



Rutland High School Bands

2022-2023 Band Handbook

Contact Information

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Welcome to the RHS Band!

Welcome to Band and the 2022-2023 school year! I am excited to be back to making music with our students once again in what will hopefully be a much more “normal” year. We have some exciting things in store for this year, starting with a cookie dough fundraiser in mid-late September to go toward a fun field trip (more on that to come as the school year gets going...). We’ll also be back to our usual four concerts (one each grading period), plus great community events like the Halloween Parade, Loyalty Day Parade, and more. Our music festivals (Districts/All State) are slated to be back to normal this year as well.

Please take a few moments to read through this handbook. You will find a ton of information including how we communicate reminders to students/parents about upcoming events, expectations for class and performance attendance, our performance schedule (located on the last page of this handbook), and much more. I would also like to point out our “statement of understanding” page where students and parents sign off on this handbook and where we are collecting shirt sizes as we will once again be providing our students with RHS Band polo shirts to wear for the bulk of our performances (this page due back by Friday, September 9!).

Band truly is a special group - one where everyone is important. One where everyone contributes. One where we ALL belong. While there is hard work at times, that work pays off when we have those awesome moments in performances and where we make great connections with each other while we work together every single day. Band is about making music, but it is also about humanism. We work as individuals in a group to be better at everything we do. Sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail, but in BAND we know we always have others to help us get up and try again. We are all in this together, every step of the way.

Let’s have a great year and make great music!

~ Mr. Barnett

MUSIC
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wings to the mind
flight to the imagination
AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING

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REMAIN SILENT

- VICTOR HUGO

~PLATO~

Communication

Reminders and updates about Band/Jazz events will be given ahead of each upcoming event. All information will be discussed during class and posted in the Band Room. Other methods of communication will also be utilized as noted below:

❖ REMIND

Remind is a school messaging service that students may opt into via app or text messaging. This has proven to be a very effective way of communicating information very quickly.

- To join Remind, text the code below to 81010. You will be prompted to enter S for student or P for parent. You do NOT need to enter any further information such as a class code (even if prompted).
 - **BAND:** To join the Band Remind, text @band-rhs to 81010
 - **JAZZ:** To join the Jazz Remind, text @rutlandjaz to 81010

❖ SOCIAL MEDIA

The RHS Band has multiple social media accounts that friends and family are encouraged to follow. Reminders, pictures, video clips and other information will be posted on these accounts.

- Facebook: [rutlandbands](#)
- Instagram: [@rutland_bands](#)

❖ WEBSITE

The RHS Band website contains a great deal of information, including the band calendar and information about upcoming events. <http://sites.google.com/site/rutlandband>

❖ EMAIL LIST

Students and parents may also sign up for the RHS Band email list. To sign up for this list, please print your preferred email address(es) on the Statement of Understanding and check the opt in box. Updates are generally sent approximately one week prior to events. Please note that these emails sometimes end up in junk folders due to the use of a mailing list.

Concert Dress

Band Concert Dress

Members of the Band shall wear the following for all performances, unless directed otherwise:

Shirts: School-provided band polo shirt**

Pants: Black bottoms (dress pants, skirt, etc - please no athletic pants or shorts)

Footwear: Black shoes, socks, etc.

An exception to this concert dress is for all parades. All band members must be in costume for the Halloween Parade (within our theme).

Jazz Ensemble Concert Dress

Members of the Jazz Ensemble shall wear the same concert dress as Band for all performances, unless directed otherwise.

**Please note that each RHS Band student will be provided with a polo shirt to wear for performances. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of this shirt for the entire school year and it is helpful if the same shirt can be used in following years, provided it still fits and is in good condition. A single shirt order for the year will be placed in mid September, so please plan sizing accordingly.

School-Owned Instruments

Students may be provided a school-owned instrument to use while participating in the Rutland High School Band. Any student issued an instrument to use is responsible for taking proper care of the instrument and must return a completed instrument check out form before the instrument may leave school grounds. Students are expected to provide any necessary supplies (reeds, etc.) that pertain to that instrument. It is the student's responsibility to care for the instrument while in his/her possession. Any damage will be the student's financial responsibility. School-owned instruments must be returned upon request.

Music

All students will be issued copies of music, books, etc, along with a binder to store it in. These items can be very expensive to replace, especially if an entire binder and its contents is lost. It is the student's responsibility to care for these items. In the case of books/music being lost or destroyed, the student shall reimburse the RHS Music Department for the replacement cost.

Festivals

Students may choose to audition for and participate in various music festivals throughout the school year. Festival opportunities for instrumentalists include:

- Green Mountain Music District Festival (Band and/or Jazz)
 - Auditions held in November with a one day festival in early February for Band and early March for Jazz
- Vermont All State Music Festival (Band or Jazz)
 - Auditions held in January with the three day festival in early May

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students wishing to audition for the All State Music Festival must also audition for the District Music Festival AND be accepted for participation in the same type of District Music Festival ensemble. Students enrolled in Honors Band are required to audition for Districts (and participate if selected).

Honors

Any student enrolled in Band has the option of taking the course for honors credit. Students electing to pursue this option will have several additional assignments/activities to complete beyond the regular Band coursework and many must be completed outside of class time. Please note that the honors option includes festival auditions and other performance requirements.

Honors assignments range from service projects to extra performance requirements (such as auditioning for the District Music Festival) to research papers. These assignments are beyond the regular classwork that every band member completes. Information on Honors assignments will be discussed in class and posted in the Band Honors 2022-2023 Google Classroom. It is expected that students demonstrate responsibility by staying on top of completing these assignments. Few reminders to complete honors work will be given.

All students that are members of the Jazz Ensemble will receive honors credit for that course as well. Assignments (separate from Band Honors) will be included in regular coursework.

Enrollment in the honors option for Band is through Mr. Barnett and must be completed by Friday, September 9. Please see Mr. Barnett for additional information.

Basic Expectations

All rules and policies contained in the RHS Band Handbook, as well as the RHS Student Handbook, are in effect during all Band activities, both during and after school hours, either on-campus or when traveling.

- ❖ Make your best effort to improve yourself and the group every day.
- ❖ Respect each other as well as instruments/equipment/facilities.
- ❖ Be prompt. Remember that being early equals being on time.
- ❖ Be attentive during classes/rehearsals.
- ❖ Belongings should be stowed away either under your seat or otherwise away from the flow of traffic.
- ❖ No food or drink (except water) is allowed in the music area.
- ❖ The use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices, etc. should be limited to band-related tasks (using a tuner app, putting event dates in your calendar, etc). The use of social media apps (Instagram, Snapchat, etc), texting, playing games, or making/receiving phone calls is grounds for confiscation of the device, which will then be turned over to the attendance office. Please use your electronic devices responsibly!

Performance Attendance Expectations

Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Please take note of the performance schedule on the last page of this handbook.

Band and Jazz Ensemble are co-curricular group activities and having members missing is detrimental to the group. Performances are an inherent part of being in a music ensemble and are required for this course. However, there are circumstances in life that sometimes prevent us from meeting all of our obligations. The following policies have been established to develop responsibility in our students as well as consistency to all students in the Rutland High School Band Program.

Excused Absence From A Performance

For times when situations arise with conflicts that are unavoidable, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the Director as soon as possible before the performance (AT LEAST 2 WEEKS, except for emergencies) that he/she will not be able to attend an event. This may be done by notifying the Director in person, by email at brent.barnett@rcpsvt.org, or by calling the Band Office at 802-770-1131. **A note from a parent/guardian is also required.** *No absence will be excused without a note from a parent or guardian.*

Generally, an absence is only excused in the following situations:

- Personal illness (A doctor's note may be required to verify the illness)
- Death in family
- Other school activities (MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE)
- Miscellaneous reasons (Excused at the discretion of the Director)

For any excused absence from a performance, regardless of reason, a make-up assignment will be given. This assignment is an opportunity to make up missed work. If any assigned make-up work is not completed, the absence will be considered unexcused and the student will receive a zero ("missing" in JumpRope) for that performance.

Unexcused Absences From A Performance

An absence from an event will be deemed unexcused for any excuse not listed above. Please note that a job is NOT a valid excuse for missing any performance. A student's first obligation is to his/her schoolwork. Employers

should be notified well in advance of any school obligations. Please do not schedule appointments during band events unless it is an emergency. All non-emergency appointments will be deemed unexcused.

All non-emergency absences must be approved in advance (see “Excused Absences” above).

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student receiving a grade of zero (“missing” in JumpRope) for the performance. An unexcused absence from a performance cannot be made up.

Other School Activities

Students are encouraged to be involved in more than one activity at Rutland High School, although it may require extra time and compromise (compromise does not imply that every time there is a conflict you will miss band, a graded co-curricular activity). Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. The Director will work together with teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups.

Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, and student jobs must not conflict in any way with the performance schedule of the band.

Grading/Evaluation

Band students enrolled in Band and Jazz Ensemble are evaluated and graded each term throughout the school year. All students, regardless of their playing ability, have an equal opportunity to earn a successful grade if they follow the policies of the program, participate in the group, and make an effort to improve themselves as musicians.

Students will be graded through the use of proficiency based grading (also referred to as “standards referenced grading”). Standards are the expectations of what you will learn during this course. In this course students will be expected to learn and be graded on the following overarching standards:

- Technique
 - By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate a knowledge of musical notation and technical mastery of their instrument through performance.
- Ensemble Skills
 - By the end of the course, the student will be able to set goals for improvement and work as members of a group to create successful ensemble performances.
- Performance Critique
 - By the end of the course, the student will be able to apply musical knowledge to analyze and critique music performances.
- Making Connections (Honors)
 - By the end of the course, the student will be able to make connections between music performance knowledge and experiences and external content and/or historical/current events.

Grades will be determined by the degree to which you demonstrate proficiency in these areas. Your assessments will be tied to a course standard or standards and you can demonstrate your level of proficiency through successful completion of the assessments. On each assessment, you will receive a score of 0-4.

General Description of Proficiency Based Grading Scores

4	3	2	1.5	1	0
Exceeds the standard: The student demonstrates in-depth inferences and applications of the learning which go beyond what was taught.	Meets the standard: The student has demonstrated the skill and/or content expected.	Approaching the standard: The student is able to perform the basic processes and understands the vocabulary which are prerequisites to meeting the standard.	<i>A score of 1.5 is required to earn credit for this course.</i> <i>Partial success at 2.0 content, and major errors regarding score 3.0 content</i>	Partial success: With help, the student is partially successful in performing the prerequisite skills or meeting the standard.	No evidence: There is little or no evidence that the student has met the standard.

**Please note that a score of 3 is a very good rating and shows that the student has met the standard.*

Grade calculation: Your grade for each standard will be determined through the use of “Weighted Average.” This method places a greater weight on the most recent assessments. Some assignments may be weighted more heavily than others (For example, performances will receive a greater weight than all other assignments). This will be included in your progress report in Jump Rope.

Assessments will fall into two categories. Formative assessments are used formally and informally during the learning process by teachers to improve instruction, make adjustments, and give ongoing feedback. Students can then use this feedback to identify learning strengths and weaknesses in order to become more self-directed learners. These assessments are not necessarily graded. Summative assessments are evaluations of learning given at the end of an instructional unit and identify the degree to which the student is proficient in an established course standard or standards.

Performances: As stated in the Performance Attendance Expectations above, performances are a mandatory part of Band and Jazz Ensemble. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student receiving a grade of zero for the performance. Please note that performances are more heavily weighted than all other assignments, meaning they count more heavily toward an overall grade than other assignments.

Habits of Work: You will also receive a Habits of Work grade for this class, which will also appear on your final transcript. Like your final grade in the class, this grade will appear on your final transcript. The Habits of Work standard is related to the areas of responsibility, collaboration, and perseverance.

****You are responsible to check on your grade and your progress toward meeting proficiency in each standard. Check your JumpRope account frequently and come to me with any questions.**

2022-2023 Rutland High School Band

Statement of Understanding

I have read the Rutland High School Band Handbook, and understand the information, rules, and policies contained therein, including the attendance and grading policies. I also understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of the RHS Band Program.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As a parent/guardian of an RHS Band Member, I have read the RHS Band Handbook, and have discussed its contents with my child, including the attendance and grading policies. I understand the rules, policies, obligations, and responsibilities of my son/daughter's membership in the RHS Band Program.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email _____

☐

YES! I would like to receive band updates and event reminders via email. You will only be signed up for the RHS Band email list if you check this box.

PLEASE: If you wish to subscribe to our email list, please print your email address clearly above.

BAND POLO SHIRT (for students)

All RHS Band members will be provided with a polo shirt to wear for performances. Shirts are adult unisex sizes. Please plan for a size that will likely fit for the entire school year.

My shirt size is (circle one):

Small

Medium

Large

XL

2XL

3XL

Other: _____



COMPLETE & RETURN THIS FORM BY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022



2022-2023 RHS Band/Jazz Performance Schedule

BAND

Date	Event	Time	Location	Report Time
Wednesday, October 26	Fall Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:45 pm
Saturday, October 29	Halloween Parade	6:30 pm	Downtown Rutland	TBA
Monday, December 19	Winter Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:45 pm
Monday, March 13	MIOSM Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:45 pm
Sunday, May 7	Loyalty Day Parade	2:00 pm	Downtown Rutland	TBA
Monday, May 22	Spring Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:45 pm
Monday, May 29	Rutland City Memorial Day Ceremony	11:00 am	West Street Cemetery	10:30 am
June, TBA	Graduation	6:00 pm	Spartan Arena	5:00 pm

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

****NOTE:** Other events will likely be added to the Jazz calendar. Advanced notice will be given.

Date	Event	Time	Location	Report Time
Wednesday, October 26	Fall Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:30 pm
Thursday, January 26	Jazz Night	7:00 pm	RHS Theater	6:45 pm
Monday, March 13	MIOSM Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:30 pm
Monday, May 22	Spring Band Concert	7:00 pm	RHS Gym	6:45 pm
June, TBA	Alumni Jazz Night	6:30 pm	TBA	6:00 pm
June, TBA	Discover Jazz Festival	TBA	Burlington	TBA (All day)

FESTIVALS

Date	Event	Location
Monday, November 14	District Auditions	Proctor HS
Saturday, January 14	All State Auditions	Hartford HS
Friday, February 10 <i>Snow date: February 11</i>	District Festival (Band)	Mt Anthony UHS
Friday, March 3 <i>Snow date: March 4</i>	District Festival (Jazz)	Vergennes UHS
May 11-13	All State Music Festival	BFA - St. Albans

