

# Riversprings Middle School 2016-2017 Band Handbook



Director of Bands: Luke McManus

luke.mcmanus@wcsb.us  
(850) 926-2300 ext. 6801

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Riversprings Middle School Band program is to offer students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades an opportunity to learn about instrumental music in a positive, fun environment. It is our desire to give each and every student the experience of producing music and expressing creativity through music. We believe that every child has the right to develop a lifelong love of music. Our band program exists to help facilitate that development and to prepare them to meet the high school entrance level as stated through the Sunshine State Standards and the local high school.

### 2. GRADING POLICY

Nine week grades will be determined from the following:

Citizenship Behavior.....	10%
Practice Records.....	20%
All musical requirements including performance attendance.....	70%

The daily participation grade consists of playing assignments/playing tests, daily preparation, and bringing required materials to class. Required materials are an instrument (including mouthpiece and reeds), folder of all assigned music, method book, pencil, and a positive attitude. Three days without an instrument during a nine week grading period will lower the student's grade by one letter grade. Students will also lose points if they fail to bring other required materials to class every day.

Students will be given frequent playing assignments (Pass Offs) which will need to be performed as a part of the student's grade. Most of the time, these assignments will be played by each student individually during class time. All students will be given many opportunities to make-up any low scores before the nine weeks end. Students should practice at least 3½ hours each week (180 minutes). That averages to just 30 minutes per day!

### 3. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Calendars are provided at the beginning of the school year. Any changes to the calendar will be made as far in advance as possible. Unless otherwise stated, all performances are mandatory (competitions, parades, and concerts). The students put a lot of time and effort into preparing for performance and should not have to worry about their peers letting them down by not showing up.

#### **Absences –**

Mr. McManus must be **notified 4 weeks in advance** should there be a scheduling conflict. There may be flexibility with regard to some **football games and parades** as long as the absence is arranged **at least 2 full weeks in advance**. **Students will NOT be excused** from any concert or FBA event...so please plan ahead for your child. In case of an emergency please leave a message for Mr. McManus at the school (926-2300 x6801) as soon as possible and follow up with a written note. Emergencies will be considered for excusal on an individual basis and must be presented in writing. **Unexcused absences from performances will negatively influence a student's grade, may result in a student not being allowed to attend band field trips, and possibly the promotional status to the Symphonic Band.**

**Band is a year long course.** A student who enrolls in band will remain in band for the entire school year. If a student decides not to be in band the following school year, the student will be scheduled into the Unified Arts rotation wheel. . Please contact Mr. McManus with any questions or problems you encounter with regard to the band program.

#### **4. CONDUCT**

All students in the RMS band program are expected to follow the official Student Code of Conduct of Riversprings Middle School and the Wakulla County School Board at all times. Major or consistent infractions of this policy could be cause from removal from the program. In addition, the following conduct standards have been designed to create a positive learning environment. They are expected of all RMS band members:

- \* There will be no talking or disruptive noises while the director is on the podium.
- \* Students will not use profanity or the phrase “shut-up”.
- \* There will be no food, drink, candy, or gum allowed in the band room.
- \* Students may not touch instruments or equipment that does not belong to them without permission from the owner and the band director...zero tolerance violation.
- \* Theft will not be tolerated and is a zero tolerance violation.
- \* Only percussionists may touch the percussion equipment.
- \* Students will strive to maintain positive words and attitudes while participating in band activities and classes.
- \*No use of profanity or otherwise inappropriate speech.
- \* No student may say anything negative, insulting, or demeaning to others.
- \* No spraying of perfumes, body sprays, hairspray... allowed in or around band room.

Non-adherence to these standards could result in one of the following disciplinary actions: lunch detention, written assignment, office referral, loss of privileges (including field trip attendance), and/or removal from the band program.

#### **5. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES / UNIFORMS**

During concerts / performances, all band members will be required to wear the assigned uniform...Mr. McManus will be contacting all parent/guardians of the apparel to be worn. Students must wear black, closed toe shoes (Dress shoes) and black socks or stockings/hose. All families will have adequate time to obtain the necessary items well prior to the day of the concert. **Students out of uniform will not be allowed to perform** and will be given an unexcused absence for the performance (See Attendance Policy).

All RMS band students are required to provide / purchase the following items:

- \*\$20.00 Activity Fee
- \*\$12.00 T-shirt (green)
- \*Band Uniform-price will not exceed \$75.00 depending on class placement.
- \*Instrument (discussed in next section).

\*\$20.00 Band Fee

\*Blue jeans and khaki pants may also be needed.

### **To our Students and Families with Financial Difficulties:**

Every effort will be made by the director and the school to ensure that every student with a desire to learn can participate in the band program regardless of financial capabilities. This is only possible if we are made aware of any difficulties. Students must be up to date on all payments to participate in any field trip or special event.

## **6. INSTRUMENTS / EQUIPMENT**

Most students will be required to rent or purchase their own instruments by the start of the third week of school. You will be provided with this information and the opportunity to do so during the first few weeks of school. There are a limited number of school-owned instruments.

Students who are issued a school instrument will sign an instrument rental contract and pay a rental fee of \$45 for the year to cover general maintenance of the instrument. Students will be responsible for any damages beyond normal wear and tear. If the instrument rental fee is to be paid in installments, the first \$20 will be due at the end of August and the second payment of \$25 will be due at the beginning of the second 9 week grading period.

## **7. FUNDRAISING**

Throughout the year, the band will need to have fundraisers for the purpose of purchasing new sheet music, books, instruments, equipment, and FBA (Florida Bandmasters Assoc) participation events. Students in the band will be expected to participate in these fundraisers to the best of their ability. Students will not be penalized for non-participation in fundraising events but those who do participate will often be eligible for prizes, parties, and/or other rewards. Students may also be able to earn credit through fundraisers that can be used to help pay for band field trips.

## **8. TRAVEL**

Occasionally it will be necessary for the band to travel to performances sites, festival, field trips, etc. The Wakulla County School Board field trip policy requires students to travel to field trip locations on school provided transportation. **Students are permitted to travel home from an event with a custodial parent as long as Mr. McManus has received a written notice signed by the principal/assistant principal stating that the transportation arrangements have been approved.** In the days leading up to a field trip, students may bring these notes to Mr. Williams and he will take them to the administration for approval or the student/parent may get the note signed on their own and then turn it in to Mr. McManus. These notes need to be received by Mr. McManus at least 48 hours prior to the start of travel.

When traveling with the band, students should remember that they are representing Riversprings Middle School and the entire RMS Band Program. All band rules and school rules and dress code will be in effect. Always behave in a manner which you would be proud for others to observe. Unacceptable behavior will be dealt with harshly.

In addition to the rules set forth by the school and the band handbook (see "CONDUCT"), each trip will have specific rules and guidelines. These rules and a complete itinerary will be distributed by the director prior to travel.

## 9. **AWARDS**

The following awards / certificates will be presented each year:

- \* Chosen 6<sup>th</sup> grade band members
- \* Chosen 7<sup>th</sup> grade band members
- \* Chosen 8<sup>th</sup> grade band members
- \* Students who participate in Solo and Ensemble that score either an Excellent or Superior from FBA
- \* Members of the Jazz
- \* Band students involved with FMGA All State
- \* All Band students who participated in the FBA

In addition, there will be several awards presented to outstanding band students:

- \* **MUSICIANSHIP AWARD** - awarded to the band member at each grade level (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) who demonstrates the highest musical standards
- \* **LEADERSHIP AWARD** – awarded to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade band member who demonstrates outstanding leadership by always striving to set a good example for their fellow band members

**RMS BAND CONTRACT**

**The following contract must be completed and returned to Mr. McManus no later than the end of August. This will count as part of your participation grade.**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and relation to student Daytime phone #(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (email address)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and relation to student Daytime phone #(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (email address)

**I have read the handbook and agree to abide by all policies and procedures found within. I understand that non-compliance with these policies and procedures could result in removal from the band program.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Wakulla County Schools

## COMMITTED TO SUCCESS

### NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The following policy applies to students, applicants for admission, employees, and applicants for employment:

The School Board of Wakulla County, Florida does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information for applicants and employees, or any other reason prohibited by Federal and State law regarding non-discrimination. See 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d); 34 C.F.R. 106.9; 34 C.F.R. 110.25.

In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code (as a patriotic society). This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. See 34 C.F.R. 108.9.

Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs, and activities of the School Board are required to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodation in advance.

The designated Equity Coordinator, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator as required by 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d) is **Karen J. Wells**, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327; 850.926.0065; karen.wells@wcsb.us.

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOLS  
P.O. BOX 100  
69 ARRAN ROAD  
CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32326  
PHONE: 850.926.0065  
FAX: 850.926.0123

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