3. Instruments will be placed in designated locations except when used for class.
4. Instruments are expected to go home after each class day so students may practice.
5. Have a positive attitude!

## POOR CHOICE INTERVENTIONS

Classroom rules and student expectations are important for students to succeed on their instrument and have an enjoyable class experience. Therefore, we must make the effort to take our classes seriously and set goals with high expectations.

If you choose to disregard the classroom rules and/or expectations these possible consequences will follow: **student seat change, chat with teacher, pack-up instrument for day, class contract, alternate written activity, phone call home, parent conference, referral to administrator, detention, not permitted on field trips, and/or removal from the Band community.**

## SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Larger instruments, such as Tuba and Baritones will be provided by the school. Students will have one at home for personal use and one at school to use. These instruments are expected to be maintained and kept in good condition. **All students must bring their personal instruments from home for all concerts and combined rehearsals.**

We have a limited number of other instruments (clarinets, flutes, french horns) for students to borrow from the school. We encourage students who choose to play smaller instruments to rent their instruments from a reputable dealer.

**The student and their family will accept responsibility for all damages other than normal use. The director will determine all fines based upon repair appraisals.**

## INSTRUMENT STORAGE/LOCKERS

All band students will be provided space to store their instrument in the band storage room. Instruments and music are stored in these lockers during the day and must be labeled with contact information. Please do not store food, shoes, gym clothes or other items not related to band in the lockers.

*River Bend Middle School is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Loudoun County Schools does not provide insurance to cover lost or stolen property. Please check with your homeowner's insurance company to inquire about student instrument insurance.*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## REQUIRED CONCERTS

| GRADE                 | DATE                            | EVENT                      | TIME                     | LOCATION        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade | January 9, 2024                 | Winter Concert             | 6:00 (PB)<br>7:00PM (GB) | RBMS<br>RBMS    |
|                       | April 29th, 2024                | Spring Concert             | 6:00 (PB)<br>7:00PM (GB) | RBMS<br>RBMS    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade | November 30th                   | Fall / Winter Concert      | 7:00PM                   | PFHS            |
|                       | May 30th                        | Spring Concert             | 6:00PM                   | RBMS            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade | September 15                    | PFHS MB Night              | 4:45 PM                  | PFHS            |
|                       | November 15                     | Fall Concert               | 6:00PM                   | RBMS            |
|                       | January 6                       | District Band Auditions    | TBD                      | THS             |
|                       | February 22                     | Pre-Assessment Concert     | 7:00 PM                  | PFHS            |
|                       | <b>March 15-16</b>              | <u>*Concert Assessment</u> | TBD                      | Independence HS |
|                       | May 8                           | Spring Concert             | 7:00 PM                  | PFHS            |
| June 7                | Spring Festival Trip (optional) | All-Day                    | Hershey Park             |                 |

## REQUIRED REHEARSAL(S)

| GRADE                 | DATE              | EVENT                                | TIME                                       | LOCATION     |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade | January 4th, 2024 | Purple Band Winter Concert Rehearsal | 8:00AM                                     | RBMS         |
|                       | January 5th, 2024 | Gold Band Winter Concert Rehearsal   | 8:00AM                                     | RBMS         |
|                       | April 9th, 2024   | Spring Concert Rehearsals            | 8:00AM - 8:40AM (PB)<br>3:45AM-4:30PM (GB) | RBMS<br>RBMS |
|                       | April 23rd, 2024  | Spring Concert Rehearsals            | 8:00AM - 8:40AM (GB)<br>3:45AM-4:30PM (PB) | RBMS<br>RBMS |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade | November 14th     | Fall Concert Rehearsal               | 8:00 - 8:40AM                              | Stage        |
|                       | November 28th     | Fall Concert Rehearsal               | 8:00 - 8:40AM                              | Stage        |
|                       | May 29th          | Spring Concert Rehearsal             | 8:00 - 8:40AM                              | Stage        |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade | January 27th      | Concert Assessment Clinic            | 8:00AM - 4:00PM                            | Park View HS |

## \*CONCERT ASSESSMENT

Concert Assessment typically occurs in March and is comparable to the *Standards of Learning* in other subject areas. We expect all 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band students to attend assessment. However, if an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student fails to attend class rehearsals, has behavior infractions, or fails to perform their music adequately, they will not be permitted to attend Assessment. In this case, the student must complete an alternative assignment and will not be allowed to attend the final Spring Music Festival Trip.

## **\*SPRING FESTIVAL TRIP**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band has an optional Spring Festival Trip. To attend this trip, students need to attend all rehearsals, concerts, have no behavior issues, perform their music adequately, demonstrate excellent concert, rehearsal etiquette, attend assessment (RBMS School & Music Department Policy), and be in good academic standing (B or better in music class). There is a fee to attend the *Spring Festival Trip* to cover the cost of the festival, park admission, and travel.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips may occur throughout the year and are a reward (not a privilege). To attend any field trip, students need to attend all rehearsals, concerts, have no behavior issues in music class, perform their music adequately, demonstrate excellent concert and rehearsal etiquette, and be in good academic standing (B or better in music class). There may be a fee to attend field trips that help to cover transportation and ticket costs.

# STUDENT AND PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

*(Handbook is in Schoology and on the Band Website)*

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the following policies and procedures (**student and parent/guardian initial next to each line after reading required section**):

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| _____ / _____ | Communication                      |
| _____ / _____ | Grading                            |
| _____ / _____ | Required Supplies & Concert Attire |
| _____ / _____ | Classroom Policies                 |
| _____ / _____ | Rehearsal & Performance Calendar   |
| _____ / _____ | Excused & Unexcused Absences       |

I understand that I have read **all** pages of the Band Handbook. I am responsible for following these policies and procedures as well as attending the required concerts & rehearsals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I understand that I have read all pages of the Band Handbook. I am responsible for upholding these policies and procedures and will work to the best of my ability to help my student meet the above requirements of the course. I will contact the teacher if there are any questions, problems, or concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**For 6th Grade String Students ONLY:** Please circle the size of T-Shirt your student will wear for concerts this year! Only one t-shirt will be given at the beginning of the year.

Adult Small

Adult Medium

Adult Large

Adult X-Large