

RIPLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Music Department



Warrior Bands Student Handbook

(2025-2026)

Band Director: Mr. Andres Labastida

Administrator(s): Mr. Doug Scott, Mr. Jeff Ball

Superintendent: Mr. Kaleb Hoffman

Table of Contents

RPS Bands Mission Statement.....	6
A Statement of Policy.....	7
Program Expectations.....	7
Public Code of Conduct.....	8
Student Leaders.....	8
Ensembles.....	9
General Expectations.....	10
Classroom/Rehearsal Procedures.....	10
Materials for the class/Materials Grade.....	11
School-Owned Instrument Policy.....	11
Grading Policy & Attendance.....	12
Attendance Policy.....	12
Conflicts with Band.....	13
Band Traveling.....	13
Use of Band Hall and Performing Arts Center (PAC) Facilities.....	14
Duties Of The Band Member.....	15
The Importance of Attitude.....	15
The Importance Of Discipline.....	15
Parents' Responsibility To The Band.....	16
How Parents Can Help.....	16
Students' Responsibility to the Band.....	17
Ripley Public Schools Policies and Procedures.....	18
Private Lessons.....	19
Instrument and Mouthpiece Upgrades.....	20
Recordings.....	22
Practice.....	22

Band Students and Parents/Guardians:

WELCOME to one of the most exciting experiences you can be a part of – THE BAND! The ultimate goal of the band program is to provide our students with a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making. In addition, we get to use the medium of music to teach some wonderful life lessons as part of our comprehensive program here at Ripley Public Schools.

For newer folks, this is the “band creed” that keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting THE BAND HANDBOOK or the band webpage on the RPS website: <https://www.ripley.k12.ok.us/>. It is our hope that the information contained in this handbook will be both INFORMATIONAL and INSPIRATIONAL. The advocacy articles, “How Parents Can Help,” and “Parents’ Responsibility to the Band,” are both designed to give guidance to parents. Please read every word of this Handbook so that you are well-informed. We’ve included one ***Signature Page*** for you to return, stating that you’re familiar with the information contained in the handbook as well as some forms for you all to fill out and bring back to the director. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Last school year was full of successes by our students. **We’ve had major performance successes with all our ensembles including the Veteran’s Day performance, and both Winter and Spring Concerts! We had an outstanding basketball pep band season, which included the inaugural Ripley High School Alumni Band, featuring RHS band alumni from several decades, as well as the esteemed Mr. Kent Taylor, RHS Director of Bands from 2004-2017. We had students represent Ripley with class at both Cimarron Valley Honor Band Concerts. Finally, both the RJHS and RHS Bands received a “Superior” rating at the OSSAA Solo & Ensemble Festival in Ponca City, furthermore, the RHS Band qualified to go to the OSSAA State Solo & Ensemble at Oklahoma State University, where they would receive an “Excellent” rating.**

We continue to provide a well-rounded, comprehensive experience for our students. For the upcoming year, we are very excited about the **upcoming basketball season to cheer our fellow Warriors and Lady Warriors on at the home games. We are planning on one away game with more details to follow!. We are looking forward to upcoming performances at the Veteran’s Day Concert and the Winter and Spring Concerts with more performances hopefully to come throughout the school year. Lastly, we will be looking forward to attending the Heartland Music Festival in Edmond.**

We have included a list of private instructors in this edition of the BAND HANDBOOK. There is no better way for your child to improve his or her musical experience than to be involved in private lessons. We are very fortunate to have such a fine university in close proximity and professional players in the area. As one parent told me: “In this band program, you are doing your child a disservice by not providing private lessons...they will either quit or be uninvolved.” Those are powerful words and in some respects, they are very true. As the band program gets better, the most committed students (those who practice) will have the most positive experience. In addition to making private instruction and chamber music a priority, we have renewed our commitment to instill positive leadership qualities in all of our students. These are the “teachable moments” that develop important life skills.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. **Please read all of the information and sign the perforated form (*Signature Page*) in the back of the handbook and return it to the band office.** I am honored to be your band director and am looking forward to a great year!

Go Warriors!

Musically Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andres Labastida', written in a cursive style.

Andres Labastida, MM
Director of Bands



RIPLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Home of the Warriors

P.O. Box 97 - 403 East Cook

Ripley, Oklahoma 74062-0097

PHONE: 918-372-4242 FAX: 918-372-4608

Kaleb Hoffman, Superintendent; Doug Scott, HS/JH Principal;
Kerri Brewer, Elementary Dean of Students; Jimmie Sue Blose, HS Counselor

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to express my strong support for our local high school band, the talented band director, and the middle school band program. The commitment and passion displayed by both the students and our band director are truly inspiring, as they work tirelessly to cultivate musical excellence and foster a love for music among our youth. The collaboration between the high school and middle school bands creates a seamless transition for students, encouraging them to develop their skills and confidence in a supportive environment. I urge our community to actively participate in upcoming concerts and fundraising efforts, as these programs not only enhance our school's reputation but also contribute significantly to the personal growth of our students. Let us rally together to ensure that our band programs continue to thrive and inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brewer
Dean of Students and Proud Band Parent



RIPLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Home of the Warriors

P.O. Box 97 - 403 East Cook

Ripley, Oklahoma 74062-0097

PHONE: 918-372-4242 FAX: 918-372-4608

Kaleb Hoffman, Superintendent; Doug Scott, HS/JH Principal;
Kerri Brewer, Elementary Dean of Students; Jimmie Sue Blose, HS Counselor

Dear Ripley Parents,

I am writing to give great support to our band program and our outstanding band director, Andres Labastida. Our band students just keep getting better every day! They are very hard workers who show their excellent talents and abilities. Our band director does an awesome job teaching our students in grades 6-12 to move to higher levels in playing music!

I would love to see more of our parents and other friends and relatives to be greatly involved in our band concerts and playing music at our HS basketball games. The atmosphere is really amazing.

Respectfully,

Doug Scott

HS Principal/Athletic Director

Why Music?:

- *Music Is A Science. It is exact, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with exact control of time.*
- *Music Is Mathematics. It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into Fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.*
- *Music Is Foreign Language. Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of short – hand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is a most complete and universal language.*
- *Music Is History. Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often representing its country of origin and/or racial feelings.*
- *Music Is Physical Education. It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.*
- *Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.*
- *Music is all these things, but most of all, Music Is Art. It allows the human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.*

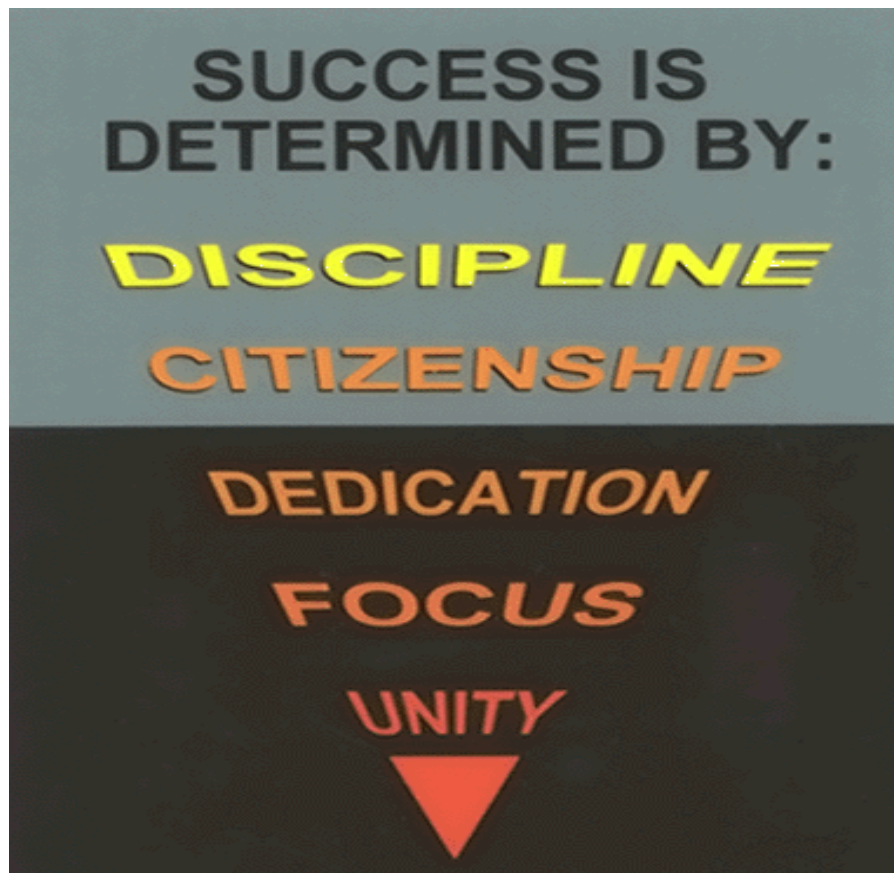
*That is why we teach music! Not because we expect you to major in music ... But ...so you will be human
so you will recognize beauty
so you will have something to cling to
so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good;*

In short, More Life!!

RPS Bands Mission Statement

The main emphasis of the band program is on musicianship, showmanship, pride of accomplishment, tradition, spirit, loyalty, and especially citizenship. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifice worthwhile. It is possible by setting your schedule up in a wise manner to have a successful band season and still maintain a high scholastic standing. The success of the organization will lead to success in the individual and vice versa.

(Ideology permanently borrowed from Mr. Matt Frost of Beaver Creek High School, Ohio)



A Statement of Policy

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a member of the Ripley Public Schools band program, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the RPS band program, we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him/herself or make a better contribution to the band, he is wasting the time and efforts of his or her fellow members and the community by continuing in this program. The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He or she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. He or she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he or she is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

Program Expectations

1. To teach music by its actual performance
2. To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
3. To instill in students a commitment to lifelong learning.
4. To promote personal growth through the rehearsal and performance of music of high quality.
5. To acquaint the students with Music Theory and History and how history and musical compositions relate to students' current life and musical experiences.
6. To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps.

Public Code of Conduct

When a student is representing the Ripley Band Program in any way, such as at a basketball game, parade, pep rally, concert, honor band tryout or clinic, summer music camp, band trip, wearing Ripley Band clothing, etc, the student is expected to act respectful and appropriately at all times.

As a representative of the Ripley Band, students are expected to:

- Use appropriate language
- Always be respectful of other schools, bands, teams and individuals we meet.
- Treat staff, bus drivers, administration, and everyone you meet with respect.
- Treat fellow students with mutual respect.
- Follow instructions given by staff or student leaders with positive behavior.
- Maintain a positive social media presence, even on personal accounts.

In addition it is expected that all students follow local, state and federal laws, as well as school policy and refrain from the use of prohibited substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vapes, or other such substances). Violation of this standard will be dealt with in accordance with Ripley Public Schools policy (“No Tolerance Policy” portion in the RPS Student Handbook for more information) and may result in expulsion from the Band.

Student Leaders

At the High School Level, there are students selected for the 2025/2026 academic year to be the director’s extra eyes and ears throughout all bands for the year. They assist in the success of the program by showing up on time to rehearsal and having a positive attitude throughout. They exhibit habits and ideals that should model the listed expectations and should be looked at for guidance. Student leaders are also designed to assist the band director(s) by making sure that fellow members are giving 100% **EVERY** performance and rehearsal. The 2025/2026 students leaders are the following:

- Axton Gerolaga, senior, flute
- Dakota Newsom, junior, flute
- Tyler Blankinship, senior, percussion

Ensembles

Beginning Band: This ensemble is intended for all students with no prior experience in band. It offers the opportunity to learn to play a woodwind or brass instrument in preparation for a life-long appreciation and participation in music. Students in this ensemble choose between one of five instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Alto Saxophone, and Trombone. After one completed semester and under director recommendation, they have the ability to switch to other instruments should they choose. The goal of this ensemble is to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to continue development in this sequential-based learning environment.

RJHS Band: This ensemble consists of 6th and 7th-grade students who have completed at least one year of band prior to enrollment. The ensemble serves as a prerequisite for joining the RHS Warrior Band when entering 8th grade and up. This amazing ensemble is separated by grade but rehearses daily and will perform 2 concerts per academic year. Concerts performed will contain repertoire tailored to the ensemble. The goal for this ensemble is to prepare students for participation in the RHS Warrior Band, and encourage a love and appreciation for music.

RHS Warrior Band: This ensemble performs traditional wind band repertoire as well as new compositions by leading and upcoming composers in the field. This ensemble also participates in local, regional, state, and national-level parades for the fall “marching band” season. During the Warrior and Lady Warrior basketball season, the ensemble will act as the “Pep” band for all home games. Consisting of 8th-grade through 12th-grade students, this outstanding ensemble performs 2-3 concerts per academic year and rehearses daily. The goal of this ensemble is to prepare students for life-long music participation and appreciation, and teach the students responsibility, cooperation, and musical excellence.

RHS Jazz Band/Combo: This ensemble performs a wide variety of jazz including jazz standards. Consisting of volunteer 7th-grade through 12th-grade students, this outstanding ensemble performs two concerts per year and often plays small gigs for school and community events. The jazz band meets twice a week after school.

General Expectations

1. Be on time and ready for rehearsal **BEFORE** the bell rings.
2. Practice your music outside class. **PLEASE**.
3. Treat your classmates with **RESPECT**.
4. Bring all equipment to class. Including, but not limited to, instruments, music/folders, pencils, mutes (if needed), reeds, and sticks.
5. Be attentive during class. Do not speak when the band director is speaking.

Band classes are offered as an elective, and band membership is a privilege. It requires members to conduct themselves in a manner above and beyond the traditional standards of school attendance. An individual's conduct reflects on themselves, the band program, the school, and the community. Students unable to maintain standards set forth by the director and school policy will relinquish their privilege of membership and will be dismissed.

Classroom/Rehearsal Procedures

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a great deal more students at one time than do other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be **organized** and **prepared** for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his/her musical instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual. It is important that the student's musical instrument is in good working condition, that he/she has a pencil to mark their music, and that he/she has important accessories such as mutes, reeds, and valve oil for **EVERY** rehearsal. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Ripley Warrior Band will be counseled, and, if necessary, moved to a lower level chair or removed from the band program completely. The procedures for every class and rehearsal will go as follows:

- **Beginning class:** Two claps of the hand, the class is silent. A downbeat will be given two minutes after the bell.
- **Talking:** Overall, not tolerated during rehearsals. There will be opportunities to discuss quietly when appropriate, usually about rehearsal-related topics
- **Leaving your seat:** Raise your hand and ask for permission.
- **Using the phone:** Not allowed unless used for academic reasons, including but not limited to: tuners, and metronomes.
- **Entering the classroom:** Go directly to: Instrument/music/seat/warm up
- **Class dismissal:** The ensemble will get two minutes before the bell rings to get time to put belongings away and tidy up the room. In the event the rehearsal needs to go longer, the director dismisses, not the bell.
- **Asking a question:** Raise your hand.
- **Responding to questions:** Raise your hand.
- **Cubbies:** Keep them clean and free of personal belongings.
- **Passing in papers or music:** Pass them to the Principal player (1st chair)
- **Turning in fundraising money:** Follow instructions provided by the fundraiser coordinator.

- **Listening to PA Announcements:** Everyone Quiet.
- **Fire/Tornado/Lockdown Drill:** Go to the assigned area and remain as a class.
- **Announcements:** Check board; done at the end of class
- **Getting Help:** Ask the director and discuss a time to meet.
- **Storing Music:** Music is placed in the same number corresponding to the instrument cubby.
- **The purpose of rehearsal:** To learn the parts of others and how they relate to yours, not to learn your individual music!

Restroom Breaks

- Students should visit the restroom between classes, not during instructional time. Students may ask to go during the first ten minutes of class (during warm-up time) if the need arises. Unless there is a medical reason of which we need to be made aware, students should not ask to go to the restroom during class.

Materials for the class/Materials Grade

Each student should have the following items in class everyday:

- A sharpened pencil
- Your instrument (sticks, mallets)
- One appropriate mute for your instrument (as needed)
- Your music and folder
- At least three reeds (clarinets and saxophones) and water bottles for trombonist

From time-to-time during the school year, you will receive a materials grade. If you have all the items listed above, you will receive a daily grade of "A." Your grade will be lowered one letter for each item you are missing, but students will be given two days to bring in any missing items.

The easiest way to avoid this is to have everything that you need at all times. After the second day, the lowering of the letter grade may stand. This is a portion of your participation grade.

School-Owned Instrument Policy

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. The student will be responsible for the entire cost of repair or replacement. The instrument must be returned at the end of the school year in the same condition that it was received. Each student and parent that rents a school-owned instrument will be required to sign a rental agreement form at the beginning of the fall rental period via CutTime. Accessories may also be rented if the need arises. All school-owned instruments must be secured in cubbies at all times. Malicious damage to any instrument will be addressed under appropriate school and district policies.

Grading Policy & Attendance

20% attendance & active participation in daily rehearsals, periodic materials check, assignments

- 20 points a day (5 days x 20 points = 100 for the week)

60% performances (on time and in right attire)

10% playing assessments

100% for the semester grade

90-100%	A	Excellent
80-89%	B	Above average
70-79%	C	Average
60-69%	D	Below average
Below 60%	F	Failure

I Incomplete*

*An incomplete (I) is given only in those cases where an illness or emergency has prevented the student from completing his/her assignments or tests. Arrangements must be made with each teacher and the principal in either case. An incomplete on the report card becomes an "F" four weeks from the date it is issued unless all work is completed. Make-up work is the complete responsibility of the student.

Rehearsal and performance attendance are vital to the band's success and integral to the individual's learning experience. Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the most core classes at RPS which is understandable, since we have the "cream-of-the-crop" of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they "want to," not because they "have to!" Band students receive a grade for each performance attended.... i.e., sporting events, concerts, parades, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing & written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

Attendance Policy

THE ONLY EXCUSABLE ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED* SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND ILLNESS WITH A DOCTOR'S OR PARENT NOTE, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, OR COLLEGE VISITATION.

*Example: a school conflict may be a club or varsity sport. This system is subject to modification and interpretation by the director.

Performances: Students are expected to attend all performances. In addition, there is an expectation that students remain for the entire performance, whether it be for concert band or marching band. Part of a student's education is listening to the performances of others.

Missed Performances: Students will receive a zero "0" for missing a performance. Under

circumstances beyond their control, and pre-arranged with the director, there may be an opportunity to make the grade up by completing an alternate assignment provided by the director. Instructions for the assignment will be provided as needed.

Missing Materials or No Instrument: If a student has missing materials or does not bring their instrument to class, 20 points will be deducted from their participation grade. (This is dependent on the number of school days in any given week.)

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by all students and parents.

- **The director must be notified in advance via Email.**
- **For illness, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.**
 - **Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity the same day must be cleared with the director as well – please call or email directors.**
 - **In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on the answering machine, WITH a follow-up personal call. Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student.**

Conflicts with Band

Students are encouraged to become involved with activities outside of the band program. However, conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance (via the website and Google Classroom) so that arrangements can be made. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. Students should have a calendar book (or google calendar on their phone) and be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that the student feels confident to take on. All conflicts with regard to performances must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to band. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

Band Traveling

Ripley Bands have ample opportunities to travel for numerous musical occasions. Though these opportunities are incredibly beneficial to the members, school-sanctioned trips are a privilege, and the director reserves the right to cancel trips based on attitude, demeanor, and preparation. Students who represent Ripley Public Schools trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. **ALL RULES AND POLICIES SET OUT BY RIPLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL APPLY ON ALL RIPLEY BAND SCHOOL TRIPS!**

Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense. Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip.

Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
4. The student may need to meet with the principal to discuss further consequences such as suspension, detention, or removal from the program.

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them (sponsors) with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL – Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from. You hold the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Ripley and for yourself. Be courteous and polite always. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense. **RULE OF THUMB:** If there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not...DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

Use of Band Hall and Performing Arts Center (PAC) Facilities

We have **OUTSTANDING** facilities at our disposal because of the generous support of our school, community, and state. Because of this, we need to treat our facilities with the utmost respect!! Students are **welcome** to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school.

Band Hall

The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. The following rules and procedures are in place:

1. NO OUTSIDE STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE BAND HALL except for business with the directors. This is due to the many **tens of thousands** of dollars' worth of musical instruments and equipment that are in the band hall.
2. There will be NO HORSEPLAY in and around the bandroom.
3. All equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.
4. NO STORING OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN BAND CUBBIES. Band cubbies will be checked weekly to ensure that they are being used to house a student's instrument only.
5. NO STUDENT SHOULD BE IN THE BAND OFFICE WITHOUT A STAFF MEMBER PRESENT or without receiving prior approval to do work-related activities for the directors.
6. LUNCH MUST BE EATEN IN THE CAFETERIA. No food or drinks in the bandroom.
7. Practice rooms are to be used for personal practice or lessons by an instructor. Rooms may be used with acknowledgement from the director. Keep the room neat with appropriate music stands in place.
8. The Music Library is private and is to be used only by the director unless given direction to

- use by the director.
9. The band office is a place of business. IF THE DOOR IS SHUT, KNOCK FIRST. Telephone use should be kept to a minimum and is NOT FOR PERSONAL USE. ASK PERMISSION BEFORE USING. THE BAND COPY MACHINE IS FOR BAND BUSINESS ONLY, not personal use.

Brenda (Ingersol) Dale Performing Arts Center

1. No student is permitted into the PAC without permission from the director or other district staff member using the facility.
2. Settings on electronic equipment should be left alone unless given permission to change.

Duties Of The Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your seat.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE.
- There is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); Only appropriate warm-up material.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.

The Importance of Attitude

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person that you are is an individual choice and how we feel about something, which involves attitude, is one of the few actual independent choices that we have in life. It takes intense dedication to reach goals. Students should learn to discipline themselves to daily practice on fundamentals. The “right attitude” must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication as the basic foundation. Such an attitude makes an artistic performance inevitable and is the difference between a winning organization and a mediocre group. You who are in band are a favored few. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it in every rehearsal and performance.

The Importance Of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles, and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for him/herself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community, and band program. Any member who casts discredit to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, shall be subject to intervention with the director and school principal regarding his/her future in the band program. Any decisions made will be at the director’s and principal’s

discretion.

Parents' Responsibility To The Band

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the forms in the back are signed and returned. This states that you UNDERSTAND the policies as set within, and that any questions are to be addressed with the band director by making an appointment. Each parent IS responsible for the attendance of their child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his / her instrument daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the help of parents.

How Parents Can Help

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more “falsehoods” but consider them facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact Mr. Labastida. Here are a few other things parents can do to help:

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Take woodwind instruments to the shop once a year for maintenance.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Help the student keep a DAILY RECORD of practicing.
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case; purchase a metronome and tuner!
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.
- If a student is absent, make sure that their folder gets to school (if they share it with someone).
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend parent meetings, PTCs, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising money on time and in the manner presented by the fundraising coordinator or director.
- If your child is a brass player, ask them when was the last time they gave their horn a bath.

Students' Responsibility to the Band

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program.

To Ourselves

YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The director is ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

To the School

Ripley Public School District provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and some equipment as well as provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible service to our community.

To Music

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

To Each Other

We must always do what is best for the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation or discourse. Sometimes, *the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.*

If Better Is Possible, then Good Is Not Enough!

Saying, "Thank You"

It is expected that when you encounter deeds of goodness, you say, "thank you!" This could be for chaperones, student leadership, other members of the group, bus drivers, staff members, teachers, principals, AND PARENTS.

Ripley Public Schools Policies and Procedures

As we begin a new year, it is important that we have clear-cut expectations. Yes, we expect you to be successful, and the tradition of the program “exudes” nothing but success. With these high expectations come many policies and procedures that help us become effective members of the team. *The Law of Discipline versus Punishment* states that discipline is strictly up to the student to administer intrinsically. Punishment does not exist if discipline is adhered to. This should be our mantra for success!

Activities and Absences:

Please refer to page 13 in the RPS Student Handbook for information on school activity absences.
If a student must miss any scheduled activity, with the exception of in-school rehearsals, they must notify the director as soon as the conflict is known. The director can be notified via email or a message through Remind. Messages that are sent through the director’s personal phone number or social media will not be accepted. Verbal communication is appreciated, but will not excuse the student. Contact and communication with the director will be part of the students grade for the missed activity. If this procedure is not followed, the absence will be considered unexcused and the student’s grade will be lowered.

Activities and Eligibility:

Please refer to page 13 and 14 in the RPS Student Handbook for information on school activity absences.
Ineligible students may not participate in any OSSAA or OBA event, including but not limited to Parades, District/State Concert Contest, Solo/Ensemble Contest, or Honor Bands, or travel with the band to any events, including away basketball games.
Ineligible students are also not permitted to participate in any social activities the band may participate in; such as the Band socials
Students who miss any event, competition or concert due to eligibility lose the privileges of being in the Band, including but not limited to out of state trips, the Band Socials, trips to Frontier City, etc.

Drugs, Tobacco, and Alcohol Policy:

The Ripley Public School Band program will follow the rules and regulations of the student handbooks of Ripley Public Schools, regarding drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. Students, who are seen with tobacco, drugs, or alcohol while they are in the band uniform will be dismissed from the organization immediately. Any band student, who is arrested due to improper use of drugs, or alcohol, will be removed immediately. Do not forget that you can be guilty strictly by association! ***Refer to the “No Tolerance Policy” portion in the RPS Student Handbook for more information***

Harassment Policy:

School harassment is a serious issue. It is the policy of Ripley Public Schools to maintain learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial, sexual harassment, or sexual orientation harassment. Ripley Public Schools prohibits any form of harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student, faculty member, or other school personnel of Ripley Public Schools to harass a student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel through conduct or communications of a sexual nature regarding religion and race as defined by this policy. The Ripley Public School District will act to investigate all complaints of harassment, formal or informal, verbal or written, of religious, racial, or sexual nature. The complaint shall be made to the appropriate school personnel. School personnel will deem any claim of harassment to be serious and will follow all school district procedures concerning the investigation of such. Disciplinary decisions shall be determined independently based on the nature of the harassment itself.

Refer to the “No Tolerance Policy”& “Hazing and Harassment” portions in the RPS Student Handbook for more information

Private Lessons

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on the various instruments in the band, there is simply no substitution for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. The Ripley director will assist band students in scheduling lessons with the qualified teachers; however, we suggest you be aggressive in “locking in” with a teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are **highly recommended** for serious band students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make “all the difference” in a student’s progress on his musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in Band. A complete list of instructors and contact information will be listed in the band hall.

Instrument and Mouthpiece Upgrades

Mouthpieces

- CLARINET
 - Vandoren 5RV Lyre (lyre version)
 - M13 or M15
 - DEG Barrels
 - Rovner Ligatures
 - Van Doren Optimum
 - Bay
- SAXOPHONE
 - Selmer C
 - Rovner Ligatures
 - Van Doren Optimum
 - Bay
- TRUMPET
 - Bach 3C or 1 ½ C
- HORN
 - Schilke 29 or 30
- TROMBONE/EUPHONIUM
 - Bach 5G or 4G
 - Schilke 51 or 51 D
- TUBA
 - Laskey

Instruments

- PICCOLO
 - Yamaha (consult director for model number)
- FLUTE
 - Yamaha (consult director for model number)
- CLARINET
 - Buffet R-13
- SAXOPHONE
 - Selmer Mark VI or Yamaha Custom
- TRUMPET
 - Yamaha Xeno or Bach Stradivarius
- HORN
 - Yamaha Custom Geyer wrap or Holton 179
- TROMBONE
 - Bach 42 B, BO or Edwards
- TUBA
 - Eastman

Method Books

- FLUTE
 - Rubank Intermediate Method
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Altes Method
 - Art and Practice of Modern Flute Technique – Kincaid
 - Eck Method / Practical Studies / Tone Development
- CLARINET
 - Rubank Intermediate Method
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Klose Celebrated Method for Clarinet
 - Rose: 40 Studies for Clarinet, Book I
 - Melodious and Progressive Studies – Hite
- SAXOPHONE
 - Rubank Intermediate Method
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Universal Method for Sax – DeVille
 - Gatti: 35 Melodious and Technical Exercises
- TRUMPET
 - Rubank Intermediate Method
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Arban Complete Conservatory Method
 - Herbert L. Clark Technical Studies
 - Schlossberg Daily Drills and Technical Studies
- HORN
 - Rubank Intermediate Method
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Kopprasch – Sixty Selected Studies for Horn (Vol. 1 & 2)
 - Concone – Lyrical Studies for Horn or Trumpet
 - Pottag – Orchestral Excerpts for Horn
- TROMBONE/EUPHONIUM
 - Remington Warm-up Studies
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Rochut Melodious Etudes Book I and II
 - Arban Method for Trombone / Euphonium
 - Schlossberg Daily Drills
 - Clarke Method for Trombone / Euphonium
- TUBA
 - Rubank Intermediate Method
 - Rubank Advanced Method
 - Bordogni
 - Blazhevich
 - Tirell

Recordings

An instrumentalist cannot duplicate a characteristic sound on their instrument without an appropriate model to emulate. Below are suggestions of artists for each instrument. Every student in the RPS band program should own at least one recording of the following artists:

- FLUTE
 - Jean-Pierre Rampal, Amy Porter, Carol Wincenc
- CLARINET
 - Harold Wright, Larry Combs, Jon Manass, Anthony McGill
- SAXOPHONE
 - Eugene Rousseau, Joseph Lulloff, Steven Mauk, Don Sinta
- TRUMPET
 - Phil Smith, Chris Martin, Tim Morrison, Adolph Herseth
- HORN
 - Dale Clevenger, Dennis Brain, Phil Myers, Jeff Nelson
- TROMBONE
 - Joseph Alessi, Christian Lindberg, Charlie Vernon
- EUPHONIUM
 - Brian Bowman, David Childs, Steven Mead
- TUBA
 - Arnold Jacobs, Ryan Robinson, Patrick Sheridan, Øystein Baadsvik, Michael Lind, Roger BoBo
- MALLETS
 - Dave Samuels, Gary Burton, Evelyn Glennie, Michael Burritt

Practice

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. **Band will not be rewarding unless you practice!** There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: “Perfect Practice makes Perfect!” Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Have a set place to practice
- Stretch and do breathing exercises prior to warm-up
- Use our daily warm-up & think “tone”
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- Practice sight-reading
- Be musical and use the tuner for part of your practice session
- Increase your dynamic range (work pianissimo to fortissimo)
- Increase your endurance (15 minutes of FULL TONE playing)
- Increase your range (highest note with a good tone)
- Use a metronome for a specific portion of your practice session
- “I will start with _____ minutes and increase to _____ minutes ...” ∞ Use the HINTS on the NEXT SECTION!

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

1. Stretch
2. Breathing Exercises
3. Buzz or Long Tones

THEN, LISTEN TO TWO MINUTES OF A RECORDING OF YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST ON YOUR INSTRUMENT! NOW TRY AND IMITATE THAT SOUND!

WARM-UP

- Everyone
 - Paynter Warm-up: Up and Down
 - Bb and F Major Scales for one-two octave range
- Woodwinds
 - Long Tones on every note of the instrument
 - High and low register studies
 - The Chromatic Scale (Orange Juice)
 - All Twelve Major Scales and Arpeggios
 - Dynamic Exercises (Cresc. / Dim., Dim / Cresc, Quarter Note / Quarter Rest)
 - Various articulation studies
- Brass
 - Attack Pattern
 - Four Scales with Arpeggios in Contrasting Styles (Marcato, Legato, Staccato, Slurred)
Lip Slurs
 - Dynamic Exercises (Cresc. / Dim., Dim / Cresc, Quarter Note / Quarter Rest)
 - Five-Step Articulation Exercise

FORMS:

Be sure to sign the following documents via CutTime:

- Band Handbook Agreement Form
- Travel Agreement Form
- Instrument Waivers (if applicable)
- Student Media Release Form

Be sure to fill out the following documents and bring back to the Director of Bands:

- Medical Release Form
- Individual Activities Form



“The Director of Bands reserves the right to deviate from the band handbook as deemed necessary.”
Contact Mr. Andres Labastida, Director of Bands, at labastidaa@ripley.k12.ok.us with questions.