

**Riverdale Band  
Handbook Acknowledgement Form  
2007 - 2008**

*In becoming a member of the Riverdale High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the*

*Riverdale Band to operate successfully. I fully understand the Conditions set forth in this handbook, and agree to abide by them.*

***Keep this copy for your records!***

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Student Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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Student Name (Please print)

*This agreement must be signed by both the student and the parent and turned in each year upon becoming a member of the Riverdale Band.*

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This handbook presents guidelines and information concerning policies and expectations of the Riverdale High School Warrior Band. Students and parents should read and understand these guidelines. These guidelines are set forth to aid and benefit the Riverdale High School Band and its members. The general policies set by Riverdale High School and the Rutherford County Board of Education also apply.

## **OBJECTIVES**

To make participation in music available to all students of Riverdale High School

To develop musical experiences that enhance students' overall educational experience as well as prepare them to be productive citizens

To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.

To assist students in developing a lifelong appreciation for music and a continuation of musical activities

To develop a performing organization that is a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS –**

To be a member of the Riverdale Band, the student must be enrolled in one of the band classes at Riverdale High School, and comply with all rules and regulations.

The Riverdale High School Band will perform at concerts, football games, contests, parades, and other performance opportunities in this area. Membership in the Riverdale Band requires that students attend all rehearsals and performances and pay band dues. Dues go toward transportation, additional staff, contest entry fees, instrument repair, office expense, music, equipment, etc. Students must meet all requirements of the course they are enrolled in to be considered a “member in good standing” and to participate in optional activities such as Solo & Ensemble, Concert Festival, All-State and Mid-State Auditions, various Honor Bands, and trips. Students are expected to practice outside of class for a minimum of 3 hours per week.

## **Solo & Ensemble**

As scheduled by MTSBOA, typically in March or April.

## **Jazz Band**

Murfreesboro JazzFest , May 2, 2008  
Riverdale Jazz Show TBA, Spring 2008

## **Basketball Pep Band**

3 – 4 performances scheduled between Nov. and Feb.

## **Band Banquet**

Scheduled late in spring, typically at MTSU's James Union Building. Tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2008

**Contests**

Tentatively scheduled for Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, & Oct. 27. The Div. 1 Championship at Riverdale will be Nov. 3, 2008

**Concerts**

We will perform 3-4 concerts per year, as well as perform at MTSBOA Concert Festival.

**Parades**

We will perform in the Murfreesboro Christmas Parade, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 10, 2006

**MTSBOA Mid-State Auditions**

Sr High, McGavock HS, Dec. 1, 2008  
Jr High, McGavock HS, Dec. 8, 2008

**MTSBOA Mid – State Honor Band Clinics**

Band - Jan 10-12, 2008 at MTSU and Siegel HS  
Orch and Jazz - Jan. 17-19, 2008 at Blackman HS

**Honor Bands**

MTSU Wind Band Conference, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2008  
TTU Festival of Winds & Perc., Feb. 14-16, 2008

**MTSBOA Concert Festival**

Scheduled by MTSBOA, either March TBA

**TMEA State Concert Festival**

April TBA, 2008 at TBA

**All-State Band and Orchestra**

Nashville Renaissance Hotel - April 16—19, 2008

**WIND ENSEMBLE-** (by audition)

Open to all students (grades 10-12) with prior band experience, this class will concentrate on advanced concert band literature. This ensemble will perform in several concert programs and in concert festivals. Out-of-school time will be required for rehearsals and performances. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 3 hours outside of class each week.

**SYMPHONIC BAND-**

Open to students in grades 9-12. This class will concentrate on developing individual and ensemble playing skills with emphasis on the performance aspects of wind and percussion music, the rich heritage of bands, and the preparation and performance of the finest band literature. Students in this class must perform in all concert programs and concert festivals. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances.

**WIND BAND-**

Open to freshmen and students who would like to learn an instrument. This class will concentrate on developing individual and ensemble playing skills with emphasis on the performance aspects of wind and percussion. Students in this class will perform in concert programs and concert festivals. There will be out-of-school time required for rehearsals and performances.

**JAZZ BAND-**

Open to students with prior band experience, Jazz Band meets in the second semester for credit. This class will concentrate on jazz band literature and is designed to develop the ability to improvise and play jazz. This band will perform in selected concert programs and festivals. Out of school time will be required for rehearsals and performances. Students will be selected by audition when interest allows. (The class is open

to brass, saxophone, percussion, piano & guitar.)

### **BASKETBALL PEP BAND-**

These bands are student-conducted groups. They perform at a select number of games each year. Each instrumental student will be expected to perform in a pep band.

### **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE-**

In addition to band concerts, this ensemble will perform in at least one concert and will attend solo and ensemble.

### **CHAMBER ENSEMBLES-**

Clarinet choir, flute choir, brass choir, etc. are open to all band members. Performances include regular concerts and chamber ensemble concerts. All students are expected to perform a Solo & Ensemble selection during the course of the year, resulting in a major portion of a six weeks grade.

### **GUARD-**

Membership in the RHS Guard is by audition only. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances. Guard students who play an instrument should enroll in the appropriate Band class. Guard members may also audition for Winter Guard when offered. Both Band and Guard classes count towards a high school fine arts credit.

### **MARCHING BAND-**

#### **Competitive and Non-Competitive Marching Band**

The Riverdale Marching Band enjoys a reputation for musical excellence. Continuing this tradition of success requires a high degree of dedication, effort, and pride by each person involved. The marching band is one group involving all members with a competitive and non-competitive make-up. Students who have school related activities during the fall which conflict with marching rehearsals and Friday night games (i.e. football, certain athletics, etc.) participate in the non-

sessions used to rehearse music and learn marching fundamentals. We will have professional instructors during this camp. Students may leave campus for lunch during this week.

### **5 Day- Band Camp-**

Band camp is held at Riverdale High School, usually during the first week of August. Exact dates and times are listed in the schedule for the summer. These are full day sessions, utilized to teach the competitive marching show musically and visually. There will be a one-hour lunch break in the schedule. The students need to bring a lunch. Students will not be allowed to leave campus during band camp.

### **Camp Attendance-**

For students to begin a successful band experience, attendance is required.

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2007-2008**

Following is a tentative list of events that occur throughout the year. Not all events will apply to all students. This list should not be considered a final and all-inclusive list of events. Continue to check your band calendars and the website for up-to-date and detailed information.

### **Football Schedule**

Aug. 24 Oakland 7:30  
Aug. 31 @ Antioch 7:00PM  
Sept. 7 Blackman 7:30PM  
Sept. 14 Lincoln Co. 7:30PM  
Sept. 21 Siegel 7:30PM  
Sept. 28 @ Dickson Co. 7:30PM  
Oct. 5 **NO GAME—FALL BREAK**  
Oct. 12 @ Lebanon 7:30  
Oct. 19 Wilson Central 7:30PM  
Oct 26 @ Smyrna  
Nov. 2 LaVergne 7:30PM  
Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30 play-off games 7:00PM  
Dec. 3 Championship @ MTSU ??

performance or rehearsal. This should be done in advance, unless it is an emergency situation.

\*Encourage your child to practice at home and help them find a quiet place that encourages concentration.

\*Discuss with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better educate your student

\*Arrange for private lessons for your child and encourage participation in our Chamber Ensembles.

### **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

A complete schedule of all summer activities will be mailed to your home in the band newsletter.

#### **Summer Rehearsals-**

#### **2007 – 2008 Camp Dates**

New Marcher Camp	July 23 & 24
3 Day Band Camp	July 25– 27
5 Day Band Camp	July. 30 – Aug. 3

**The 2007 – 2008 Camp dates are tentative upon approval of the school calendar.**

New Marcher Camp	July 21 & 22, 2008
Band Camp	3 day July 23 – 25, 2008
	5 day July 28 - Aug. 1, 2007

There are a few rehearsals scheduled during summer vacation. Students are strongly encouraged to attend as many of these as possible; however, we recognize that family vacations and other activities may conflict. When Band camp begins, optional rehearsals end!!

#### **New Marchers Camp-**

Held at Riverdale High School, these two days are designed to teach incoming students marching techniques. The student must attend either day (both days attendance would be great).

#### **3 Day - Band Camp-**

Held at Riverdale High School, these three days are full day

competitive band. These members are still required to perform in pep rallies, parades, and in the stands during home games. These students do not participate in rehearsals for the competition show, but may be required to attend brief afternoon rehearsals in preparation for homecoming, parades, and other events. Students involved in this manner should see the directors for a detailed list of required activities and expectations.

### **ATTITUDE**

People who have a positive attitude, despite their individual skills, will always have a place in the Riverdale Band.

Characteristics of a positive attitude include a generally cheerful outlook toward rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. People who have pride in his / herself will generally project a positive attitude. In short, the ideal band member is someone who is always willing to give his or her best for the good of the organization.

***“I WILL ALWAYS STRIVE THROUGH TALENT AND SPIRIT, TO MAKE THE GOOD BETTER AND THE BETTER BEST!”***

### **ATTENDANCE**

The band follows a regular rehearsal schedule; any changes are announced well in advance. This allows students to plan other activities and obligations around the established schedule. During the marching season, doctor visits, illnesses, other appointments should be scheduled on Wednesdays to avoid conflicts with the regular rehearsal schedule. Schedules are mailed out in the booster newsletter, posted in band room, and posted online, at [www.riverdaleband.com](http://www.riverdaleband.com).

Punctuality is a trait that will serve you well in any endeavor. Plan to arrive well before the beginning of rehearsal. Plan to

be prepared 10 minutes before the announced rehearsal / scheduled performance time – the “10 minute rule” will allow events to begin at their scheduled time and ensure students reap the maximum benefit of their time. Rehearsal time is often lost when members try to “squeak in” at the last second. It is essential that the rehearsal time be used wisely, and this can only happen when every band member is present and working to improve. Everyone must “carry his/her fair share of the load” in order to achieve the level of proficiency for which the Riverdale Band has become noted.

Students are expected to notify the Directors in advance of any absence from a scheduled band activity. Students who submit their absence in advance (or at the earliest possible time in the event of an emergency) may be allowed to make-up an alternate assignment for their absence, for the following; (a) personal illness (must include parental note and / or documentation from physician), (b) death in the family, (c) an emergency, or (d) special permission of the Directors obtained no less than two weeks in advance by the parent or guardian.

A performance absence that is not submitted or approved in advance will result in a grade of “F” for the six weeks, while a rehearsal absence will result in significant points off the six weeks grade and possible removal from future performances / events.

Absence Notification Forms are located in the band office. If you have a last minute emergency you are expected to call the band room at 896-0110 to inform the directors about your absence. Regarding illness, students must provide a parent / doctor’s note the following day for any medical absences. Students must exhibit consistent responsibility in these areas. After an absence, students are expected to complete an alternate make-up assignments. Our awards program rewards stu-

Chaperones are also extensions of the authority of the directors. These people work hard to assist the band and the only payment they receive is our appreciation. Be respectful, polite, cooperative, and remember that the words “Thank You” cost nothing but are valued highly.

If you disagree with something a chaperone asks you to do, you are not to argue with the chaperon. Do as they ask and then inform a director when possible. This policy will be strictly enforced. Students who do not cooperate with chaperones are subject to removal from the group.

### **PARENT INFORMATION**

Parents are an important part of the Riverdale Band and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of Band parents, there would be no chance for the level of success we want the band to reach. Parents can do many things: attend Band Booster meetings; volunteer for booster committees; chaperon games; chaperon contests; volunteer in the band office; be a guard Mom and Dad; pit crew; load crew; sewing; publicity; fruit sale; golf tournament; Div. 1 contest; and many others. There are many different tasks and everyone can find the niche that suits them best!!

Our Band Boosters meet at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. See a director or any booster officer to volunteer!

### **PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:**

Be supportive of the band program and your child’s participation by enthusiastically attending every performance possible. (Mom and Dad are still the most important audience)

\*Help your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance

\*Notify the director if your child is to be absent or late for

ability, service, dedication and loyalty. Changes to this position may be made when appointed section leaders fail to fulfill their duties.

Good leadership is based on work, not prestige. Officers and section leaders should always strive to set an example by their behavior.

Students desiring a leadership position should attend the Leadership Class during the spring semester, which is held after school. Band members may earn a representative officer position through work.

### **BAND AWARDS**

Each student who participates in the full band program at Riverdale High School, including Marching and concert activities, will receive a band award at the annual Band Banquet. (An unexcused absence from rehearsal or performance will automatically disqualify the students for band awards.) After the first year of participation, students receive a Band letter. Each subsequent year they may purchase a chevron signifying another year's service. In addition, students meeting these requirements are also eligible for several special awards, selected by directors, staff, or by vote of the band. Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors receive award plaques as do students who participate in either All-Mid-State or All-State. All-County Band participants receive a certificate. Riverdale band students work hard and their dedication should be recognized.

### **STAFF / CHAPERONES**

Anyone on the staff of the Riverdale Band has been selected because they possess skills and qualities that will benefit the band program. They should be considered an extension of the directors! Treat them with the highest level of courtesy and respect.

dents for having zero unexcused absences. Unexcused absences will result in points off grade or possible removal from the band program. Conflicts will be handled on an individual basis.

Regular attendance and punctuality are life skills that will be developed while participating in a well-disciplined instrumental music program. Students who miss part or all of a rehearsal, whether excused or not, may be held out of the following performance at the Directors' discretion. Due to the intensive nature of rehearsals and performances, students missing all or part of a rehearsal may find much has changed from the previous rehearsal and time constraints may not allow for learning and proper rehearsal in the time allotted. Often, absences result in the necessity of an alternate system being employed for the Marching Band, with every student getting the opportunity to perform during the year. Due to extended sickness, moving, injury, and other occurrences, writing the field show for fewer students is a necessity. Alternates march on a rotating basis. When two people are assigned to one marching position they are called alternates. It is important that alternates be present for all rehearsals and performances since they are considered full members of the organization. They travel with the band, rehearse with the band, and serve as field assistants when not marching their position.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Band newsletters and calendars are sent on a regular basis. Please read them and save them for future reference! The band maintains a website at [www.riverdaleband.com](http://www.riverdaleband.com). Check this site for upcoming dates, important reminders, pictures & much more. The directors can be reached at 615-896-0110, or by email; [meersr@rcs.k12.tn.us](mailto:meersr@rcs.k12.tn.us), [aymettm@rcs.k12.tn.us](mailto:aymettm@rcs.k12.tn.us).

## **GENERAL RULES & BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

1. All school rules and county policies, in addition to Band Rules, will be enforced during any band function.
2. Respect the equipment and instruments of others. Do not play an instrument other than your own unless you've obtained permission from a director. Students will be disciplined for destruction of property. Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, during any band function, is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
3. Destructive activities will not be tolerated, whether it is playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns. Deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls, or leaving trash around will subject the student to dismissal from the organization.
4. Check the announcement board daily. You are responsible for all posted announcements, whether announced aloud or not.
5. At any band function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Students are to be in groups of a minimum of 3 persons and to not wander off alone. To leave the site, you must have permission from the director.
6. Shoes and socks must be worn at all rehearsals (No sandals during marching season.)
7. Gum is not permitted in the band room, on the practice field, or in uniform.  
(Violators will clean the band room.)
8. A band member must respect his uniform and instrument at all times.
9. No hats or sunglasses may be worn during inside re-

**Wind Ensemble, Symphonic and Concert Band** — Males; black tuxedo (including pants, jacket, cummerbund, bow tie, black socks and dress shoes). Several mid-state stores provide sales and discounts for purchase of these items. The directors can provide sources for those wishing to purchase a tuxedo. The band does own a limited number of tux jackets for use. Ladies; solid black floor-length dress / gown (no blouse / skirt combinations) and shoes.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private lessons are key to developing outstanding musical skills. Students who study privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. Directors will help you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor.

## **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Student leadership is a very integral part of the Riverdale Band. The band officers are a group of students who serve as advisors and a student staff for the band program. The students are elected each spring. To be eligible for office, candidates must be full participants in the band program, exemplary in attitude, loyalty, and dedication, and willing to give of their personal time for the betterment of the Riverdale Band. Students complete an officer application and may opt to speak on their behalf, or have someone read a prepared statement describing their abilities.

Specific offices include: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Assistant Librarians, and Boy & Girl Junior Representatives. Field commanders may serve as officers. Section leaders make up the remainder of the student leaders.

Section leaders are selected through an application process, followed by written, playing, and leadership tests. Selection is based on musical accomplishment, leadership, command

worn under the uniform. Trousers should be hemmed just long enough to brush the tops of the shoes. The band hat is the only headgear worn with the uniform. Hair longer than shoulder length must be pinned up and worn under the hat.

When worn in public, uniforms should be

- a. worn in its entirety
- b. be completely fastened
- c. hair up under hat and off of collar
- d. with band gloves
- e. hat worn properly
- f. clean and hemmed properly

Students are responsible for having a clean, neat uniform for every performance. **The student must pay for any lost, damaged, or destroyed articles of the uniform.** Uniforms issued to students are to be kept clean and presentable. They are to be stored properly on a hanger at all times.

Uniforms will be kept in the Riverdale Band Room. *Shoes are not to be kept loose in garment bags, but should always be in a shoe bag.*

Guard uniforms are to be worn in the prescribed manner. Guard members must provide the appropriate footwear, garment bag & flag bag.

### REPLACEMENT COST FOR LOST OR DAMAGED UNIFORMS

Ball Cap	\$ 6.00	Gloves	\$ 2.00
Shako	\$ 30.00	Plume	\$ 12.00
Jacket	\$130.00	Pants	\$100.00
Balderic	\$ 30.00		

### CONCERT UNIFORM

To provide a professional and dignified look to all concert performances, students are to provide and wear the following (unless specified otherwise):

hearsals.

10. Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready to begin on time.
11. Respect other people's property.
12. Maintain good grades and productive study habits in other classes.
- 13. A band member must show respect to all adults at all times.**
14. *A band member must show respect to all adults at all times. (It's important enough to mention twice.)*

### EXPECTED BEHAVIORS

1. All band members are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher, staff member, or chaperon. Students are expected to follow the instructions at the time given. If instructions are not clear or questionable, students are expected to seek clarification in the proper time and place (after rehearsal or during a break). Questioning instructions and delaying / disrupting rehearsal is unacceptable. A level of maturity is expected from all band members, which includes refraining from demonstrative displays and other acts of negativity.
2. Any time a critical incident involving the band occurs, notify the directors immediately.
3. Any injury that occurs during a band function should be reported to the directors immediately.
4. Couples—remember this is a band function—not a date! Students are to refrain from displays of affection that go beyond holding hands. Use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection.
5. Always take all parts of your uniform home. Do not leave any of your equipment (uniform or instrument) in the band room.
6. Instruments are to be stored on the instrument shelf or

- taken home for practice.
7. Section leaders—check each person in your section to make sure they have all parts to their uniform and instruments, especially before performances.
  8. Leave your valuables at home—jewelry, etc.
  9. Always wear a shirt under your uniform. (Band shirts on contest days.)
  10. NO earrings of any kind are to be worn when in uniform.
  11. Keep your language clean! You never know who might be listening.
  12. NO SCREAMING OR YELLING!! Each section is responsible for keeping any area used (Instrument Storage Room, section rehearsal area, band room) free from clutter.
  13. Each section will also have a designated clean-up day for the entire band room.
  14. Remember to always cheer for the other bands.
  15. Remember you are a CLASS act. Do not do anything that would have to be explained. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.

### FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

Food and drinks are only allowed in the stands during the band's third quarter break. Only water is allowed while performing. Students will have a break during third quarter. When re-entering the band section, dispose of your food/drink. You are expected to be in the stands and ready to play at the beginning of the fourth quarter, therefore students should be in place before the end of the third quarter.

Students remain in their assigned row when in the stadium. Presenting the image of discipline and pride is always important. The band only plays as a group. Individual and indiscriminate playing in the stands is distracting and unacceptable.

Fox Renard 220  
Fox Symphony 101 (Used)

Selmer Omega

FRENCH HORNS (Professional) FRENCH HORNS (Step-up)

Holton Farkas H-179

Conn 6D

Conn 8D

Reynolds Contempora

King Eroica

Yamaha YHR 664

TRUMPET (Professional)

TROMBONE (Professional)

Bach Stradivarius ML Bore

Bach 42 B

(New or Used)

King 5B

Benge

Holton TR150

King 2000

Conn 88 H (Used)

Schike

Yamaha 6000 series

BASS TROMBONE (Professional)EUPHONIUM  
(Professional)

Bach 50B2

Boosey and Hawkes

(Sovereign)

Yamaha 321-S

TUBA (Professional)

Miraphone S186 4U

Meina Weston 25

### UNIFORMS AND CARE

All band students will be issued a uniform. A garment bag and hat box will also be issued for the proper care and storage of uniform items.

The band uniform identifies an individual as a member of our ensemble, representing our band, school, and community.

**The complete uniform should be worn in public.** This includes: jacket, vest, trousers, baldric sash, black socks and band shoes, and black gloves. The band t-shirt should be

All instruments and related equipment are to have a name-tag.

Students are to not play instruments belonging to other people without permission.

### **RECOMMENDED BRANDS OF INSTRUMENTS**

PICCOLO (Professional)	PICCOLO (Step-up)
Yamaha YPC 62	Yamaha Resonite
Gemeinhardt 4 W	Bundy Resonite
Armstrong 359	Gemeinhardt Resonite
FLUTE (Professional)	FLUTE (Step-up)
Emerson 8	Emerson 6 B
Armstrong Heritage	Armstrong 303B
Gemeinhardt 35	Gemeinhardt 35-H
Armstrong 80	Artley 50B
Artley 108	
Yamaha	
Jupiter 611 SR	
Bb CLARINET (Professional)	Bb CLARINET (Step-up)
Buffet R-13 (New or Used)	Buffet C-12
Leblanc L-300	Evette E-12
Leblanc 1176	Selmer Signet
Selmer 10G or 10S	
Yamaha YR-70	
OBOE (Professional)	OBOE (Step-up)
Loree	Larilee 150 W
Marigaux	
Fox 400	
BASSOON (Professionnel)	SAXOPHONE (Professional)
Schreiber S-54	Selmer Mark VI
Schreiber S-60	Selmer Super Action 80
Fox Renard 222	Yamaha 62

Band members ONLY are to be in the Band section of the stadium.

Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to insure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non- band personnel should wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and speed up dismissal.

### **BAND ROOM PROCEDURES**

The Band Room is the place where much of your time will be spent. It is important that certain policies are observed in order to maintain a desirable environment.

All students are to be inside the Band Room before the tardy bell sounds. At two minutes after the bell, each student is expected to be in his/her seat, with stand, music, and necessary material. There should be silence in the rehearsal hall when the conductor gets to the podium and throughout the rehearsal.

Percussionists should check the board and prepare equipment necessary for the rehearsal and make certain that all parts are assigned and covered. During wind warm up all percussion will participate on mallet instruments unless a part is written for their instrument.

Brass players should have all necessary mutes. All trumpet players should have a straight and cup mute.

Reed players should have at least one spare reed at their seat during rehearsals. Ideally, you should have four to five reeds. Rotate reeds from day to day. Reeds will last longer and the instrument will sound better.

Cases should be left in the storage room or shelves in the re-

hearsal hall during rehearsals. They are unnecessary obstructions in the seating area.

After each class and rehearsal, chairs and stands should be put away to allow the custodian to clean the room in the evening and keep the room neater.

Percussion equipment is to be put away at the conclusion of rehearsals. Small equipment, traps, snare drums, cymbals, etc. should be put in cases (if available) or returned to the appropriate storage area. This will keep non-percussionists from “playing around” and will keep the equipment in better working order. Percussion covers should be on equipment at all times when not in use.

The snack machines are available for your convenience before & after school. Keep the Band Hall clean! Vending machines are not to be used immediately prior to or during the class period

Music should be kept by the student. Instruments should be put on the shelves or in the appropriate room.

Problems of an individual nature (music missing, problems with instruments, etc.) should not take rehearsal time. These issues should be dealt with either before school, after school, or after rehearsal.

Talking during rehearsals should only be done with the director’s permission.

The instrument storage areas of the Band Hall should not be considered secure areas for personal items other than instruments. They should be kept organized. DO NOT leave book bags, money, purses, wallets, fund raising items or other valuables in the Band Hall during rehearsals or during the school

4. On school buses, keep noise to a minimum. No loud screaming, yelling from buses, radios, etc.
5. Do not play your instruments on the bus. This includes drumming.
6. Do not throw anything out of the windows. All body parts must remain inside the bus at all times.
7. Answer roll call for yourself only. Keep the noise level down. Roll will be called by band officers each time we load the bus.
8. Couples—remember this is a band function, not a date.
9. Put trash in garbage bags. On short trips, take trash off the bus when you leave.
10. Be courteous, do what chaperones ask and thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.
11. Do not take the large portable stereo radios on any trip. If you want to listen to the radio or use an entertainment device, you must use headphones at a level that others cannot hear.
12. YOU must put your instrument and equipment in the band room when we return home.
13. Remain seated while bus is moving. Do not kneel, stand or sit facing backwards in the seats. Standing on the seat is unacceptable.
14. Horseplay is unacceptable.

### **INSTRUMENTS AND CARE**

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Periodically check for loose screws, corks, pads, springs, etc. *Ask the director to examine your instrument before having it repaired.*

School-owned instruments will be checked out to students; there is a \$30.00 fee for use of school owned instruments. The student becomes responsible for proper care of the instrument. Any damage beyond normal wear and tear will be repaired at the student’s expense.

leaving.

Students should wear comfortable shoes (low-topped tennis shoes) and socks for marching rehearsals. This is important that the foot and ankle move freely to execute the marching style. A cap and sun block are highly recommended. Students are responsible for bringing their own water / drinks, etc. to the field for breaks. The band makes an effort to have water available at most rehearsals during the fall, but may not always be available. Remember to put your name on water bottles, etc.

### PERFORMANCES

From other areas, and Band members **are expected to be seated** in the band room, or other designated area, **with equipment ready**, at the time designated by the director. **Arrive early**. Leave enough time to get all equipment prepared, and be dressed and ready to warm up or load when so instructed. After any performance, put away equipment properly. **All students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.**

### TRAVEL

#### BUS RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. Buses are loaded in an orderly manner, beginning with the loading crew and officers. No pushing, running or crowding the doors will be tolerated.
2. Buses may be switched only by mutual agreement and clearance with the director well in advance. The bus list will be posted in advance of the trip.
3. When traveling by bus, all students travel to and from any off-campus activity on the bus. There are few exceptions to this rule. Parents should talk to directors if they have a special request. Students will be released only to parents/guardians. Only directors may release students (not chaperons or staff.)

day. The band is not responsible for valuables left in unsecured areas.

Students may use the Band Hall phone with permission.

Band members are not allowed to twirl rifles or flags in the building unless given permission by a director.

Deposit all trash in the wastebaskets, not on the floor or in the instrument storage areas.

### CLASS AND GRADING INFORMATION

Band is a unique course at Riverdale High School. It has curricular requirements just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program. Band is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during or after school, are the means by which students learn. They cannot be reproduced or made-up; therefore, it is imperative that students be present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable.

Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the band program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. *Rehearsals are not optional, and are reflected in the student's daily grade.* Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance helps each student in developing an insight into his or her

own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluative tool allowing for comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives, and with past performances. Absences from performances are excused only in the case of an extreme emergency; serious illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, religious holiday, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director. The band director must approve in advance all absences from performance. If the director cannot be located, please leave a message in advance (896-0110). *An unexcused absence from a performance will result in points off grade and possible removal from the program.*

### **GRADING SCALE**

Students will earn a grade based on their Rehearsal & Performance Participation, including Individual Performance, Classwork & Exams, both instrumental and written. A detailed syllabus with grading information will be passed out in class.

Written & playing tests will be administered periodically throughout the year to check the progress of each student. Tests will cover material discussed in band, & will be averaged into the student's grades.

**IMPORTANT** – Unexcused absences from performances or rehearsal will automatically result in points off grade (including “Failure” and / or possible removal from the program).

Finally, the band directors take their jobs very seriously. The band as an organization provides a medium through which students progress academically, musically, and socially. Superior musicianship, positive attitudes, regular attendance, punctuality, appropriate conduct, and a desire for excellence are expected from each member of the Riverdale Band. Therefore, individual practice and preparation are essential.

Private instruction is encouraged. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants, as does musical performance.

Students will earn a grade based on the following four categories; Performance (Ensemble), Performance (Individual), Rehearsal Techniques, Forms & Written Assignments. A detailed syllabus with grading information will be passed out at the beginning of the school year.

**IMPORTANT** – **Unexcused absences from performances or rehearsal will automatically result in points off grade and / or possible removal from the program.** Students seeking to be excused must turn in the appropriate form AND speak with the directors prior to the date in question. An absence due to illness must have appropriate documentation.

### **CLASS MATERIALS-**

Students are responsible for having all equipment at rehearsals and performances. This includes all reeds, oils, mouthpieces, accessories, mutes, music, miscellaneous materials, and a pencil. Students will be responsible for passing certain musical objectives at given tempos; a metronome is strongly recommended for at-home practice and should be considered a necessary instrumental accessory. Those students who play a reed instrument should have a minimum of 4 reeds at-hand at all times, as this prolongs the life of reeds, provides for ample back-ups, a fundamental of prepared musicians.

### **REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. Students should arrive at all marching band rehearsals “weather-ready” with appropriate clothing. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. The stated rehearsal times are not arrival / departure times, but beginning and ending times. Students should plan to arrive early enough to get all equipment ready as well as put all equipment away prior to