

ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS HANDBOOK



4303 South Providence Road • Columbia, MO 65203
Performing Arts Office Phone Number: 573-214-3156
Band Office FAX: 573-214-3152
Band Web Page: www.rockbridgebands.com
Band Twitter: [@RBHSbruinband](https://twitter.com/RBHSbruinband)
Band Facebook Group: [Rock Bridge Bands](https://www.facebook.com/RockBridgeBands)

Mr. Patrick Sullivan, *Director of Bands*
E-mail: psullivan@cpsk12.org

Mr. Cooper Smith, *Associate Director of Bands*
E-mail: csmith@cpsk12.org

Wind Symphony
Symphonic Band
Concert Band
Emerald Regiment
Green & Gold Band
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz Band
Jazz Combos
Color Guard
Drumline
Chamber Wind & Percussion Ensembles

RBHS Band Staff, Student Leaders, and Band Booster Executive Board

Staff

| | |
|---|--|
| Director of Bands | Mr. Patrick Sullivan 573-808-6441 (cell) |
| Associate Director of Bands | Mr. Cooper Smith |
| Performing Arts Department Secretary | Mrs. Cara Carter 573-214-3156 (office) |
| Drill/Visual Tech Instructor | Mr. Jeff White |
| Front Ensemble Instructor | Mr. Darren Long |
| Marching Percussion Instructor | Mr. Mac McPike |
| Color Guard Instructor | Ms. Sydney Forck |
| Marching/Music Instructor | TBD |
| Marching Show Design/Drill Writer | Mr. Ryan Springler |
| Music Writer | Mr. Craig Fitzpatrick |
| Color Guard Choreographer | Mr. Brian Dutton (Kansas City) |

Drum Majors Alexis Doebelin, Yasmine Green, Ruby Hord, Jillian Lybeck-Brown

Field Commanders

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Woodwind | Kirsten Baines | Brass | Nahian Ilham |
| Woodwind | Erica Mallott | Brass | Luke Mingus |
| Woodwind | Ainsley McCray | Brass | Kara Morgan |
| Woodwind | Sophie Wenzel | Brass | Lucy Baker |
| Woodwind | Lainey Sonnenberg | Brass | Joseph Sanders |
| | | Brass | Maia Trotter |
| | | Brass | Nik Loyd |
| | | Brass | Tiger Li |
| | | Brass | Ian Loyd |

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Front Ensemble | Brayden Boone |
| Front Ensemble | Ajay Tosh |
| Batterie | Colette Miller |
| Batterie | Andrew Wilbur |
| Color Guard | Burkley Crist |
| Color Guard | Sarah Knowles |

Bruin Band Booster Executive Board

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Co-President | Leslie Mallott |
| Co-President | Jonathan Mallott |
| Vice President | Jennifer Rice |
| Treasurer | Adrienne Doebelin |
| Secretary | Jamie Morgan |

WELCOME/MEMBERSHIP/A PROPER ATTITUDE

A. Welcome

You are now a member of the Rock Bridge High School Band program, which ranks as one of the finest in the state with close to 200 students participating. Over the past several years, the Emerald Regiment has placed very well in marching competitions with some grand champion selections at the University of Missouri Marching Competition and Lafayette Contest of Champions marching festivals. In the Spring of 2008, the band traveled to Hawaii bringing home awards for concert, jazz, marching, indoor percussion, and color guard. The band returned to Hawaii once again in March, 2013 returning with many of those same accolades. In spring 2011 and 2015, the bands traveled to Orlando, Florida to perform at Disney World and at a nationally sponsored music festival. The concert bands do extremely well at District Festival with the Wind Ensemble consistently receiving the highest possible ratings from judges. The jazz program is outstanding and receives many first place recognitions at competitions throughout the state. Columbia Public Schools Jazz Night has gained much recognition throughout the community over the past four years bringing in great artists such as Mic Gillette, Plas Johnson, Bill Watrous, Roger Ingram, Pete Christleib, Mike Vax, Tom Garling, and Matt Harris to perform with our students. In January 2010, the Wind Ensemble performed at the Missouri Music Educators Association State Conference receiving a 90 second standing ovation from directors throughout the state. In January 2013, the Jazz Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2013 Missouri Music Educators Association State Conference. Also in the spring of 2013, the Jazz Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2013 Jazz Education Network Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2015, the Wind Ensemble was again selected to perform at the 2015 Missouri Music Educators Association State Conference. Rock Bridge Bands have performed in three of the past seven MMEA State Conferences-what an honor that very few bands in the state have received! All of these offerings and accomplishments are evidence of the outstanding music students that are a part of the Rock Bridge Band Program. The Emerald Regiment marching band has traveled to Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Illinois. In 2019 the Wind Symphony traveled to Dallas, Texas for the Big D Classic festival. In the spring of 2022, the Wind Symphony will perform at the invitation-only Bands of America festival hosted by UMKC in Kansas City, Missouri.

Please take time to read this handbook from beginning to end. This band handbook has been written to explain the program's various policies, regulations, and expectations.

All members and parents should keep this manual and read it carefully in its entirety from time to time to avoid any conflicts or misunderstanding of the information stated herein.

B. Membership

Membership in the band program is open to all Rock Bridge High School students with previous band experience (NO prior experience required for members of the Color Guard). Placements in the upper level concert bands, jazz bands and color guard are determined by an audition.

Participation is a full year involvement. Once the school year begins, schedule changes out of the band program are rarely considered. Should a conflict between band/guard, another school activity, sport, or community activity develop, you need to schedule an immediate conference with the band director. Let the director help you to resolve the conflict so that you are not caught in an awkward situation. The sooner you notify the director of a potential conflict, the easier it is to make accommodations and/or find a solution.

A.

C. A Proper Attitude

To be great at anything you must have a positive attitude. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive and you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. Those who take pride in themselves will usually project a positive attitude. 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 whatever is necessary to be successful. In short, the total band member is someone who always gives his or her best effort for the good of the organization.

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

A. Wind Symphony

The Wind Ensemble is a select concert organization comprised of advanced wind and percussion instrumentalists whose desire is to perform collegiate level band literature in a smaller chamber setting. The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge, skill and aesthetic development through applied performance experiences of high quality band literature. This ensemble generally performs IV-VI grade level literature. Placement Assessments for the Wind Symphony take place in April/May. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations in the bands. Each Wind Symphony student must agree to attend all before and after-school rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and festivals. If a band member cannot make the additional commitment, then possibly Symphonic Band might be a better choice because the need for extra time is not as intense. Private lessons, solo/chamber experiences, and honor ensemble auditions are very strongly encouraged.

B. Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a select concert organization comprised of intermediate to advanced wind and percussion instrumentalists. The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge, skill and aesthetic development through applied performance experiences of high quality band literature. The Symphonic Band generally performs II-IV grade level literature which will include original works for concert band as well as arrangements or transcriptions for concert band composed by some of the finest composers of band literature. Placement Assessments for the Symphonic Band take place in April/May. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations in the bands. The student agrees to attend all before and after-school rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and festivals. Private lessons, solo/chamber experiences, and honor ensemble auditions are very strongly encouraged.

B.

C. Concert Band

The Concert Band is a concert organization comprised of intermediate wind and percussion instrumentalists. The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge, skill and aesthetic development through applied performance experiences of high quality band literature. The Concert Band generally performs II-III grade level literature which will include original works for concert band as well as arrangements or transcriptions for concert band composed by some of the finest composers of band literature. Membership into the Concert Band does not require a

Placement Assessment. However, students not placed in the Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band through the placement assessment taking place in April/May, will automatically be placed in Concert Band. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations in the bands. The student agrees to attend all before and after-school rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and festivals. Private lessons, solo/chamber experiences, and honor ensemble auditions are very strongly encouraged.

D. Emerald Regiment and Green & Gold Band (marching bands)

The **Emerald Regiment** is a competitive musical & visual marching unit organized during the fall semester for the duration of the football season. The color guard plays a major role in the Emerald Regiment adding visual interpretation to the music.

The Emerald Regiment members are made up of students from any of our 3 concert ensembles plus some volunteer color guard members. Those in the competitive marching band must attend all home football games, civic/school parades, Friday or Saturday competitions, before and after school rehearsals, and a two week band camp prior to the start of school. Please be aware if a student misses a week or more of band camp, he/she is NOT guaranteed their own spot/dot in the show. Please be aware that all new marchers (someone that did not march the previous year) are NOT guaranteed their own spot/dot in the show. Getting your own spot as a new marcher will depend on the ability to display proper basic marching techniques and/or the instrumentation make-up of the ensemble.

Summer rehearsals are mandatory. We ask that families plan carefully around our summer rehearsals. If there are major conflicts with our summer schedule, that could jeopardize a student's place in our field show.

Once school starts, the Emerald Regiment (competitive marching band) rehearses Monday through Friday morning beginning at 7:00 a.m. Percussion and color guard members have additional regularly scheduled rehearsals after school or in the evening. The full band will have one evening rehearsal a week. We will also have some Saturday rehearsals in early fall.

The **Green & Gold Band** (non-competitive marching band made up from any student in a concert ensemble not already in Emerald Regiment) attends all home football games (participating in Pre-game and stand tunes), and school/civic parades. Students wanting to participate in the Green and Gold band can commit to the ensemble within the first two weeks of school. There will be some before and after school rehearsals to learn the music and simple drill to be a part of the performance. These students typically start performing the 2nd home game of the year.

The Emerald Regiment and Green & Gold Band combine to provide entertainment at home football games, school assemblies and events throughout the season. By the end of fall marching, all band students will have performed before thousands of spectators at numerous football games, parades, pep rallies, and competitive marching festivals.

E. Jazz Ensemble/Jazz Band

There are two Jazz Ensembles that are grouped by ability level. Auditions are held in May prior to the upcoming year. Members of the Jazz Ensemble must also be enrolled in Music 8340 – Band unless exempted by the director of bands (ex: A guitarist who does not play a concert instrument is not required to be enrolled in band). Multiple performances at jazz festivals and community events provide a large degree of public exposure for the band program. Students should enroll for Music

8343 – Jazz Band. Following the audition, students will be placed in the respective course with the guidance office (Jazz Band or Jazz Ensemble) by the band director. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations in the bands. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.

F. Jazz Combos

The Rock Bridge jazz program has always offered jazz combos as an extension of those students enrolled in Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band. These combos perform for school and community events as well at festivals/competitions. This year, the combos will begin rehearsing outside of jazz class time and be coached by the new Gentry band director, Mr. Nenaber.

G. Color Guard

Auditions for the Color Guard are held in the spring semester prior to the upcoming season. If color guard members are also instrumentalists should sign up for course number 8340 – Concert Band. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations in the bands. All color guard activities will be held outside of the school day. There will be performing opportunities that extend past the fall into the winter. Our winter guard will take shape late fall and early winter with performances and festivals in the spring.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is vitally important! Scheduled rehearsals and performances ARE NOT optional. ALL members of the band program are viewed as a total unit, and anytime you are absent it diminishes the result obtained by all other members. Every member of the band is important, and you are no less important than a soloist or a section leader.

Students need to arrange their work schedule to accommodate band performances. Missing for work is never excused. Any student who finds that work interferes with attendance may be excluded from remaining activities at the discretion of the director and won't be awarded earned points towards his/her grade. Field Commanders and those in leadership positions may be removed from their position for missing a band/guard event due to work.

Family trips or foreseeable conflicts are not excused absences unless the director is informed **well in advance**. A few days before or even two weeks prior (especially if a student/parent has known about the conflict) is not considered an excused absence. This is why the calendar is made well in advance and any changes in dates and times will be given in the newsletter or through an email.

Changes in the calendar do happen and it is the ultimate responsibility of the student to clear all potential conflicts. Communication is the key. In case of emergency absence, contact the Band Directors by phone or e-mail - they are the **ONLY** people who may excuse an absence. If no one answers, leave a message.

C. Excused & Unexcused Performance Absences

Since all band performances are considered co-curricular, only illness and extreme family emergencies are excused. **Excused is defined as permitted to make up the missed points by performing for the director within two weeks of the absence.** Students do not earn points for performances and/or rehearsals just because they notified the director in advance. **The points MUST be made up.** The directors do work with band students that participate in Rock Bridge

athletics. Sometimes there are conflicts with the band and sports schedules. When that happens, it is the responsibility of the student to let the directors know far in advance of a conflict. The directors may sit down with coaches/parents to find a solution. Attendance at band performances and rehearsals should never be based on convenience. **Band is a class and is viewed as curricular.**

D. Excused & Unexcused Rehearsal Absences

When a student is absent from a rehearsal (during the school day or at 7 a.m. during marching season), and that absence is designated as *unexcused* by the main office, his/her grade will be lowered according to the Band Grading Policy. A student is only excused from rehearsal participation points if they are excused through the RBHS Main Office. If a student's absence is classified as *verified* by the RBHS main office then rehearsal points will not be earned until the student makes up the time before or after school. Missing scheduled before or after school rehearsals without first being excused may result in the lowering of a grade according to the "Grading Policy" (see below). Under no circumstance will the points lost due to an unexcused absence be allowed to be made up.

E. Rock Bridge Athletes and Band

During the marching season, the directors will work with fall athletes that play Rock Bridge athletics. They will work with Rock Bridge fall athletes if the following criteria are met:

- ✓ They notify the directors PRIOR to the drill writer receiving the following year's numbers and instrumentation that they will be playing sports.
- ✓ They understand that the assignment of "alternate" could be given and they might not receive a permanent spot in the show.
- ✓ They do everything possible to make home football games and Saturday competitions. When there is no way they can make prelims or finals at competitions, they will notify the directors far in advance of any conflict. Parents and students will do everything reasonably possible to make home football games and competitions.
- ✓ They agree to make up lost time in special sectionals, if needed, because they are unable to attend the regularly scheduled after school rehearsals because of games/practices.

F. Tardies

Students are expected to be on time for all rehearsals before, during or after school. On time means your instrument is out and you are ready to rehearse at the scheduled time. If a student knows he/she will be late, they must make every effort to notify the director (the further in advance, the better). Oversleeping, car problems, missed rides, etc. will be considered tardy.

GRADING POLICY

Grading in all the band classes places an emphasis on PERFORMANCE as well as ACCOUNTABILITY. Grades will be reflective of a student's ability to demonstrate a mastery of the objectives in the curriculum rather than just mere participation in rehearsals and performances.

10% - Workplace Readiness (fully participating in band)

90% - Evidence of Learning (Ensemble Skills, Playing Quizzes, Performances, etc.)

- Daily Participation during concert and jazz band (Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Jazz Ensemble) take into account the following considerations:
 - ✓ Seated with instrument, music, and pencil
 - ✓ NO TALKING
 - ✓ Proper seating posture and position
 - ✓ Proper holding position of the instrument
 - ✓ Students should have their music and instrument(s) ready when the director gives the downbeat. Percussionists will need to begin getting their instrument(s) set up prior to wind players in order to be ready for the downbeat.
 - ✓ Respect for the podium and displaying a willingness to work diligently. No unnecessary items (IPOD, gum, food, beverage, cell phone, hats, etc.) disrupting a rehearsal. Respect for the podium is an international standard of courtesy among musicians--once the conductor steps on the podium or addresses the ensemble, all playing and talking ceases, and the attention of the entire group is focused on the conductor.
- Daily Participation during marching season takes into account the following considerations:
 - ✓ Present with instrument(s), music, flip folder, lyre, up to date coordinate book, socks tennis shoes, and a pencil
 - ✓ NO TALKING ON THE FIELD
 - ✓ Outstanding effort from the beginning of rehearsal to dismissal
 - ✓ Outstanding marching technique displayed throughout the rehearsal
 - ✓ All music should be memorized

Playing Quizzes/Spot Checks will be given on any musical excerpt from assigned music, including scales, arpeggios, rhythm studies, or other assigned literature. Weekly Playing Quizzes for the non-competitive marchers will either be given during class or assigned as homework. **Also, any kind of playing or written quiz related in any way to a performance CANNOT be taken or made up once that performance has taken place.**

- Performances and After-School Rehearsals--If a student is present and always performing at their best then this is the easiest part of earning a good grade. However, in the past, we have had some problems with students NOT at their best for performances. Here is a breakdown by percentages on how a student earns points for a performance:
 - ✓ 50% of their performance grade is just showing up
 - ✓ 30% of their performance grade is putting forth an outstanding effort at all times

- ✓ 20% of their performance grade is ready to perform WITH ALL INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC, and EQUIPMENT NEEDED at the specified call time or downbeat. A tardy may be excused by the director ahead of time.

Points are deducted for unexcused absences as outlined in the prior section titled "Attendance." Students will be expected to attend all scheduled after-school rehearsals/sectionals. The guard and drumline will be putting in two days a week and several additional after school hours to rehearse during the marching season. It will be expected that the wind players attend one after school sectional each week. That time will be set up over band camp so students can plan accordingly. Rock Bridge fall sport athletes may have practices and/or events that conflict with after school rehearsals and/or performances. The directors will work with those athletes as long as they know in the spring before the previous school year of an absence and they are titled as an "alternate" for the competitive field band. Again, communication is the key.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE **PROCEDURES/ETIQUETTE**

A. Marching Band Rehearsals (fall season)

The competitive marching band rehearsals begin at 7:00 a.m. every school morning during marching season (August through October). Students must be on the field in their attendance block at 7:00 a.m. sharp. Some rehearsals will be held in the band room instead of the field and this is at the discretion of the directors (often contingent upon the weather). Students should check the board upon entering the band room each morning for rehearsal information.

ALL band members (competitive and non-competitive) must be prepared for rehearsals. By following the guidelines below, students can contribute to a successful marching rehearsal:

- Wear tennis shoes and socks. Sandals, flip-flops, high top tennis shoes, open-toe shoes are not conducive to correct marching. Be prepared to march on a wet field.
- Always have your up to date drill book/coordinates in your possession.
- Always have music and a flip folder available, even if the music is memorized.
- Always have a pencil to make corrections and notes.
- Be prepared for every morning rehearsal by getting plenty of rest the night before.
- Always have extra reeds and other accessories necessary to perform.
- Come to rehearsal ready to work.

B. Home Football Games

Call time for football games is 5:15 p.m. The following procedure will be followed every time:

- 5:15 p.m. Uniform room opens and students can check out uniforms.
Get dressed in uniform, and be prepared to change in the room (wear boxers and t-shirts to change in the open or you may use the restrooms at the end of the hallway)
Put street clothes in your uniform bag and return to the band mom to place in the uniform closet. Get your instrument out and be ready to play at 6:15
- 6:00 p.m. Begin warm-up and announcements.
- 6:20 p.m. Line up outside the band room for the march to the stadium.
- 6:50 p.m. Pre-Game on the field
- 7:00 p.m. Football game begins

Responsibilities Of The Band/Guard While In The Football Stadium

- The band/guard wears their marching uniform. The band usually enters the stadium about 20 minutes before game time.
- Band members sit only in assigned seats within your section. No moving from seat to seat.
- Band does not eat in the stadium.
- ONLY band members sit in the band section.
- Students may be excused for the restroom by the Band Director or Drum Major during the third quarter only. Other emergencies must be excused by the director--a parent must accompany.
- Do not play another person's instrument.
- No group or clique cheering--cheer only with the cheerleaders. Band members should also avoid jumping as the team scores a touchdown. We appreciate the enthusiasm, but instruments may be damaged in the process.
- No playing by individual members--we only play as an ensemble. Section "charges and cheers" (approved by the director) are encouraged.
- All eyes shall focus on the Drum Major or Band Director when they stand in front of the band. You never know when we will play! This is necessary for the disbursement of information as well.
- Having third quarter off is always at the discretion of the Director. Third quarter off is a privilege – not a right. Don't do anything that would warrant this privilege taken away.
- Band is dismissed after post-game by the Director only.
- Take care of your uniforms and treat them with respect. Once back in the band room after the game, students will check their uniforms into the band moms and change back into their street clothes. No school uniforms go home. The band moms will inspect the uniform to see that it is properly hung up in the bag and will replace it in the uniform room. Treat band moms with respect and do as requested about uniform care.
- No student may leave until dismissal.
- Band members MUST have their music in flip folders.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES WHILE TRAVELING

Members of the Rock Bridge Band and Guard are expected to be ladies and gentlemen at all times (whether on campus or traveling) and will be subject to school administrative discipline. **ALL SCHOOL RULES ARE IN EFFECT WHEN TRAVELING.** We are representatives of our school, community, state, and nation, and we display PRIDE in membership and respect for others at all times! We are in essence a family, and if you have nothing positive to say about a member of our family (whether on campus or traveling), your responsibility is to say NOTHING about that member! We support each other, at all times!

Some rules and procedures to remember when traveling:

- All school rules apply when traveling.
- Students are expected to behave at all times while in a hotel situation. Anyone deemed guilty of gross misbehavior will be dealt with by the Director, and may be sent home. It is the parent's responsibility to pick up misbehaving students.
- Band members are not permitted in any other rooms after hours on away trips. No unauthorized persons will be allowed to visit.
- Parents and students will be held responsible for any property damage and lost room keys.
- Absolutely no guys in girl's room and no girls in guy's room. Students will be sent home that do not follow this important rule.
- No student may drive to a sanctioned music event. Only a parent or their designee may drive a student to or from an event and a *Petition To Transport Student form* must be filled out in advance and signed by an administrator. No student may ride with another parent unless his or her own parent has given written consent prior to the event on the *Petition To Transport Student form*. All alternative forms of transportation to and from an event must be approved by the director.
- All luggage, instruments, and carry-on bags must be clearly marked with the student's name and address.
- Students are to be courteous and respectful to the driver at all times.
- Bus lists will be posted prior to each trip. Students may NOT switch buses unless the director grants permission to do so.
- Students may be taken home after a performance by a parent. Prior to the event, the parent should provide written documentation of their intent to drive their student home. This should also include the location where they will be picking their student up.
- In accordance with school policies, students are not to consume alcohol, use tobacco or illegal drugs at any time. Bottom line – if it is against school policy at school then it is against school policy off campus. Band and guard members may also lose their positions of leadership and privilege to participate on any future trips or performances.
- Any student's luggage could be subject for search prior to or during any type of band trip.
- Students are to keep buses clean and free of trash.
- Follow all instructions of the Director and Chaperones at all times. If you do not understand--ASK!

Remember: Young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As Rock Bridge Band and Guard members, you reflect not only the values you learn at RB, but those of your community as well. Band and Guard members are expected to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment--ready to go!!!

MEDICAL/PHYSICAL INFORMATION

In order to participate in the band program, all students are required to complete and return a medical information form. Students involved with Emerald Regiment are required to submit a physician's report form. These forms provided information about the student's health status, current prescription drug requirements, insurance, contact information, and physician's clearance to participate. The director of bands carries these forms to all out of school events and will also be used if illness or an accident occurs on campus. These forms must be notarized, and contain a "Consent to Treat" clause that gives to the director of bands or his designee permission to consent to medical treatment if that student was in need of emergency treatment. Students who do not complete the notarized Medical/Physical Information Forms will not be allowed to travel with the band or participate in any activities.

CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the RB Band program. These activities provide valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never "live or die" by any one judge's or panel's opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort of the day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the amount of time, work and discipline required to produce outstanding performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, cold, long bus rides, disappointments, tears, success and joy. It is hard to believe but all of these experiences are rewarding and the parts of the band that will never be forgotten.

The band image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based on our appearance, our actions and our projection of pride. It is the responsibility of each band and guard member to ensure that we present the best possible image at all times.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are the single most important factor in developing an outstanding band program.

Students who study their instrument(s) privately, with a professional, show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve and become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. Private lessons are the key to excellence on your chosen instrument(s), so start as soon as possible!

Students who study privately greatly increase their chances of being selected for one of the All-State Organizations. These auditions are highly competitive, and open to band students through the state of Missouri. We are fortunate to have a major university in Columbia as well as many other highly qualified private instructors. Please feel free to ask the directors for recommendations. These sources are by no means comprehensive, just some ideas for each family to begin the selection process.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Practice Rooms

Several practice rooms are available for student use in the music department. Practice rooms are only to be used for music rehearsal and not for study, sleeping, or “hanging out.” No food or drink (except water) is allowed in the practice rooms and students are expected to keep the rooms clean, orderly, and free of trash. Only approved instruments are stored in practice rooms (such as tubas, drum sets, and marching percussion). All student instruments must be stored in instrument lockers. Abuse of practice rooms could result in a student losing this privilege.

Rock Bridge Practice Room Responsibilities

- Any performing arts student is required to help monitor and enforce these responsibilities.
- Practice rooms are only available when Mr. Pierson, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Spaeth, or Ms. Schmidt are present.
- Any Performing Arts Faculty has the right to deny your freedom to access a practice room.
- Performing Arts classes needing space take priority of the use of any practice room.
- If you are not enrolled in a performing arts course, you must have permission to use a practice room from a Performing Arts Teacher.
- Practice rooms are to be used for practice, please no “Hanging out.”
- Absolutely NO FOOD OR DRINK IN PRACTICE ROOMS. Only water in a sealed water bottle is allowed. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Only percussionists have permission to play any percussion instrument.
- Percussionists:
 - All sticks and mallets are to be locked in the percussion closet and not left in practice rooms.
 - All instrument covers should be placed on instruments properly.
 - Instruments should be placed in the correct room as the picture shows.

Failure to follow these RESPONSIBILITIES could result in loss
of FREEDOM to use the practice room

B. Uniform Policies and Procedures

A marching band uniform is provided for members of the band. The marching band uniform will be assigned during band camp. Students check out the uniform from the uniform closet prior to marching band performances and return it after the performance. Uniforms never go home with students. Band moms will clean the uniforms periodically during the season and again at the completion of the marching season. Students are financially responsible for all parts of the uniform and are to keep their uniform clean and neat. They should notify a band mom if their uniform needs repair or alteration. Students NEVER eat or drink while in uniform except for water.

For the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band, tuxedo jackets, black pants and bow ties are provided for the gentlemen to wear. All males must provide their own black dress shoes, black socks and white tuxedo shirt (studs and cufflinks are optional). Black dresses are provided for all Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band ladies. The ladies should wear black flats and never heels. Jackets, bow ties, and dresses are checked out prior to concert band performances and they NEVER go home. Always return them to the band parents after a performance.

Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band members must purchase their own black pants, black shoes and socks, and a black long sleeve dress shirt.

C. Instrument Usage Policies

Some instruments are available for student use, including marching percussion instruments, sousaphones, bell-front marching brass, large saxophones, oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, piccolos, and pianos. All students must keep their lockers locked, especially those using school instruments. Please be responsible and respectful with school instruments at all times. Students using school-owned instruments will be responsible for any charges incurred for repair of that instrument and must fill out a check-out form prior to usage.

D. Personal Instrument Storage And Identification

Lockers are available for students to store their personal instruments. All instruments must have a nametag on them, which clearly states the student's name and address. No instrument may be stored without proper identification. Upon assignment of a locker, a record will be made of each student's instrument serial number for identification and security purposes. All students must keep their lockers locked. Any student who fails to lock their locker on a consistent basis is subject to a loss of locker privileges. Any combination locks placed on school lockers that have not been cleared with the directors is subject to removal.

E. Band Staff

Paid professionals, technical assistants, and guest artists are a vital part of the band program. Without their help the Rock Bridge bands would not be able to maintain such high standards. Students and parents should give these staff members the same respect they would give any member of the RBHS faculty. Any problems should be brought directly to the Directors and do NOT confront a staff member directly.

F. Treat Everyone With Respect

No intimidating of others or hazing of "rookies" or any other member of the band program will be tolerated. Students will be disciplined according to school policy and could lose the privilege of participating in the band program. Treat others like you would want to be treated.

G. Classroom Procedures

- All students are to be in the band room before the tardy bell sounds. At four minutes past the bell, each student is to be seated in the proper place, with instrument, stand, music, pencil, and any other equipment item necessary for rehearsal (altered during marching rehearsals). There will be silence in the rehearsal hall when the Director steps onto the podium. Percussionists may need to start setting up equipment before the first tardy bell rings so they will be ready to warm-up with the band. If a student is unable to set up due to a scheduling conflict, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with a director so a solution can be found.
- Warm-up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. It is when we focus on the fundamentals of our playing so that we may improve both as a group and as individuals.
- Brass players should have all necessary mutes and valve oil by their side. Reed players should always have at least four spare reeds at their seat during each rehearsal (and performance).

Ideally you should have four to five “good reeds” that you rotate from day to day, and a reed guard for proper storage.

- Percussionists should always have the appropriate sticks, mallets, your music, and pencil for each rehearsal.
- Cases should be left in the storage cabinets or around the walls of the rehearsal room. They are unnecessary obstructions in the rehearsal area. All chairs and stands will be put away at the end of each and every day!
- Everyone should have a pencil for ALL rehearsals.
- Percussion equipment is to be put away at the end of each rehearsal, and properly cased or covered. Sticks and mallets should be put away as well.
- Problems of an individual nature (missing music, instrument problem, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with before school, after school, or as a last resort, just before class.
- Keep cell phones off during class / rehearsal. Being on the phone by either talking or texting will result in the phone being taken away.
- There is NO talking during a rehearsal. When the Director is on the podium, you must give him/her your undivided attention. You may raise your hand with questions or to be recognized.
- Chewing gum is NOT permitted during any rehearsal or performance situation (percussionists too).
- No food or beverages (only bottled water) is permitted in the music department. This rule will be strongly enforced.
- Public display of affection is not allowed while on “band time.”

VOLUNTARY PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

A. All-District Band & All-State Band

Exceptional musicians have the opportunity to audition for All-District Band and All-District Jazz Band. These auditions usually take place the first week of November. Students must pay their own audition fee. Performances of these select bands usually occur during the spring semester. Check the band calendar for specific dates. Students who successfully make All-District can audition for All-State Band and All-State Jazz Band. All-State Band Auditions are held the first Saturday in December in Columbia. Participation in these events is voluntary, but if the student earns a chair in any of these bands, they must honor their commitment to that ensemble.

B. District and State Solo & Ensemble Music Festival

In March, students may participate in District Solo and Ensemble Festival, held at Mexico High School. Participation is voluntary and requires extra practice. Students who earn “I” ratings at District are eligible to participate in State Solo and Ensemble Festival held on the MU campus in late April or early May. Students must pay their own entry fees.

C. Field Commander Duties and Obligations

- Calls and conducts all concert and marching sectionals as deemed necessary by the Director
- Conducts playing checks as specified by the Director
- Keeps track of all attendance of section members and submits to Director for recording
- Encourages proper playing position and cleanliness of instruments within the section
- Promotes section pride and spirit

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS

G.

A. John Philip Sousa Award

The John Philip Sousa Award is given to the outstanding band student. This award is given annually to students across the nation, and represents a high level of commitment to the band program. The recipient should be an exemplary musician, and should also exhibit leadership skills and dedication to other individuals. The band directors choose the recipient of this award.

H.

B. Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award is presented to an outstanding jazz musician. This award is given annually to students across the nation. The band directors choose the recipient of this award.

C. The Rich Hadfield Award

This award is for a Symphonic Band student who exemplifies hard work and dedication to the Rock Bridge Band program. Modeled after a retired Rock Bridge Band Director, Rich Hadfield, whose hard work and dedication set the foundation for this outstanding band program. Mr. Hadfield was the director from 1980-2001 where he cultivated the lives of hundreds of young students. The Rich Hadfield award recipient is a person whose character always shines a positive light on the program and their fellow band members. This person consistently goes above and beyond the expectation and does so with a great attitude. This award is given to a person who has set the foundation for excellence in the Rock Bridge band program for years to come.

D. Lettering in Band

Earning a letter in band, as in any sport or organization, signifies going above and beyond the expectations associated with the activity. At Rock Bridge, we recognize effort, hard work and talent as qualities worthy of earning a letter. In order to earn a letter, students should participate in instrumental music activities in addition to the expectations of the class, including pit orchestra, CAPERS, private lessons, solo and ensemble festival, honor bands, and the like. ***In order to letter in band, a student must have no unexcused absences.*** Refer to the lettering application on the band website for specific details.

E. Emerald Inclusive Scholarship

Established by Heather Carver and Bill Horner, The Emerald Inclusive Scholarship is awarded to a Rock Bridge High School band student who is dedicated to inclusivity and diversity in the band program and making Rock Bridge Bands a wonderful community. This student has a history of going above and beyond the norm to recruit and retain new members to band by making it a welcoming community. This student values making connections with fellow band students of all ages and backgrounds.

COMMUNICATION

A. Band Website

The band department maintains a comprehensive website that contains much useful information. The monthly band and guard newsletter will be posted. Check the website often for updated information. The address is www.rockbridgebands.com

B. CHARMS (Office Assistant)

CHARMS Instructions

(revised 6/2017)

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com, and click the “ENTER” link at upper right.
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following School Code:

RBHSBand

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at the “public”calendar for band, event list, handouts and other files.
- Clicking on an event on the calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements and equipment/uniform necessities. Clicking on “event list” puts all of the calendar information in a list form for easy printing. Note that if a calendar event is specifically assigned to your child, it may NOT show up on this calendar-check the “Student” calendar after entering the student’s ID number (see below).
- For those band families that have NEVER enrolled into CHARMS, enter your child’s first and last name initials (both upper case) PLUS their CPS ID number as a **Student Area Password** and another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student’s , music, financial record, important forms, parent volunteering for activities, a more detailed calendar and inventory. Once you have first entered this ID number, you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the “keyhole” (*Change Password*) button.
- There is one area in which you can help the director maintain his records (**VERY IMPORTANT**):
 - **UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION**-if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your child’s student information page (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively.
Click the *Personal Info* button.

Below is a link directly to the RBHS Band Parent Student Area:

<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/parents.asp?username=RBHSBand>

Or follow the QR code to the RBHS Band Parent/Student Area:

You will be prompted to enter the School Code: RBHSBand (Case Sensitive)



THERE IS A CHARMS APP!!! Parents and Students can download the following app to use for easy mobile access to charms. You can find it on the app store named, “Charms Parent/Student Portal” by Dorian Business Systems, Inc. Or you can scan the QR code with a mobile device to take you directly to the app download.

CHARMS App Link:



C. Internet Etiquette

There are an abundance of newsgroups and bulletin boards frequented by band students and parents. These sites are a great way to hear about what bands are doing around the country. Two of the most popular are the BOA (Bands Of America) website and of course Facebook. Though entertaining, these places can be used to litter with posts that reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.

Occasionally we've had incidents where someone from Rock Bridge posted something or created a site he/she thought innocent, but it upset others when taken a certain way and it drew criticism. Even when not intended, this is embarrassing. If something is posted that is critical of another group or reflects negatively on our band it must be addressed by the directors. The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is **NOT** to post. However, if you choose to post comments remember that you are speaking on behalf of the whole Rock Bridge Band and we want to continue our first-class reputation. If you would like to post comments that could be questionable or create a site that is specific about our Rock Bridge program and its members, please contact the directors for permission in advance so we can monitor its activity. This goes for students and parents.

Students and Parents, please follow the following guidelines when posting anything online about the RBHS Band or any person involved with the RBHS Band program. **All posts should be positive.** Negative postings or opinions about specific situations, festival results, or personal disputes are prohibited. If negative feelings or opinions exist, students should deal with these situations face to face and professionally—not using social media. Directors are open to mediate these meetings and encourage students to set up meetings to speak about specific situations and concerns. Even though you are entitled to your opinion through posts via social media sites, posting negatively online is a direct reflection of the entire Rock Bridge Band program.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Academic Requirements for Participation in MSHSAA Activities at RBHS is as follows:

- **Grades 9-12 Requirements:** A student in Grades 9-12 must meet the following requirements in order to be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic activities: a. **Semester Prior to Participation:** The student shall have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater, or a student must have made standard progress for his or her level the preceding semester in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though un-graded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age. b. **Semester of Participation:** The student shall currently be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, whichever is greater; or a student must be enrolled in a full course at his or her level in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though un-graded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age. c. **80% Credit Requirement:** The calculation of the credit requirement described in a-1 and a-2 above for all enrolled students at the school shall be based on the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled at the member school during the normal school day due to the academic system that the member school has selected (7-hour day, block schedule, etc.) Credits earned in school-sponsored “extra” classes taken beyond the normal school day may be used toward academic eligibility. Internet classes offered by and at the member school and which are completed no later than the close of the semester with credit placed on the student’s transcript can be counted toward academic eligibility. (See also By-Law 2.3.4 regarding other courses that may be utilized.) d. **Entry into 9th Grade:** A beginning 9th grade student shall have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade for first semester eligibility. e. A student must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation as determined by local school policies.

All band students, as well as their parents, should be aware of the following guidelines when making decisions about their coursework.

- Credits earned or completed after the close of the semester will not fulfill the requirements. Summer school courses for fall semester academic eligibility may count provided courses are necessary for graduation or promotion (no electives), and are placed on the school transcript. No more than one credit in summer school shall be counted toward eligibility.
- Zero-hour courses may not be counted toward academic eligibility.
- Please check with your counselor and the athletic director regarding Mo-VIP, credit recovery, correspondence courses, etc.
- You must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation as determined by your local school’s policies.
- DO NOT drop courses without first consulting with your counselor to determine whether it will affect your eligibility.

ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BAND AGREEMENT

****You do not need to print this page and sign it. We have included this form on an electronic form where you can e-sign this document.****

The band directors have thoroughly planned for the coming year and have informed you of your responsibilities. Every member of the band is important, and every member is expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. The Rock Bridge High School band has a long and proud history and your conscientious effort and positive outlook is absolutely necessary to continue that tradition.

Please read and the sign the following statements.

For the Student:

I have read the Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies contained herein. I understand that missing a performance can seriously impact my grade. I am aware of the band performances this year, as outlined in the Band Calendar on CHARMS, and will make every effort to avoid conflicts on these dates.

Student Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Date

For the Parent or Guardian:

I have read the band handbook. I am aware of the time and effort required of my student. I understand that if my student misses a performance, his or her grade could be seriously affected. I am aware of the band performances this year, as outlined in the Band Calendar on CHARMS, and will assist my student in avoiding conflicts on these dates.

Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date