

# Richland Middle School Band

## 2019-2020 Handbook



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# Staff

Katie Binkley, Director of Bands

Karl Krause, Associate Director of Bands

Michael Cheripka, Director of Bands, Birdville High School

Jeremy Hackworth, Assistant Director, Birdville High School

Sarah Chang, Assistant Director, Birdville High School

James Figueredo, Percussion Instructor, Birdville Cluster

The Birdville High School Band staff is actively involved in the RMS band. They assist the directors throughout the year by teaching beginner classes and working with the performing bands.

# Expectations

A RMS band member should exhibit the highest standards of character, honesty, and integrity in everything that he or she does. Every RMS band member is expected to follow the guidelines outlined in the RMS Student Handbook and those guidelines of the RMS campus.

# Band Hall Guidelines

- No food, drink, gum, or candy in the Band Hall unless approved by a director.
- Respect the Band Hall furniture and electrical equipment. Defacing Band Hall equipment will not be tolerated. Band students should not use classroom metronomes and tuners without permission from a director.
- Only percussionists have permission to touch the percussion equipment at any time
- Do not touch another student's instrument, even with his or her permission.
- For your protection and for practicing purposes, instruments are to be taken home every day.
- Practice rooms are for practicing and lessons only. No more than two students may be inside at a time.

# **Classroom Procedures**

- Enter the Band Hall calmly and quietly; get materials out quickly.
- During class, all instrument cases need to be closed and stored in lockers except for tubas and percussion. Small instrument cases that can be stowed safely under or beside chair will be allowed in the Band set-up.
- Be alert to where the director is, and when the director steps on the podium, all talking should cease. There is to be no talking during class unless a class or individual response is solicited.
- Be in your seat immediately following the tardy bell with band binder, pencils, oils, reeds, mallets and sticks, instrument, and whatever else you need to fully participate in class.
- When not playing, students should be actively engaged in the rehearsal i.e.. fingering, slide positions, or stickings. All students need to be prepared to play at any moment of rehearsal.
- Behavior that interferes with the learning process or delays the class will not be tolerated.

## **Consequences for misbehavior may include:**

1. First Offense- Verbal warning issued.
2. Second Offense- seating may be changed and student will be counseled as to what behavior modifications need to take place.
3. Third Offense- parent contact will be made. Band detention may be assigned. (Band detention includes service work in band hall i.e.. Cleaning, organizing, etc.)
4. Fourth Offense- Student/Parent Conference
5. Fifth Offense- Office Referral
6. Serious Offense- as outlined in the RMS Student Code of Conduct, serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral with school consequences.

# Rehearsals

## Wind Ensemble

All Wind Ensemble band students are required to attend all weekly sectionals rehearsals, held once a week before or after school. During sectionals, students will be taught instrument specific skills that are not able to be covered during the band class, as well as Region Music in the fall. Assignments for the week are determined by the director during the sectional time. **It is important for your student to be on time for all sectional rehearsals, as we are not allowed to let students into morning rehearsals late. This is a change from previous years.** During the spring semester, full band rehearsals are used to prepare for UIL and other contests. Students arriving late to cocurricular rehearsals will receive a lower grade in relationship to the severity of the tardiness. **Failing to attend co-curricular rehearsals may result in a failing band grade and possible loss of membership in the Wind Ensemble.** If a student has an excused absence from school on the day of the rehearsal, the student can be excused with a parent phone call/email.

At Richland Middle School, we value participation in more than one extra curricular activity and encourage participation. That being said, we understand that conflicts will arise. If a student has a conflict with any rehearsal, performance, or other required activity, please seek All attempts are made to schedule rehearsals around athletic practices, but it is understood that some sacrifices may have to be made to attend co-curricular rehearsals. The RMS coaching staff is excellent at working with us to ensure the success of both programs.

## Symphonic Band

All Symphonic band students are required to attend all weekly co-curricular rehearsals, **SPRING SEMESTER ONLY**, held before or after school. The three types of co-curricular rehearsals are sectionals, listenings, and full band rehearsals. During sectionals, students will be taught instrument specific skills that are not able to be covered during the band class. Assignments for the week are determined by the director during the sectional time. Listenings are used to hear assignments that are covered in the sectional time. During the spring semester, full band rehearsals are used to prepare for UIL and other contests. All three co-curricular rehearsals are required and used to determine a students' grade. Students arriving late to co-curricular rehearsals will receive a lower grade in relationship to the severity of the tardiness. **Failing to attend co-curricular rehearsals may result in a failing band grade and possible loss of membership in the Symphonic Band.** If a student has an excused absence from school on the day of the rehearsal, the student can be excused with a parent phone call/email.

All attempts are made to schedule rehearsals around athletic practices, but it is understood that some sacrifices may have to be made to attend co-curricular rehearsals. The RMS coaching staff is excellent at working with us to ensure the success of both programs.

## Beginner Band

In the beginner band, we have co-curricular rehearsals after school in preparation for concerts and contests. Students that attend all rehearsals will be eligible to attend contests in the spring. Details of dates, times, and locations of performances and rehearsals will be released at a later date.

## Band Field Trips

In the event that a field trip takes a student out of another teacher's class, it is the responsibility of the student to get all assignments prior to the trip and turn them in (on time) to the teacher. On field trips it is expected that students conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the student code of conduct. The band is representative of the school, individual behavior reflects upon not just the individual, but on the entire group, school, and Birdville ISD. Any conduct deemed inappropriate by either teachers, chaperones, or facility staff will be dealt with according to the student code of conduct.

## Eligibility Rules

Eligibility rules in the State of Texas have recently changed. Students are allowed to participate in a UIL Contest evaluation regardless of if they are passing all classes or not because the Band UIL Contest is Curricular in nature, and serves as a statewide evaluation. All other social trips, or festivals could be impacted by rules of Eligibility. If a student is not passing all of their classes with an average of 70 or higher, the student is deemed academically ineligible. Grade checks will be conducted several times throughout the year to help your student be accountable.

## Grades

Grades for the **Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band** student will be divided as follows:

- Completion of Objectives
- Before/After School Sectional Attendance
- Before/After School Full Band Rehearsals
- Individual Performance (either during class or individually)
- Performance Attendance (concerts and trips)
- Organizational (Instrument, Supplies, Notebook, etc.)

Grades for the **Beginner Band** student will be divided as follows:

- - Daily Classroom/Home practicing Grade
- - Completion of Objectives
- - Performance Attendance (concerts and trips)
- - Organizational (Instrument, Supplies, Notebook, etc)

## **Band Uniforms**

**Formal Concert Uniform(Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Only):** All black button up dress shirt, black dress pants (no jeans), black belt, black socks, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

**Informal Uniform:** Band shirt, jeans, and tennis shoes

## **Home Practice**

Daily practice is vital to success in the RMS band. Students are required to take their instruments home every night and bring them back to school every morning. Any student that has transportation issues can stay after school and practice for 30 minutes and then take his/her instrument home only on the weekend.

## **Private Lessons**

All RMS Band students have the opportunity to take private lessons taught by highly qualified private instructors during the school day or before/after school. At Richland Middle School, we highly encourage all students to participate in private lessons. The student will receive a 25-30 minute lesson of one on one instruction with a professional musician on their own instrument. Students who study with a private instructor have an advantage over those who do not when it comes to auditioning for the prestigious All Birdville Band, All Region Bands, Solo/Ensemble Contest, and Birdville High School Auditions.

We feel strongly that all members who are able to should study privately. Most students in the Wind Ensemble participate in the private lesson program. A limited amount of financial aid is available for students who qualify. Students that receive financial aid must be prepared every week for lessons or financial aid will be discontinued. If your family is interested in financial aid for private lessons, please email Ms. Binkley at: [katie.binkley@birdvilleschools.net](mailto:katie.binkley@birdvilleschools.net)

## **School-Owned Instruments**

School owned instruments are issued in working condition and will be returned in the same condition. Damage that is not considered normal wear and tear by trained repair staff will be billed to the student who caused the damage. A \$130 per year, \$65.00 per semester usage fee is charged for all school-owned instruments.

## Band Fees

### For 6th Graders only:

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Due Date:</b>
T-shirt- \$10	8/30/2019
Travel Fee-\$6.00	8/30/2019
Ensemble Contest Fee-\$7.00	1/29/2020
Solo Contest Fee-\$7.00	5/6/2020
Total: \$30.00	

### For 7th and 8th Grade only:

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
T-shirt- \$10	8/30/2019
Travel Fee-\$7.00	8/30/2019
All BISD Honor Band-\$7.00	9/16/2019
All Region Band Entry Fee -\$7.00	11/6/2019
Ensemble Contest Fee-\$7.00	1/29/2020
Solo Contest Fee-\$7.00	5/6/2020
Total: \$45.00	

- Payments can be made all at once or in small increments by the assigned due dates. We accept cash or check. When writing a check, please make it out to: RMS Band.
- Please ensure that when your student is turning in money, that the money is placed in a sealed envelope with their name on it! Turn in money by giving it directly to the Band Director.



# **PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

## **Commitment**

Participation in the Richland Middle School Band Program requires:

1. Regular school attendance.
2. Attendance at extra rehearsals and performances.
3. Maintenance of personal instruments and school-owned property.
4. Regular personal practice

## **PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I have read the attached rules and regulations for participation in the band program at Richland Middle School. The Band is dependent on ALL its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band students' success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all the students.

Therefore, I have read the attached calendar and understand that I am obligated to attend all required band functions, and I acknowledge that I have been duly informed of band functions well in advance. I understand what is expected of me and have shared this information with my parents or guardian. I understand that pictures of my child may be used for educational purposes.

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_