

The Rock Springs Middle School Band Program Class Offerings and Expectations

FORWARD

Welcome to the band program at Rock Springs Middle School! Our band forms a vital part of our school program. As you are preparing for a great new school year, please consider these statistics regarding school music involvement:

- Music students out-perform non-music students on achievement tests in reading and math. Skills such as reading, anticipating, memory, listening, forecasting, recall, and concentration are developed in musical performance, and these skills are valuable to students in math, reading, and science.

B. Friedman, "An Evaluation of the Achievement in Reading and Arithmetic of Pupils in Elementary School Instrumental Music Classes," Dissertation Abstracts International.

- Lewis Thomas, physician and biologist, found that music majors comprise the highest percentage of accepted medical students at 66%.

"The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan, February 1994.

- The arts are one of the six subject areas in which the College Board recognizes as essential in order to thrive in college, stating, "Preparation in the arts will be valuable to college entrants whatever their intended field of study."

Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need To Know and Be Able To Do, The College Board

The main emphasis of the Rock Springs Middle School Band program is on Musicianship. Our primary goal is for each student to learn to play his/her instrument as well as possible, making the band a quality, enriching, and aesthetic experience. Our secondary goal is that students will learn to love making music and become lifelong participants in music. Additionally, RSM Band students possess the qualities of self-discipline and citizenship, making them among the best and brightest in our school.

The directors are readily available to answer your questions or concerns. Please contact us if we can help in any way. Communication is the key to your child's continued success and enjoyment of music!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

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6th Grade Band

6th grade band students will learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument and reading music. We will use Accent on Achievement Method Book I as a text and the school agenda to record assignments, communicate with parents, etc. Students in this band will play two annual concerts – Winter and Spring. We will make every effort to match students with the instrument that suits them physically, thereby facilitating success.

7th Grade Band

This band consists of students in their second year of music study. 7th grade band students will review fundamentals of playing and will study more advanced tone and technique exercises. We will use Accent on Achievement Method Books I and 2 as texts, and the school agenda to record assignments, communicate with parents, etc. Students in this band will play two annual concerts, perform at school functions, participate in Pep Band, perform at additional venues as deemed appropriate by the directors, have an opportunity to audition for All Mid State Band, All Rutherford County Band and perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival.

8th Grade Band

This band consists of students in their third year of music study. 8th grade band students will continue to review tone and technique, and advance to more difficult concert music. We will continue to use Accent on Achievement Method Book 2, as well as various supplemental materials to address musical skills being studied, and the school agenda to record assignments, communicate with parents, etc. Students in this band will play two annual concerts, perform at school functions, participate in Pep Band, perform at additional venues as deemed appropriate by the directors, have an opportunity to audition for All Rutherford County Band, All Mid State Band, and to perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Classroom Rules

In order to maintain a safe and productive learning environment, the following rules must be observed:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Come to class prepared. Students will bring instruments, books, music (in a black 3 ring binder), agenda, and pencil to class daily.
3. Show respect for yourself and others: privacy, property, time, and when someone is on the podium.
4. No talking when instruction is being given.
5. No horseplay in the bandroom.
6. No gum, food or drinks in the bandroom.

Consequences:

Warning, loss of privilege/s, parent contact, parent conference, office referral.

*Severe/Extreme behavior will result in more severe consequences.

Tardies

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In order to best utilize our class time, Band must begin on time each day. Students at Rock Springs Middle School are allotted 4 minutes for each class change. In order to facilitate assembling instruments and getting organized for class, Band students will receive 1 extra minute. The class timer will reflect this additional minute. The class warm-up will begin 5 minutes after the end of the previous class. Any student who is not actively participating in the warm-up routine (instrument assembled, materials organized on the stand, etc.) will be marked TARDY to the class. In accordance with the school policy, students will be referred to the dean following their 4th tardy to class.

Grading Requirements

Three areas will be evaluated to determine the student's band grade:

1. **Classwork/Other** count 50% of the grade. Completing classwork successfully includes attending class with the materials necessary for learning (instrument and music,) productive attitude, appropriate rehearsal technique, and a positive work ethic.
2. **Assessments** count 40% of the grade. Assessments include Performances, Playing & Written tests, and Playing and Written Assignments. Performances are scheduled in August and appear on the Band calendar. Tests will be given several times each grading period - some will be playing tests on instruments, some will be written tests on appropriate material.
3. **Homework** counts as 10% of the grade. Practicing the instrument is the HOMEWORK for band class. Students improve their musical skills and understanding through steady practice. Students will turn in the required Practice Record, with a parent signature, each week in order to receive homework credit.

7th and 8th graders will receive practice credit as follows:

120 minutes	-	100	(approx. 17 minutes per day)
108 minutes	-	90	(approx. 16 minutes per day)
96 minutes	-	80	(approx. 14 minutes per day)
84 minutes	-	70	(approx. 12 minutes per day)

6th graders will receive practice credit as follows:

100 minutes	-	100
90 minutes	-	90
80 minutes	-	80
70 minutes	-	70

Practice records must be signed by a parent/guardian. Practice records are due each Friday. Late practice records will be accepted up to one week after the original due date (the following Friday.) Your child will submit a new practice record each week. They will be available in the bandroom, or **online at the band website**. Please monitor your child's practice and sign the practice record weekly.

Practice Guidelines

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Since music involves a hands-on skills component (as well as an abstract cognitive component) practicing is absolutely essential for success. Parents, please encourage your child to practice every day. (A little practice every day is more beneficial than a lot of practice on one or two days.) Listen to your child play. The encouragement and support you provide is invaluable in promoting his/her self-esteem and love for music.

Have a Practice Plan!

1. Set a time to practice each day.
2. Have a practice environment. Select a quiet place free of distractions.
3. Warm-up and review fundamentals.
4. Review the class assignment. Practice the sections in which you have a problem instead of playing straight through a passage over and over. After working through the problems, then play the entire selection.
5. End with something you particularly enjoy.

Enrollment/Participation in Band

Band is an opportunity that can develop into a lifelong skill and source of enjoyment. Along with this opportunity comes responsibility. The student is responsible to him/herself, to classmates, and to the band program in general. It is the goal of the band directors that each student succeed both in performance and behavior. **Upon enrolling in band, the student makes a commitment for the entire year; however, if the student does not fulfill the expectations and responsibilities of the band program, through active involvement in class, participation in after-school rehearsals and performances, conscientious effort toward improvement, and satisfactory classroom and event (when applicable) behavior, he/she is subject to removal from the program.**

Attendance Policy

Band Performances count as a performance grade; therefore attendance is required. Absences may be excused at the discretion of the band directors, which will allow the student the opportunity to complete a substitute assignment for grading purposes. Excused absences include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Death or illness in the immediate family.
- 2) Religious holiday.
- 3) Other items deemed excusable by the directors.

Please note that if a student is suspended from school (In-School or Out of School), they are not allowed to participate in school functions for the duration of their suspension. Make up work in these instances is left to the discretion of the directors.

Private Lessons

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One on one instruction is the best way to accelerate your success on a musical instrument. We are pleased to offer a private lesson program at Rock Springs Middle School. Our private lesson teachers are some of the best in Middle Tennessee! They come to our school each week, after school on Thursdays, to teach lessons.

Lessons are 30 to 45 minutes in length and cost on average \$20 - 25 per lesson. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the private teacher at least 24 hours in advance when a conflict arises. Failure to notify the private instructor will result in the normal lesson fee being charged for the missed lesson. (Making your teacher aware of a conflict is common courtesy, the same as canceling a doctor's appointment. Please be considerate of the time that our private instructors are making available to our program and students.)

Private lessons must be paid in advance. Payment will be due at the first lesson of each month. The band directors will go over payment procedures prior to the first lesson. Each teacher will go over individual studio guidelines at the first scheduled lesson. Students may also seek out private instruction on their own, such as lessons at MTSU, Jonathan Fletcher Music, The Music and Arts Center, and other similar venues.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

All-Mid State Band

This prestigious ensemble consists of the finest young musicians throughout the mid-state region. Participation is achieved through an audition process held in December. Students selected to perform in the ensemble meet as a group and rehearse with a specially selected conductor for a week-end in January. The experience culminates in a concert. Students attending the mid-state week-end will have an excused absence from school. Inclusion in this group signals an intense dedication to excellence in musicianship.

All Rutherford County Band

The All-Rutherford County Band consists of the finest young musicians within our own county. The audition process occurs at the All-Mid State audition (it is the same audition; the results are used to determine personnel in the all-county band.) These students will spend a week-end in rehearsals with a specially selected conductor and will present a concert. This event usually occurs in February or March of each year. An exact date will be announced as soon as possible. This important ensemble serves to cultivate and showcase the talents of our own students and continues to improve in quality each year.

Rutherford County All-Star Band

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This Honor Band consists of promising beginning band students from throughout the county. Participation is based on director recommendation. The ensemble meets for a Friday evening and Saturday morning rehearsal during the All-County event and performs a concert in the afternoon. This group offers a unique opportunity for interested, dedicated beginners.

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Solo and Ensemble Festival affords students the opportunity to rehearse and perform literature for solo performers or for small ensembles. This process is very beneficial as the students are personally invested in the process. They become acutely aware not only of the piece on which they are working, but their own practice styles, strengths, areas that need improvement, etc. It can truly be an insightful learning experience. This festival occurs in the spring.

Pep Band

The RSMS Pep Band performs an important function for our school community. We will serve to promote school spirit by playing at selected home football games, basketball games and pep rallies.

7th and 8th grade band students are required to participate in Pep Band. Those students who are members of the football and basketball teams, and cheerleaders, are exempt from this requirement. Any other conflicts will be dealt with on a case by case basis in accordance with our Attendance Policy found in this handbook.

Pep Band members will wear the RSMS Band Shirt to all functions, and will be admitted to the games free. ALL Pep Band members will receive a Performance grade for each game.

Band Uniform

The RSMS band uniform consists of the band shirt, khaki pants (brown or kahki in color), belt, dress shoes, and dark socks. The shirt is available in the Bandroom as part of the Band Fee. Students are asked to wear this "uniform" at all performances, on band trips, and throughout the school year on designated "Band Days." Please complete the attached Band Fee form, and return it to school with payment by Friday, August 18, 2017. Make checks payable to Rock Springs Middle School.

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Instrument Repair and Supplies

Occasionally students may require supplies for their instruments. Small items such as reeds and valve oil will be available at school and should be obtained by the student prior to class time. If the student arrives to class lacking these items the daily classroom participation grade will be affected. For other necessary items, a representative from The Music and Arts Center will visit the bandroom each week and can deliver any needed items. They will also pick-up and return to the school any instrument that needs to be repaired. (Please feel free to use any music store that is convenient for you.)

If you need to take the instrument in for repairs yourself, the student must bring a note stating when the instrument will be back. This note will protect the student's participation and practice grades during the repair period.

Webpage and Twitter

The Band maintains a webpage, and a Twitter account which posts information pertinent to the class including announcements, schedules, events, special opportunities, forms, etc. You may access the webpage from the RSMS School Webpage. Please check the band webpage regularly to stay up to date with our band program. Please follow us on Twitter @ROCKSPRINGSBAND.

If you do not have a Twitter account, you can still receive updates via text; simply text the phrase **follow @rockspringsband** to **40404**. Be sure to put a space between follow and @ when writing your text.

Kroger Community Rewards

The Rock Springs band is now enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program. To support the band, simply enroll your Kroger Plus card online at www.kroger.com/communityrewards with the account number 34904, or by searching "Rock Springs Middle School Band." Then use your Plus card as you would before!

If you have participated in the Kroger Community Rewards in the past, please re-enroll so our Band will continue to benefit from this program.

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**Handbook Verification Form and Band Fee Order Form
Please complete the following information, sign, and return by Friday,
August 18, 2017.**

The following form verifies that you have received, read, and that you agree to abide by the policies of the Rocks Springs Middle School Band. The Band calendar lists all of our dates for this school year. Please understand that you are agreeing to be present at these events. Please retain the Band Handbook for reference; it is your copy to keep.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (Please Print)

Use of Name, Likeness and Work

The RSMS Band uses Twitter and our Band Webpage to highlight our students' achievements. We will post lists of accomplishments, photos, work, etc. from time to time to these venues for student recognition. Please complete the section below to grant permission to include your child in this recognition.

I give permission for my child's work to be displayed at the school (band) or the school/district website. I also give permission for my child's name and likeness to be released to the press and to be displayed at the school (band) or on the school's (band's) website in relation to school activities.

Parent Signature

Date

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Band Fee Form
NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS

Please use this form to pay for your Band shirt and method book.

Item	Size	Quantity	Cost
Shirt			\$10
Book	----		\$10

TOTAL

\$
