

Band Handbook

2017-2018



Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the Raymond B. Stewart Middle School band program. As a member, you will learn to play a musical instrument, meet new friends, participate in fun activities and develop a greater appreciation of the performing arts.

To be a successful band member you must make the commitment to always strive to do your best. It is important to conduct yourself with good character, and to have pride and respect for others and their property. As a band member, you not only represent yourself, you represent the band program and the entire school. The pleasure of performing good music for an appreciative audience is matched only by the personal satisfaction of playing for one's own enjoyment.

It has been our experience that much of the information given to students rarely makes it home. It is with this in mind that we have created a band website. You can access the website by going to <http://www.rbsmsband.com>. You may also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or YouTube. If you ever have a question or concern, you may call the Band Room at (813) 794-6696 or leave a message at the Main Office (813) 794-6500. Usually the best time to reach me is before or after school. You can also e-mail me at bschmidt@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Practice/Private Lessons

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should plan to practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day outside of band class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 30 minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you don't practice every day. The music facility is open most days from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for students to practice, get help, or complete Pass-offs. Unless prior arrangements have been made, students who choose to stay after school must to have a ride home by 3:30 p.m.

It is not a requirement that students take private lessons but private instruction combined with practice can make a tremendous improvement in a student's playing ability. Remember, quality private instruction doesn't have to cost a lot of money. Please see Mr. Schmidt if you are interested in lessons.

Rehearsal & Performance Attendance (during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every band member attends and participates in **ALL** the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. The District School Board of Pasco County lists Band as a co-curricular course, which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is an essential and required component of the course.

To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our band calendar on the band website at <http://www.rbsmsband.com>. **Performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade.** Please contact the director if there is an extreme circumstance that needs to be considered. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness, Pasco County guidelines state that you may NOT participate in any after school activity.

We live in Florida and as you know it can get extremely hot outside so proper hydration is important. We will always provided water during outside rehearsals or performances where heat can become an issue. It is important that students take time to hydrate.

Uniform/Dress Code

Beginning Band:

Girls - black dress slacks (not jeans), white dress blouse or shirt, and black dress shoes with black socks. We recommended that girls wear closed toe shoes. No spaghetti straps, dresses or skirts are allowed. You may wear a tie or bow tie if you would like. Jackets or vests are not required.

Boys - black dress slacks (not jeans), white short or long sleeve dress shirt with collar and black dress shoes with black socks. Boys must wear a tie or bow tie. Jackets are not required.

Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Band:

It is the responsibility of each student to dress appropriately when representing the school. Students in these ensembles must wear their Band T-Shirt, black dress slacks (not jeans), and black dress shoes with black socks. Additionally, students will wear a suit jacket for all concerts (issued by the school).

Policies and Expectations:

- Students will show respect at all times toward the directors, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property and the property of others.
- Gum, candy, food, or drinks are NOT allowed in the music suite, on busses, or during rehearsals or performances without director permission.
- Smoking, tobacco products, and alcohol are prohibited by anyone entering the RBSMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing RBSMS Band during off campus activities.
- Students and Chaperones are required to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled events. Prior arrangements need to be made IN WRITING if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.
- Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. you should plan to pick up your child at that time. You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated.
- For sanitary, safety, and liability reasons, students should only play their own instrument.
- Demonstrate positive behavior at all times. Disruptive, irresponsible, or inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated while representing the Raymond B. Stewart Middle School Band.
- Students are responsible for issued items. This may include, but is not limited to, instruments, supplies, uniforms, locks, books, music, flip folders, music folders etc. Replacement or repair fees may be assessed if items become lost or damaged.

Grades:

Grades are based on many factors, that include:

- Class Participation
- Performance Tests (playing and written)
- Music Preparation
- Performance Objectives
- Special Projects
- Rehearsals and Performances
- Following Classroom Policies and Procedures

Students will receive a passoff list, which lists specific performance requirements. Students are required to bring their instrument, music, and a pencil to class everyday. All students enrolled in band are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of their class. Again, Band is a "co-curricular" course which means attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a students grade.

Discipline Policy
(for class, rehearsals and performances)

1. Verbal reminder
2. Student will be removed from the activity with a deduction in participation points
3. Parent contact: conference, note home, phone call, etc.
4. Exclusion from a rehearsal, performance or activity
5. Detention, discipline referral, and removal from activity/class.

Severe discipline issues will result in an immediate discipline referral.

Instruments:

Instruments left at home:

Students need to bring their instrument and actively participate everyday. Students that forget to bring their instrument to class will be given an alternative assignment and may lose some participation points. It is important to remember that Band is a performance and participation class and when a student is unable to play because they left their instrument at home they are not fully participating in class.

Instruments in need of repair:

Instruments need to be kept in good working condition. A student will NOT be penalized if their instrument needs repair. When a student comes to class without an instrument because it is being repaired they will be given an alternative assignment. The only way for us to distinguish the difference between a student who left his or her instrument at home and one whose instrument is being repaired is if we receive a note or phone call from a parent. This policy prevents a student that left their instrument at home from saying "It's in the repair shop."

Often, the problem with an instrument is minor. You might want to see Mr. Schmidt before you take the instrument in for repair. If the instrument needs to go to the shop, it is generally a good idea to take it back to where it was rented or purchased. Always ask for a loaner so the student doesn't fall behind. Some music stores service our school on a bi-weekly basis, so arrangements can be made for one of them to pick up the instrument from the band room and return it the following week. They usually have loaners available, but you will need to contact them before they visit RBSMS.

Band Room Instrument Lockers:

Raymond B. Stewart Middle School Band students are fortunate to have a beautiful facility. The music suite contains one large rehearsal room, a music library, a uniform room, and instrument storage lockers.

Every student will be assigned a designated place in the Band Room to store their band equipment. Some students will be assigned a locker. A Band locker may only be used to store a student's instrument, music, and supplies. Students assigned a locker will also be assigned a lock. Only RBSMS Band locks may be placed on lockers. Locks and lockers are issued free of charge, however, there is a \$10.00 replacement fee for any lost or damaged locks.

Using a locker is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to keep their locker locked at all times (except during class). Additionally, students are responsible for their own instrument, equipment, and personal belongings. A student may lose locker privileges if they fail to lock their locker, or fail to keep it clean.

Class Requirements

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In order to begin to learn how to play an instrument, you must acquire a certain amount of equipment and supplies. Obtaining the following list of items is the responsibility of each student and/or parent. We encourage all Beginning Band students to rent an instrument for the first year of playing. Most music stores will rent on a rent-to-own basis. It's best to purchase your equipment and supplies from a music-specific store. Unless you have a great deal of instrument knowledge and the ability to play, be weary of pawn shops and online retailers. We also recommend that you avoid buying your equipment and supplies from a store that sells both instruments and groceries. The RBSMS Band has a limited supply of instruments available to issue to students (free of charge).

Beginning Band:

- Instrument and Supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument. Ex. Reeds, Valve Oil)
 - Percussion: Medium Rubber or Yarn Mallets, SD1 of IP1 Snare Sticks, Destiny Pro Pad, and a stick bag. You will need mallets first.
- Notebook/Binder (1-inch, white, 3-Ring Binder) and a Pencil
- Method Book: Measures of Success Book 1 (each book is instrument specific)

Concert and Symphonic Band:

- Instrument and Supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument. Ex. Reeds, Valve Oil)
 - Percussion: Medium Rubber or Yarn Mallets, SD1 of IP1 Snare Sticks, Destiny Pro Pad, and a stick bag.
- Notebook/Binder (1-inch, white, 3-Ring Binder) and a Pencil
- Method Book: Measures of Success Book 2 (each book is instrument specific)
- Flip Folder and Lyre

Jazz Ensemble:

- Instrument and Supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument. Ex. Reeds, Valve Oil)
 - Percussion: 7A Snare sticks (for drumset)
- Notebook/Binder (1-inch, white, 3-Ring Binder) and a Pencil
- Method Book: Essential Elements for Jazz (each book is instrument specific)

Band Handbook Form

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We encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical experience. Many of you probably played an instrument while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent in band was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

I have read and understand the information included in the Band Handbook.

Date: _____

Class: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____