

Band Handbook

2018-2019



Welcome to the Raymond B. Stewart Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The RBSMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the Handbook Agreement Form should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Why Take Band?

1. Our students find the social interaction provided by band membership as rewarding as the quality and entertaining musical training they receive.
2. The music suite is definitely a "home away from home" for many of our students.
3. The study of music has been long documented as a major contributor to the success of students in academics.
4. Band students typically represent the top of the academic scale at our school

Communication

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact Mr. Schmidt for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

Mr. Schmidt will be sending home many updates and communications via e-mail and text message throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail and messaging, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through electronic communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a conference with Mr. Schmidt.

Email: bschmidt@pasco.k12.fl.us

Phone: (813) 794-6696

Our students and parents are able to stay informed a number of different ways. We encourage all of our parents to follow our program through our Website (<http://www.rbsmsband.com>), Charms Office (<http://www.charmsoffice.com>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/rbsmsbandprogram/>), Twitter (@rbsmsmusic), and Instagram (@rbsmsmusic).

Charms Login - rbsmsmusic

Password - Student ID#

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 Charms (<http://www.charmsoffice.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 Mr. Schmidt 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 must wear a white blouse with black dress pants/slacks with black shoes. Additionally, girls may wear a school appropriate black or white dress. If you choose to wear a dress, it must meet school dress code requirements (no spaghetti straps or short skirts are allowed).

Boys must wear a white button-down dress shirt, tie, black dress pants/slacks, and black shoes. Jackets are not required.

Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Band:

Football Games, Parades, Pep Rallies - Students must wear their 2018 band t-shirt, appropriate jeans (no holes), socks and sneakers or athletic shoes (not boots, sandals, etc...).

Concerts (Boys) - Students must wear their school-issued tuxedo (coat, pants, cummerbund and bow-tie). Students must wear their band t-shirts under their tuxedo. Students must also wear black dress shoes.

Concerts (Girls) - Students must wear their school-issued dress. Students must wear black flat shoes.

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

Students will receive a list of Performance Objectives, 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.

Practice/Private Lessons

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should plan to practice a minimum of 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week (100 minutes total per week) outside of band class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine and when they practice more than the bare minimum. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 20 or more minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you skip days then try to make up time by practicing longer.

In order to have an efficient practice session, students should break down their music into small sections to focus on before attempting to play an entire piece. Sometimes, this means working on one measure at a time. This process of "musical chunking" will set up your child for success. Band takes patience and hard work!

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.

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

2018-2019

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

2018-2019



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: _____

I have logged into Charms (<http://www.charmsoffice.com>) and updated my contact information, so that I can receive email and text message updates.

Date: _____

Class: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

This signed form is due to Mr. Schmidt by August 29, 2018.