# East Rutherford High School




# Band Handbook

## Director of Bands

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# ERHS Band Program

The Band Program at East Rutherford High School stands as a beacon of excellence, a testament to the power of music education. Our collective efforts are not merely about creating harmonious melodies, but about shaping the future, instilling a strong work ethic, and crafting unforgettable experiences for our students.

Every action we take, whether in daily rehearsals, during performances, or on trips, is a reflection of our commitment to excellence. We understand the importance of projecting a positive image of our school and music department, and we actively promote healthy relationships with other bands, schools, and musicians.

Promoting the arts and educating others about its significance is a cornerstone of our mission. The benefits of music education are manifold, providing our students with invaluable life lessons, knowledge, and a strong work ethic that will serve them well beyond their time at East Rutherford High School.

As we work together toward our common goal of achieving excellence, we recognize the importance of teamwork. What sets us apart is our belief that every member of our ensembles are equally vital. No one can replace any of our students, and it is the collective responsibility of all to strive for success and strive for excellence.

## Class Offerings

*Fall Class Ensembles include marching band*

The marching band consists of students in grades 9-12 and is 4th period in the fall semester. All students involved in the marching band must be enrolled in this 4th period class to participate. Students rehearse as a full ensemble after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:00. Rehearsal will start and end on the field. Please be on the field ready to start at 3:30. Parents should be aware that 5:00 is the time rehearsal is over and there will be time needed for students to pack up and transition from outside to inside. Plan your ride accordingly. ***After school rehearsals are required and graded.***

*Spring semester classes include Concert band*

The concert band is a group that develops students into fine musicians by working on fundamentals, advanced techniques, and performing challenging literature for their ability level. Students learn more advanced concepts of performance and delve deeper into band literature.

*******Students must be enrolled in both semesters of band. If a student wishes to remain in band, they should be enrolled in both semesters of band. Failure to do so will result in that student being removed from the band indefinitely.*******

# Honors Credit

All band students are eligible to receive honors credit, regardless of class. This is a huge opportunity for our band students to raise their overall weighted GPA and improve class rank. If a student registers for a section of band that receives honors credit, they are required to complete additional work as a part of the honors section. Below are the requirements for each Semester:

Fall Honors Credit:

- Pass off fundamental skills per grade level Scales, rhythms, and All district solo (cut will be determined by Mr. Kisner).
- Attend a minimum of 2 music performances outside of and unrelated to East Rutherford High school. This can be performances of other school concerts, other marching band contests that we do not participate in, community band concerts, professional wind ensembles, and more. If you are unsure if a performance meets the requirements, ask Mr. Kisner. Students are to bring the program of the concert to show Mr. Kisner for credit.

Spring Honors Credit:

- Pass off fundamental skills per grade level Scales, rhythms, etc.
- Prepare and audition for All-District Band.
- Attend a minimum of 2 music performances outside of and unrelated to East Rutherford High school. This can be performances of other school concerts, other marching band contests that we do not participate in, community band concerts, professional wind ensembles, ect. If you are unsure if a performance meets the requirements, ask Mr. Kisner. Students are to bring the program of the concert to show Mr. Kisner for credit.
- If a student is unable to audition for All District band, they can still receive honors credit by attending **4** outside music performances, instead of the previous bullet point of 2.

# Band Fees and Fundraising

It takes a tremendous amount of funding to operate a successful band program. This year's Marching band fee is $150.00 for all members. This fee covers the cost of many of our expenses, but not all.

Here is a list of SOME of the marching band expenses that this fee will help the Band Boosters cover:

- Design of our Field Show ($4,000)
- Instructors that assist with teaching our students ($3,000)
- Color Guard Choreography and PercussionMusic for our Field Show ($2,500)
- Transportation that gets the band where it needs to go ($2 a mile per bus)

There are other expenses that come with a band program so we need to include fundraising as a part of our income. ALL students are encouraged and expected to help in our fundraising efforts throughout the year.

# Attendance Policy

Each member of the ERHS Band must understand their importance to the program and their attendance is crucial for not only their success, but the success of the band as a whole. We cannot have students missing events or being late and expect to be successful. This will explain excused/unexcused absences and how an absence should be excused. All rehearsals and performances are graded and factor into a significant part of the students overall grade.

Procedure To Excuse An Absence:

1. Bring a handwritten note, signed by a parent or guardian with a description and date prior to the absence.*

Or

2. Send an email to the band director (Rkisner@rcsnc.org) from the parent with the reason and date prior to the absence*

**The reason must be an excusable reason for the absence to be excused; regardless of if a parent phone call, note, or email is turned in.*

| Examples of Excused Absences | | Examples of Unexcused Absences |
|---|---|---|
| Extreme illness | ** Unforeseen circumstances may arise and they will be dealt with on an individual basis by the director | Work |
| Sudden emergencies | | Homework |
| Death in the family | | Senior volunteer Hours |
| | | Shopping or Hair Appointments |
| | | Claiming someone "made you late." |
| | | Other school and after school related activities (unless arrangements have been made between the band director and activity sponsor) |

Procedures for Musician-Athletes

Students who participate in band and athletics should split time between the two activities. We support and respect our athletic programs at East Rutherford High School and they treat us with the same respect.
Students that choose to participate in both need to split time between the two activities, regardless of what sport they are playing. Splitting time means to split the difference between practice and rehearsal. For example: Baseball has rehearsal from 3:30 to 5:00 and band has rehearsal during the same time. The student would participate in baseball from 3:30-4:15 and band from 4:15 to 5:00, giving the student forty five minutes at each activity.

All students participating in sports should communicate the sports schedule including practice schedules with times to the band director at the beginning of the year or athletic season.

Students should not miss a band performance for a sports practice. Students should not miss a sports game/match for band rehearsal.

## Band Letters and Pins

Band letters and pins will be awarded by the following criteria:

| 2 semesters | 4 Semesters | 6 semesters | 8 Semesters | Color Guard |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Band" Pin | ERHS Band Letter<br><br>Service Bar Pin | Treble Clef Pin | Star Pin | 1 Guard pin for each fall semester<br><br>ERHS Letter after 2 semesters |

## Trip Rules and Guidelines

The ERHS Band program travels many places throughout the course of a year to things such as band contests, parades, MPA, and other various events. It is extremely important that everyone understands that student safety is our top priority and with that we must follow several guidelines.
It is the student's responsibility to know our rehearsal and performance schedule.

Trip Rules:

- Do not be late… you will be left.
- Students must ride the bus to the event unless in a very rare case it is approved by the director they can provide their own transportation.
- Students are responsible for having their instrument, uniform, and anything else they may need for the trip.
- Students are responsible for properly securing all instruments to avoid damage.
- A Medical/Trip Release Form must be on file with the band director for a student to travel with the band.
- If a student wishes to ride home with their parents they must give a signed, handwritten note or email from a parent to the director before we load buses for the trip.
- All students are expected to stay for the duration of the event unless approved before the trip.
- Students may not ride home with anyone other than their parents unless approved by the band director.
- PDA (public display of affection) between band members or significant others will not be tolerated. Holding hands is fine but most anything past that point does not need to take place while representing our band and school. Parents and chaperons will be asked to monitor this behavior and regulate it if needed.

# Bus Rules

1. Only our current students, school personnel, and designated chaperones are allowed to ride the bus. No friends, relatives, or previous band alumni/parents are allowed to ride the bus. No exceptions!
2. Students may not sit in the same seat with a student of the opposite sex or with someone they are in a relationship with on the bus; No exceptions!
3. Students are to follow directions from all adult chaperones, drivers, staff, and directors. Many of these people are volunteers and are helping our program out of the kindness of their heart. Everyone will be treated with respect

# Medical / Trip Release Form

Students are required to have a medical form, properly filled out and signed by a parent or guardian before the student will be allowed to participate in band activities. If the student is not covered under some type of hospitalization insurance policy, the parents will be required to attach a letter the school and school staff will not be held responsible for charges incurred due to medical emergency and the parents will be legally responsible for all charges incurred while securing medical treatment.

# Cell Phone Policy

Update to match RCSNC policy

# Chaperones / Volunteers

Chaperones, Volunteers, and Boosters do an incredible amount of work for our band program and they are large contributors to our success. We do have a few guidelines when selecting chaperones and volunteers for things such as equipment movers, etc.

Chaperone / Volunteer Guidelines:

- All volunteers that work with the band during games and performances must be band boosters. These people will be admitted free to the event they are working.
- All volunteers, including chaperons, must have an Application for Volunteer Involvement on file with the school before volunteering at an event with students unless they are a school system employee. This is a county policy.
- For trips, chaperones must ride the bus, pull the trailer, or drive an equipment truck. If a chaperone does not ride the bus they will not be admitted to the event without an admission charge. Chaperones will be fully informed of the event and their responsibilities before hand.
- Chaperons may not bring children or spouses (unless the spouse is a chaperon for that event) on the bus or to the event. We are very active and need to concentrate on our jobs.

# Grading

| Fall Semester Marching Band | |
|---|---|
| Participation / Rehearsals | 25% |
| Playing Tests | 15% |
| Performances | 40% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

| Spring Semester Concert Band | |
|---|---|
| Participation / Rehearsals | 20% |
| Playing Tests | 30% |
| Performances | 30% |
| Final Exam | 20% |