

# RIVERSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



AS OF 4/2/2010

**MESSAGE FROM THE BAND DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the Music Department of Riverside Middle School! Parents, I invite you to all scheduled performances and ask that you fully support your child in this new experience.

This band handbook will give you some sense of my goals and curriculum, my philosophy of grading for this course, and my expectations of each band member. The reference section of the handbook also includes some commonly requested information (private lesson teachers, enrichment suggestions, bus schedules, music supply price lists, etc.) -- however, to save paper, I have not passed out this section. You may access it on the band website or request a paper copy by contacting Ms. Murphy.

Parents and students are requested to read this entire handbook, discuss it, and keep it for reference for the entire school year. **Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance, grading, the student resource notebook, early morning band rehearsals, daily procedures, concert dress, and important dates.**

Only when every member of the band puts forth a 100% effort can a band attain its goals in musical achievement and service to school and community. You are embarking on a lifetime of musical enjoyment. The more you invest of yourself, the more will be your reward. Together we can make this the best year ever.

I appreciate all your support and look forward to another exciting school year.

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**COMMUNICATION**

A key element of a successful band program is communication. The Riverside Middle School Band maintains a website that has all the information needed for participation in the Band Program. This is a very convenient resource if you have misplaced this handbook, the yearly calendar or any other forms that have been passed out in band during the year. Please visit the website regularly to keep up-to-date on information regarding the band.

Students and especially parents are highly encouraged to sign up for electronic bulletins by providing the band director with an e-mail address. E-mail communication is the primary method of communication used by Ms. Murphy. In addition, e-mails will be used for providing updates about assignments, tests, concert dates, parent association news, and general information about the band program. E-mail addresses will remain hidden for privacy.

WEBSITE:

[www.riversidemiddleschool.com/band](http://www.riversidemiddleschool.com/band)



EMAIL:

[rmsbandz@cox.net](mailto:rmsbandz@cox.net)



TELEPHONE

401.433.6240





## PERFORMING GROUPS & MEMBERSHIP POLICY

**VIKING BAND:** This class is open to all students interested in playing a band instrument. No experience is necessary. This class is also open to 7th or 8th grade students who were not selected for Concert Band (See below.), or who are studying a second instrument. The group meets once a week as a full band (See section on rehearsal schedules.), and every day in small instrument groups (See section on class schedules.). Major focus points are posture, breathing, reading rhythms accurately, reading musical notation and developing listening skills. Upon successful completion of this course, students **may** be promoted to Concert Band. (See below.) Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, two evening concerts and one band festival.

**CONCERT BAND:** This class is open to students who have had prior instrumental experience **and** who have met satisfactory performance, participation and behavior standards. The group meets two times a week as a full band (See section on rehearsal schedules.) and every other day in small instrument groups (See section on class schedules.). This class picks up where Viking Band left off by further exploring new rhythms and styles and developing the young musician. The main focus of the Concert Band is to prepare the students for participation in the high school band program. As a result, the students are also expected to be able to tackle some concepts on their own. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, two evening concerts, two band festivals, and one parade.

**JAZZ BAND:** Jazz Band is available only to students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium (baritone horn), piano, drum set, guitar or bass guitar. Entrance into this ensemble is by audition only. Jazz Band meets before school one day a week and after school one day a week (See section on rehearsal schedules.). Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and are subject to removal from the group if they miss any of them. The focus is to introduce students to the basic techniques of the Jazz idiom. As this is a smaller, auditioned group, members are held to a high level of performance, participation and behavior. The Jazz Band may perform at school assemblies; three evening concerts a year, at a local festival, and it is also available to perform short concerts for the public.

**CHAMBER ENSEMBLES:** Chamber Ensembles are smaller groups of instrumentalists that play literature that is instrument-specific. They develop musicianship and musical independence in a smaller setting allowing for a more customized performance atmosphere. Currently, Riverside Middle School has many active chamber ensembles, including an award-winning percussion ensemble.

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## CONCERT DRESS

Concerts are **formal** events. As a result, every student is required to be in the proper band uniform for **all** performances. **Any student not wearing the regulated uniform (unsoiled and pressed) at the time of a performance will not be permitted to participate in that performance.** The following is a list of the required Concert Dress for each performing group.

### Viking Band

- Black SHOES (NO sneakers)
- Black Socks
- Black Pants (NO stripes)
- White Button Down Shirt (LONG sleeves)
- Red Bow Tie\*

### Concert Band

- Black SHOES (NO sneakers)
- Black Socks
- Black Pants (NO stripes)
- White Button Down Shirt
- Red Bow Tie\*
- Red Jacket\*
- Red Polo Shirt\* (parades only)

### Jazz Band

- Black SHOES (NO sneakers)
- Black Socks
- Black Pants (NO stripes)
- Black Button Down Shirt (LONG sleeves)
- Red Bow Tie\*
- Red Vest\*

\*Item provided by the school --- must be returned at the end of the school year



### **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT PERMITTED AS CONCERT DRESS:**

Neckties, Bow Ties that are not Red, Short Sleeved Dress Shirts (except for Concert Band), T-shirts, Shorts, Skirts/Dresses, Capri Pants, Gaucho Pants, Sweat/Athletic Pants, Cargo Pants, Leather, Suede, Sneakers, Boots (unless covered by pants), Flip-Flops, Sandals, Excessive Make-up, Excessive Perfume, Excessive Jewelry  
IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT TO WEAR - ASK!



## REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

**EARLY MORNING BAND:** Due to the nature of the school schedule, and since after school rehearsals conflict with athletics, it is necessary that some rehearsals take place regularly *before* school. Early A.M. Band is the **ONLY** time in which 7th & 8th grade students are able to rehearse with **every** member of the band, not just their own grade or instrument group. It is not only important; but it is also necessary in adequately preparing for concerts and/or festivals. **PARTICIPATION IN EARLY MORNING BAND IS MANDATORY.**

Early Morning Band meets **from 7:15 A.M. until 7:45 A.M.** Buses are provided for those who qualify. However, those students who do not qualify for buses may need to provide his/her own transportation. See Ms. Murphy ASAP if transportation is a problem!!!

Each student is required to arrive at rehearsal **NO LATER than 7:05 A.M.** This arrival time allows each student to adequately warm-up and prepare his/her instrument so that they are ready to begin rehearsal promptly at 7:15 A.M. **Any student arriving after 7:05 A.M. will not be permitted into rehearsal and will receive an unexcused absence for that day.** *More than 3 unexcused absences per quarter may result in the student being excluded from performances, trips and/or special band events.* (See section on attendance.)

**\*\*THERE IS NO EARLY MORNING BAND IF THERE IS A DELAY TO THE START OF SCHOOL \*\***

**The following is the rehearsal schedule for each band:**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:15-7:45 A.M.		Concert Band	Concert Band	Jazz Band (saxes & brass only)	
2:15-3:30 P.M.*		Jazz Band		Percussion Ensemble	

\*Ms. Murphy is willing to work with student athletes who have conflicts with rehearsals after school, but students must communicate any and all conflicts **FIRST-HAND** and ASAP to Ms. Murphy. (i.e. NOT 30 seconds before)

**NIGHT REHEARSALS:** Occasionally, it is necessary to schedule rehearsals at night. These rehearsals will be kept to a minimum and are scheduled well in advance. Therefore, **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STUDENTS ATTEND.** **Please check the calendar at the end of this handbook NOW to avoid any conflicts.** I know that some conflicts are unavoidable, and I am willing to work with students, **but it is *their* responsibility to communicate these conflicts FIRST-HAND to the band director ASAP.**

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## CLASS SCHEDULES

**IN SCHOOL MUSIC LESSONS:** *In addition to Early Morning Band* (see above), each student will have music lessons every day (grade 6) or every other day (grade 7 & 8) during the school day based on their instrument group.

**The following is a sample of the daily schedule for each grade and instrument group:**

	<b>DAYS 1, 2, 4, 6</b>	<b>DAYS 2, 3, 5, 7</b>	<b>FRIDAYS</b>
Period 1	Grade 6 Woodwinds (Days 1, 4, 6 only)	Grade 6 Brass/Percussion (Days 3, 5, 7 only)	Grade 6 Full Band
Period 2	Grade 7 Woodwinds (Days 1, 4, 6 only)	Grade 7 Brass/Percussion (Days 2, 5, 7 only)	Grade 7 Full Band
Period 3	Grade 6 Full Band (divided by homeroom)	Grade 6 Full Band (divided by homeroom)	Grade 6 Full Band (divided by homeroom)
Period 4	Grade 6 Full Band (divided by homeroom)	Grade 6 Full Band (divided by homeroom)	Grade 6 Full Band (divided by homeroom)
Period 5	Grade 8 Woodwinds (Days 1, 2, 4 only)	Grade 8 Brass/Percussion (Days 3, 5, 7 only)	Grade 8 Full Band

Woodwinds = Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, French Horn

Brass = Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion = Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Bells, Xylophone, Timpani, etc.





## GRADING POLICY

It is important to remember that **Band is, in fact, a “real class” and a full year commitment.** Students will have to earn grades, and the grades count toward the honor roll.

Students will receive progress reports in the middle of each quarter. The reports include my thoughts on the student’s progress, and there is also a place for the parent and young musician to assess the student’s practice habits and perhaps set new goals where needed.

The following is a breakdown of how each student will be graded in Band:

Exams (SmartMusic®/Written Tests**)	10%
Homework (SmartMusic®/Written Assignments**)	15%
Rehearsals & Performances	35%
Classroom Skills & Unit Studies	40%
Enrichment (Extra Credit)	Up to 10 points per quarter

Please read the following carefully to understand the criteria of a student’s grade:

**EXAMS (10%):** I consider exams to be a very important part of the curriculum. Exams may include: written tests and/or playing tests (via SmartMusic®\*\*) for tone, melodic and/or rhythmic accuracy, intonation, tempo, interpretation, scales, and sight-reading. The number of performance exams/quizzes will vary for each class and grading period. Requirements will also vary depending on the instrument being played, which grade the student is in, and what time of year it is.

**HOMEWORK (15%):** A student’s progress in band will depend on what is achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. A MAJOR portion of each student’s final grade will be based on the level of quality practice the student puts forth. **Such effort will be determined through the use of a computer aided assessment and instruction program called SmartMusic®\*\*.** Students will be instructed on the number of practice assignments that must be completed for each grading period.

**PRACTICE TIPS: Parents, a key element to your child’s success on his/her instrument will be your support.** Very rarely will a child practice without having to be told. Practicing, to the student, becomes a chore, but it’s a cycle; practice makes you good, which leads to fun and it’s that fun that makes you want to play your instrument more. With the proper guidance and support from you, both you and your child will quickly see the benefits of good practice. Please refer to the website for some guidelines to help your child at home or request a paper copy from Ms. Murphy at your convenience.

Students will see more improvement if they practice daily for shorter periods of time than if they try to do all of their practicing in one weekend. In class, students have homework. In band, a student’s homework is their practice time at home. One thing a student can do is make their band homework a break from their other class homework. After they have lightened things up by making some music, they can get back to work on their other class assignments.

Students are required to take their instrument home daily and every weekend. On occasion, the director will announce a day when instruments may be left overnight, but such times are rare. Please call if you ever need to verify a day when instruments may be left. A grade will be given weekly to each student for taking his/her instrument home on a daily basis. Failure to take an instrument home will result in deductions from this grade. The director will keep a daily record and parents are welcome to check at any time on their student. *(Accommodations are made by the band director for students with larger instruments {tubas, euphoniums, bell/snare kits, etc.} to practice at school due to lack of transportation for these instruments.)*

\*\*For more information regarding SmartMusic, see Appendix A.



**REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES (35%):** *ALL rehearsals (See page 4.) and ALL performances (including parades) are mandatory!* If extenuating circumstances require that a student miss a rehearsal and/or a performance, an assignment will be offered so that the student can make up the points\*. (See below.)

**Please help teach your young musician the importance of honoring commitments, and please put the rehearsal dates and performance dates on your calendar now.** (See calendar section at the end of the handbook.) Also, should something come up, please call me.

If I know even a half hour beforehand:

- I won't worry.
- I can make arrangements if a student's part needs to be covered.
- I will think positively about the student's responsibility.

As of now, the performance dates are set. **NOTE: All rehearsals and performances occur outside of the school day and sometimes fall on weekends.** However, for one reason or another, we usually end up changing at least one. Please continue to check the website for an up-to-date listing.



**\*REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE MAKE-UPS:** Ideally, the student attends all rehearsals and performances, but there are occasions where the musician must miss a performance (sickness, a death in the family or other unavoidable circumstances). If the absence is an excused absence (See section on attendance.), the student may do the concert or parade make-up assignment, receive full credit for the performance and be eligible for year-end awards. If it is an unexcused absence (he had to go shopping or she forgot, etc.), the student may do the make up and earn *half* credit toward the grade, and be eligible for year-end awards. **Performance make-up assignments are on the website, or students can pick them up from me.**

**CLASSROOM SKILLS & UNIT STUDIES (40%):** Appropriate classroom skills are defined as follows:

- The student has his/her instrument (including sticks for percussionists)\* in good working condition and is in their correct chair within 5 minutes of arriving to the band room.
- The student's band folder and binder are kept neat and free from materials not related to band.
- The student is making a reasonable effort to perform the music that has been assigned in class and to do what the teacher asks of them.
- The student is listening to instructions and not preventing other students from hearing instructions. When the teacher is in front of the class, proper skills include not talking or disturbing the class in any way, as it is impossible to perform music properly if the student is doing these things.
- The student has all their required music, books, reeds and/or other items needed for that class\*. Students are expected to attend even if they do not have all of the above materials.
- The student completes all Unit Studies\*\*. (See below.)

\*Forgetting materials is inevitable...should a student forget his/her materials more than twice in one quarter, that student will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary actions and will lose 5 points from their quarterly grade for each occurrence, thereafter.

\*\*While in Band, students will complete in-depth studies of a piece of music, called "**Unit Studies**." As Ronald B. Thomas states, "Skill development does not necessarily lead to musical insight... Performance alone is a relatively unreliable means for the nurturing of musical insight."<sup>1</sup> As a result, the RMS Instrumental Music Department is striving to teach **comprehensive musicianship** which deals with real learning about music. Unit Studies serve as a means to achieving that goal. IMPORTANT: Written and/or playing exams are typically given as part of a Unit Study. These exams will fall into the "Exams" category of a student's grade and therefore, will count as 10% of the student's grade.

**ENRICHMENT (EXTRA CREDIT):** There are many opportunities for Enrichment i.e. taking private lessons, attending classical concerts, auditioning for All-State, etc. Check out the Enrichment Ideas page on the band website or request a paper copy from Ms. Murphy for some possibilities. Students may earn a maximum of 10 Enrichment points per quarter, and a student's quarterly grade can not exceed 100 points. Enrichment must be turned in no later than one week prior to the end of the quarter.

<sup>1</sup> Ronald B. Thomas, MMCP Synthesis: A Structure for Music Education (Elinora, NY: Media, Inc., 1971).



**POSSIBLE POINT DEDUCTIONS**

As you have already read in the handbook, Band is a “real class” and a full year commitment. Each student will have to earn grades, and the grades count toward the Honor Roll. The grading policy is outlined in the handbook, but there may be times where a student’s may receive point deductions for various reasons.

**Possible Deductions**

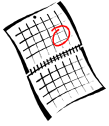
- Absent from rehearsal/performance/ (unexcused...see policy)..... –100 points  
*(A make-up assignment is offered to students having an EXCUSED absence from a rehearsal/performance.)*
- Tardy to class ..... –5 points
- No music, books or binder (Resource Notebook) in class/rehearsal .....(per item) –5 points
- No music in performance.....–50 points
- No instrument or equipment .....-10 points
- Instrument left in school over night three times or more..... (per day) –5 points
- Chewing Gum.....–5 points
- No pencil in class/rehearsal.....-5 points
- Equipment/Music not put away.....-10 points
- Improper dress for performance (Student will not be allowed to perform.)..... –100 points  
*(May result in student being removed from that performance and/or excluded from future band events.)*
- Disruptive in rehearsal or performance.....at discretion of Director  
*(May result in student being removed from that rehearsal or performance and/or excluded from future band events.)*

***\*\*Please note that the above infractions will also be subject to the appropriate disciplinary actions.***

A student is allowed to remove these point deductions from his/her grade. A student may do extra credit work such as extra theory sheets, extra enrichment, etc., a student may “pay off” the points using band bucks, or he/she may “work off” the points after school. (i.e. cleaning the band room, washing the boards, helping Ms. Murphy, etc.)

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## ATTENDANCE

As mentioned already, good attendance is both expected and necessary for the success of our band program. Remember, all performances (including parades), rehearsals, and in school music lessons are mandatory, and the calendar is posted well in advance. However, I know that some conflicts are unavoidable, and I am willing to work with students, **but it is the student’s responsibility to communicate their conflicts FIRST HAND.**

### REASONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- An excused illness from school. No note is required, but a note to the director, a voice mail message or an e-mail message explaining the absence is a good idea to insure that the director notes the excused absence.
- A personal problem explained with a parental note and authorized by the director prior to a scheduled event. Less than a one-week notification may result in a grade reduction.
- An emergency problem that cannot be addressed before the event. This **MUST** be explained with a parental note the day following a scheduled event. (A message on the director’s voice mail or email address, if possible, is also appreciated.)



### REASONS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Failure to attend a scheduled event with no explanation.
- “I forgot,” “I overslept,” “I had to go shopping,” or any other *classic* excuse that I am sure you hear as parents, as well.

**Too many unexcused absences will drastically hurt a student’s grade and may result in the student being excluded from performances, trips and/or special band events.**



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## SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS



Some instruments are very expensive to purchase and, therefore, are available through a check out procedure from the school. These instruments include: piccolo, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, baritone horn (euphonium), and tuba. Unfortunately, there are only a limited number of these instruments available. However, there are usually enough to accommodate all of the students needing them. The school provides percussion instruments for the Concert and Viking Bands however; the student will need a "bell/snare kit" as well as a stick bag package for class and for practice at home. (See section labeled required materials.)

In order to be issued a school owned instrument, the parent and student must sign an instrument check out form acknowledging that they take full responsibility for the instrument. There is a yearly usage fee for using a school owned instrument. (\$30 for brass instruments and \$45 for woodwind instruments) This fee covers cleaning and minor repair of the instrument on a regular basis. The student is responsible for normal maintenance of his/her instrument and/or any damage to the instrument during the year. The student must also provide his/her own mouthpiece, reeds, oils, and other accessories. (See Ms. Murphy for help in purchasing these accessories.)

A student who owns or is leasing his/her own individual instrument should assume the same responsibility and precaution as one with a school owned instrument. **No student should use anyone else’s instrument except when given permission by the director. (This includes non-percussionists using percussion instruments.)**

Be sure to have a written record at home of the make, serial number, and finish of your instrument, because this information is necessary if it should be lost or stolen.

The student should keep his/her instrument in good working condition at all times. Keep it clean, inside and out; valves and slides working; mouthpiece clean; keys and wood oiled; clarinets swabbed, etc. Keep a supply of valve or slide oil, extra reeds, swabs, and whatever else you might need available. (See next section labeled required materials.)

For your convenience, our local instrument dealer, Rick’s Musical Instruments, provides on site repairs, sales, and services every Thursday. If you would like supplies, call the store at (401) 658-3404 **before 5 p.m. Wednesdays** and tell them what you need and that you would like it delivered to Riverside Middle School.



**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Having the right equipment can make a big difference in the success or failure of a music student! Without good reeds, oil, or sticks a student cannot play up to his/her potential. In some cases, having the necessary supplies can affect the life or death of a musical instrument!!! Protect your investment.

The following is a list of all REQUIRED accessories (as well as some optional ones) that the student will need for their instrument. (Access the band supplies page on the website or request a paper copy from Ms. Murphy to find out prices and how to purchase these items.)

**All students must also have a hard covered, 3-ring binder with pockets and at least 2 pencils. This binder will be referred to their “Resource Notebook” and will be required for the entire time that the student is at Riverside Middle School. See Appendix B for more details.**

**METHOD BOOKS:**

**WOODWIND & BRASS:** “Basics in Rhythm” – Garwood Whaley (all grades) **and** “Essential Elements 2000” (Book 1 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Book 2 - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**PERCUSSION:** “Basics in Rhythm” – Garwood Whaley (all grades), **and** “Mallet Percussion for Young Beginners” – Randy Eyles (6<sup>th</sup> grade), **and** “Primary Handbook for Mallets” (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**IMPORTANT SUPPLIES:**

**FLUTE:** cleaning rod, cleaning cloth

**CLARINET:** swab, cork grease, box of VAN DOREN reeds (Size 2 or 2½ for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders and Size 2½ or 3 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders), reed guards (You should rotate between at least 4 working reeds and change them every 2-3 weeks.)

**SAXOPHONE:** swab, cork grease, neck plug, box of VAN DOREN reeds (Size 2 or 2½ for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders and Size 2½ or 3 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders), reed guards (You should rotate between at least 4 working reeds.)

**BRASS: Trumpets, Euphoniums, Tubas** – valve oil; **French Horns** – rotary oil; **Trombones** - slide CREAM (not oil) and a spray bottle of water, All Brass - tuning slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush

**PERCUSSION:** “bell/snare kit” (see below), stick bag, Vic Firth SD 1 Jr. snare drum sticks, hard bell mallets (6<sup>th</sup> grade), timpani mallets, suspended cymbal mallets (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES:** metronome, wire music stand, tuner, straight mute (brass only)

Most music stores lease less expensive models of instruments. These instruments are made to be relatively inexpensive and relatively durable. They are not necessarily made to play with the best tone quality or to stand up to many years of intense playing. Simply put, they sometimes “wear out” or musicians “grow out” of them as they gain more experience. Rather than go out and purchase an “upgraded” or “intermediate/advanced” model instrument, you can change the sound that your young musician gets (on *most* instruments), simply by changing the mouthpiece. You (and your student) will be surprised at the difference, and at much less of a price tag!

**Optional instrument upgrades:**

**Clarinets:** Rovner Ligature  
Van Doren 5rv Lyre mouthpiece

**Trumpets:** Bach 3C mouthpiece  
**French Horns:** Conn 11 or Giardanelli mouthpiece  
**Trombones/Euphoniums:** 6 ½ AL mouthpiece

**Saxes:** Rovner Ligature  
Yamaha 4C, Meyer 5 Medium Rubber, OR Selmar C-star mouthpiece

If you are still interested in upgrading your child’s instrument, or are just interested in buying an instrument verses renting, see the section on buying an instrument on the website or request a paper copy from Ms. Murphy

\*“Bell/Snare Kit” includes set a snare drum, a set of bells, bell stand, snare stand and practice pad.

For your convenience, our local instrument dealer, Rick’s Musical Instruments, provides on site repairs, sales, and services every Thursday. If you would like supplies, call the store at (401) 658-3404 **before 5 p.m. Wednesdays** and tell them what you need and that you would like it delivered to Riverside Middle School.

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**PRIVATE LESSONS**

The director will always strive to give as much individual attention to each student, but between time constraints and size of the band program, the director does not always reach each individual student as often as needed. Private lessons make a BIG difference for the advanced student and the struggling student. While it is not required to take private lessons to be part of the band program at Riverside Middle School, it is highly recommended.

If interested in private lessons, you may access the list of local teachers on the website or request a paper copy when you fill out the return sheet at the end of the handbook. Please note that all dealings regarding private lessons are between the private instructor and the student’s parent/guardian.



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**AWARDS**

In addition to awards earned by the bands at festivals, there are also special awards presented annually to individual students who distinguish themselves through hard work, dedication, positive attitude, leadership, high marks, and musicianship. These awards are presented at our annual Band Awards Dinner in Late May or Early June.

To see the criteria for each award, as well as a list of last year’s winners, visit the website or request a paper copy from Ms. Murphy.

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**PARENTAL INVOLVMENT**

As previously mentioned, parental involvement is highly encouraged and ESSENTIAL to the band program at Riverside Middle School. The RMS Music Parents Association is a volunteer organization made up of parents of band and/or chorus students dedicated to helping the directors build a successful music program. The Music Parents Association aids the Music Department by chaperoning events such as concerts, festivals, pizza and/or skating parties, summer band and our annual trip to the Great East Festival at Six Flags\*. The Association, in partnership with the RMS PTA, also hosts all fundraisers for the Music Department. Without the parents, the Music Department could not exist. Investing your time in the Music Parents Association is investing in your child’s musical future.

For more information on the Music Parents Association or if you are interested in being a parent volunteer, contact an Executive Board member by visiting the website, or request a paper copy of information from Ms. Murphy.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD (BAND)**

PRESIDENT:	Teresa Feola
1 <sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:	Felicia Lariviere
2 <sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:	Rosie Aguiar
TREASURER:	Laurie Sepe
SECRETARY:	Melissa Phillips

\*NOTE - Executive Board members are given preference in chaperoning the trip to the Great East Festival at Six Flags.



## APPENDIX A

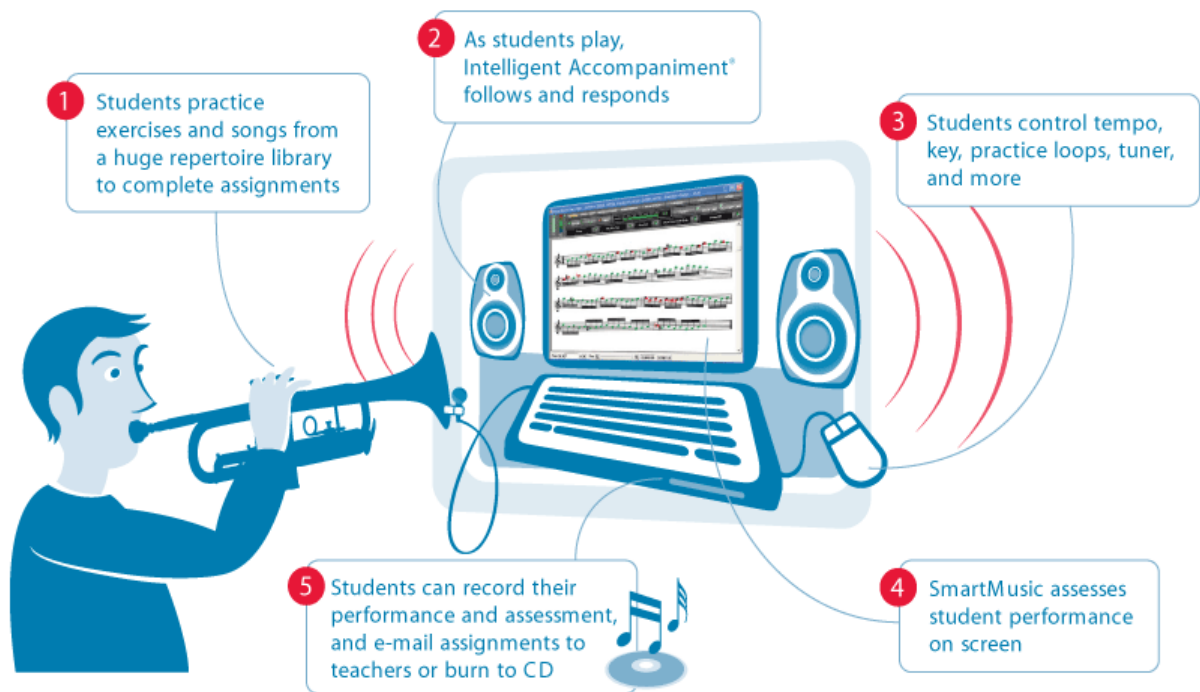
# What is SmartMusic®?



Students never practice alone when they have SmartMusic® at home. This interactive, computer-based practice system helps students get better faster, and makes practicing more fun. With amazing accompaniments for more than 30,000 titles, challenging exercises, and the ability to record personal CDs, SmartMusic® is the future of music learning.

With SmartMusic® loaded on a computer, students plug in a vocal or instrumental microphone and begin practicing. They play or sing their part with accompaniment and receive, in real time on the computer, detailed feedback on their performance. This program is ideal for woodwind, brass, string and vocal musicians of all levels.

SmartMusic® is your instant backup band that makes practicing fun!



SmartMusic® works on your PC or Mac and requires an Internet connection to activate your subscription and receive and send assignments on-line. System requirements and support contacts are listed at [www.smartmusic.com/support](http://www.smartmusic.com/support).

You can purchase a full-year subscription through our school's account for only \$30 per year. (You will need to renew this subscription yearly.) Microphones cost \$19.95 Windows (\$29.95 for Mac) and are highly recommended as they are required for assignments, recordings and assessments. (This is a one-time purchase.)

For more information, visit the Band Website or go to [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com).

**APPENDIX B****RESOURCE NOTEBOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS**

As a member of the Riverside Middle School Band, you will be required to keep a hard-covered 3-ring binder. This binder will more commonly be referred to as your "Resource Notebook," and should contain **ONLY** items that apply to Band. (i.e. no materials from Science, Math, English, etc.) You will keep this notebook until you graduate from Riverside Middle School.

The Resource Notebook will be evaluated and graded by Ms. Murphy at least once every quarter (sometimes more often), so be sure to keep it neat and organized. You should check your notebook periodically to be sure that it contains all of the required items, and that they are organized in the same order as your Table of Contents. At the end of the school year, Ms. Murphy will keep the notebook until you return to school in September. Any student who wishes to keep their notebook over the summer may do so only with special permission from Ms. Murphy.

Ms. Murphy reserves the right to add items to this Table of Contents at any time, so be sure to have a binder that is big enough to include the items below and any items that may be added in the future.

**1. RMS Band Policies**

- A. Calendars
- B. Class Rules & Expectations
- C. Band Handbook
- D. Grading Rubrics

**2. Practice Tools**

- A. Assignment Logs
- B. Warm-Up & Technique Exercises
- C. Concert Music Practice Copies
- D. Effective Practice Guidelines
- E. Blank Practice Records
- F. Practice Passes

**3. Fundamentals of Music** (see [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net))

- A. Notation, Time Signatures and Counting Method
- B. Glossary of Common Musical Terms and Symbols
- C. Accidentals, Scales & Key Signatures
- D. Intervals
- E. Transposition Guide
- F. Six Commandments of Sight Reading
- G. Basic Conducting

**4. Assignments & Tests**

- A. Enrichment Ideas Sheet
- B. Unit Studies (with assessment)
- C. Written Assignments (with assessment)
- D. Written Exams (with assessment)
- E. Playing Exams (with assessment)

**5. Miscellaneous Material**

- A. Instrument Information
- B. Concert Etiquette Guidelines
- C. Permission Slips, Notes to Parents, etc.
- D. Anything else that does not fit into a specific category

In addition to the items listed above, your Resource Notebook should also contain your Method Book(s) and a pencil. (A good place would be in the pockets of the binder.)



**RMS BAND PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT**

Parents, thank you for going over the handbook with your son and/or daughter, and for your support of your child and our program. Please fill out this sheet and return it to school NO LATER than **Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

I have gone over the band handbook with \_\_\_\_\_  
 (student’s name)

We will adhere to school policy stating that Band is a “real class” for which students earn grades that count towards the honor roll. We are familiar with all aspects of the band handbook, and will adhere to the attendance and grading policy regarding required materials, class schedule and requirements, as well as rehearsals and performances. We will also adhere to the uniform policy as well as, at home practice requirements.

In addition to the above, we will also adhere to the policy that ALL practice assignments, performance based exams, and some written exams will be given via SmartMusic®. We understand that if we are unable to purchase this software program and all of its components, my student will be expected to complete all assignments/exams at school prior to the assignment/exam deadline. (by appointment only)

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

**Grade 6 Parents:** In addition to the above, we also understand that sixth grade students are given an 8 week “trial period” in band. My child and I will adhere to the school policy which states that any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student enrolled in band after 8 weeks must remain in band for the rest of the school year.

**Grade 7 & 8 Parents:** In addition to the above, we also understand that band is a full year commitment. My child and I will adhere to the school policy which states that once any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is enrolled in band, that student must remain in band for the rest of the school year.

YES! My child will need the bus for mandatory early a.m. band rehearsals. Our address is listed below:

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*This is the address Ms. Murphy will provide the transportation office in order to schedule a bus stop. Your child might not necessarily be picked up at this exact address. They may have to walk to a stop.*

NO! My child will not need a bus for early a.m. band. I understand that these rehearsals are mandatory. **However, we will be providing our own transportation for early a.m. band.**

**ALL GRADES:**

Due to participation in several performances and/or festivals, it is sometimes necessary that Ms. Murphy be absent from school. For this reason, students in the RMS Band Program may be asked to view various movies and/or videos in the event that Ms. Murphy is absent. **ALL parents/guardians are asked to check below.**

My son/daughter is given permission to view all movies shown in band classes. (This includes those movies rated G, PG, and/or PG-13.)

Very often, the band has had a student teacher for various parts of the school year. In order to graduate and become licensed to teach, these student teachers must submit short videotapes of them teaching to their respective college professors. Although the video tape will contain images of the students, the focus of the video will be on the student teacher not the students. No child’s name will be indicated anywhere on the videotape, and confidentially will be maintained. **ALL parents/guardians are asked to check below.**

I give permission to have my child’s image on educational videos that are required as part of the coursework of student teachers.

I give permission to have my child’s image on the slideshow at the Band Awards Party. I understand that this slideshow will be made available and sold as a keepsake to parents, family and friends of each band student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address (strongly recommended)