



RISING STARR MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

2011 – 2012 HANDBOOK

www.RSMSBand.org

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Rising Starr Middle School Band Program! The Rising Starr Middle School Band Program has a rich tradition of excellence and quality! The success of the band program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve our common goals. Learning to play an instrument can be a rewarding and enriching experience. This band handbook is designed to answer any questions you may have concerning the band program and classes at Rising Starr. This band program includes some of the most talented and dedicated middle school musicians anywhere! Band is a group activity that depends upon the collaborative work of many individuals. The actions of one person will have an effect, either positive or negative, on the entire group. For this reason, we have guidelines that everyone must follow in order that each student may grow as an individual musician and also make a positive contribution to the entire group. It is our goal to provide every student the opportunity for musical growth through the learning and creating of music. We also expect our students to achieve superiority, not only in band, but also in academics and in daily life.

Please review the information carefully. **Then, please sign the acknowledgement form that indicates both the student and a parent have read, understand, and agree to the conditions outlined in this handbook.** If you have any questions, please contact me at 770- 486-2721, ext. 233, OR at warnock.emery@fcboe.org.

If you are a returning 7th or 8th Grade member.....WELCOME BACK!!!

If you are a 6th Grade member OR new to our program....WE WELCOME YOU TO RISING STARR!!!

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Rising Starr Band program seeks to offer each student who is interested and eager to learn an enjoyable learning experience centered on individual musicianship and ensemble performance. A working understanding of basic tone production, rhythmic comprehension, fingerings, music vocabulary, dynamics, articulations, scales and key signatures, and rehearsal and performance of middle school literature reflect the Rising Starr Band goals and achievement.

Each member of the Rising Starr Middle School Band program is expected to reflect positive behavior during ALL classes, rehearsals, and performances. Band membership at Rising Starr is a PRIVILEGE (not a right), and should be treated as such.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Each band class at Rising Starr meets every day, Monday through Friday, for approximately 53 minutes. The schedule for the 2011-2012 year is as follows:

- 1st period – 7th Grade Symphonic Band
- 2nd period – 7th Grade Concert Band
- 3rd period – 8th Grade Concert Band
- 4th period – 8th Grade Symphonic Band
- 6th period – 6th Grade Band
- 7th period – 6th Grade Band

COURSE OBJECTIVES via GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

By the end of the school year, each Rising Starr Middle School Band member will be able to:

- Demonstrate proper social development through large group interaction.
- Demonstrate personal and social self-discipline.
- Demonstrate the proper assembly and maintenance techniques of their instrument.
- Demonstrate the proper posture for playing an instrument.
- Demonstrate the proper embouchure for playing his or her specific instrument.
- Demonstrate the correct method of breathing to play a wind instrument.
- Demonstrate the use of proper hand position on his or her specific instrument.
- Demonstrate the ability to produce a good characteristic tone on their specific instrument.
- Identify and demonstrate proper use of various articulation markings.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of rhythms and rhythmic structure.
- Identify and define various musical terminologies.
- Demonstrate an enhancement in discriminatory listening skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to interact responsibly and appropriately within a large group.
- Demonstrate characteristics of good self-discipline as it relates to classroom structure and practice habits.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune his or her specific instrument by use of electronic tuner and by aural recognition.
- Demonstrate the physical coordination necessary to facilitate technical passages of music.
- Perform a solo.
- Evaluate the quality of a music performance.

GRADING POLICY

A student has to work harder to fail band than to pass band!!

All students are graded primarily on their classroom participation, i.e., having needed materials, behavior, and willingness to achieve. Playing tests, chair tests, and chair challenges are also included in the overall grade. Students will receive grades in band class according to the following grading scale:

- **Daily Participation in Class (30%)** - Daily participation includes actively participating in the activities that are taking place in the class, being prepared with all needed materials (instrument, method book, and pencil), and demonstrating behavior that elevates the learning environment.
- **Playing Tests (40%)** - Students will have playing tests over material that we have worked on in class. Students will have advanced notice of these tests and the material that will be included. Chair challenges and chair placements may be determined by periodic playing tests.
- **Quizzes (20%)** - Occasionally students will have written assessments or other assessments over musical terms, concepts, key signatures, and other information that is important to perform on their instrument.
- **Practice Charts (10%)** – Practice Charts are due every Tuesday. Each student is required to practice per week. The grading system for practice charts are explained on the link to Practice Charts on www.rsmsband.org.

CONDUCT AND REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

1. **Absolutely no gum, food, candy, or drinks are allowed** in the band room.
2. **Absolutely no running or horseplay in the band room.**
3. **Enter the band room in an orderly fashion and read the board** for instructions.
4. **Be on time** and in your seat in rest position with all necessary equipment and supplies by 2 minutes after we enter the room. You are late if you are not prepared!
5. **Show proper rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player.** Study your part quietly while the director works with another section. Remain on task at all times and do not talk or interrupt the focus of rehearsal. **Do not play out of turn!**
6. Raise your hand and ask questions if you need individual help.
7. All instruments should remain in cases with latches closed when not in use.
8. Return your materials to their appropriate place. Shelves should be kept clean and only instruments, music, and books should be kept inside. **Always keep a pencil in your case!!**
9. Leave the band hall in an orderly fashion when dismissed by the director.
10. No one shall play, hold, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument. This includes all electronic and percussion equipment around the band room. **If it is not yours, do not touch it!! Only percussionists are to touch the percussion equipment.**
11. No operating cell phones or texting devices during class or rehearsals.

Consequences: Musicians who choose not to follow the behavioral expectations will be dealt with by the director. Infractions will be referred to the school administration and could include exemption from trips, performances, and dismissal from the band program!

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES / CLASSES & REQUIRED MATERIALS

6th GRADE BAND (both classes):

The members of this group will be required to purchase:

1. Essential Elements 2000 (Books 1 and 2)
2. Winning Rhythms

These will be the class method books that are to be used and can be obtained at Music & Arts (The Avenue). All students need the necessary oils, equipment, reeds, etc. for class and are responsible for these items.

Percussionists need:

1. 2B drumsticks
2. Hard rubber mallets
3. Yarn mallets
4. **General** timpani mallets
5. A pitch pipe (for tuning timpani)
6. A mallet bag **labeled with their name on it**

These percussionist's items are assembled as a kit and are available for purchase at Music & Arts.

The 6th grade band classes will be divided into two (2) equal ability classes. In the past, the 6th Grade Band has been divided by skill (6th Grade Band & 6th Grade Advanced Band) at the end of the first 9 weeks. More information TBA as we near the end of the first 9 weeks.

The **6th Grade Band** will perform in all scheduled concerts, and MAY participate in the G.M.E.A. District VI Band Festival.

CONCERT BAND

This band will perform in all scheduled concerts, and could participate in the G.M.E.A. District VI Band Festival. The members will be required to purchase:

1. Foundations for a Superior Performance
2. Rhythm Etudes
3. Winning Rhythms

These will be the class method books and can be purchased at Music & Arts. Percussionists should already have a stick bag and variety of sticks and mallets needed for class (see above list).

Additional Rehearsals: The Concert Band will follow an after-school rehearsal schedule in order to combine the 7th and 8th grade classes in preparation for performances. The rehearsals will be on Tuesday afternoons from 3:45-5:00 following the end of RSMS football season. You will receive a calendar containing the scheduled rehearsal dates which will be posted on the band web site.

SYMPHONIC BAND

This band will perform at all concerts and will participate in the G.M.E.A. District VI Band Festival. The members will be required to purchase:

1. Foundations for a Superior Performance
2. Rhythm Etudes
3. Winning Rhythms

These will be the method books for class, available at Music & Arts. Percussionists should already have a stick bag and a variety of sticks and mallets needed for class.

Additional Rehearsals: The Symphonic Band will rehearse Thursday afternoons from 3:45-5:00. A detailed schedule of rehearsals will also be posted on the web site. There are may also be SECTIONAL rehearsals schedules for the 2011-2012 school year. PLEASE check www.rsmsband.org for specifics.

Members of the Symphonic Band are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances!

School-related conflicts, practices, etc. should be worked out by the students. Each Symphonic Band member will be expected to attend all rehearsals AND THEN continue to the other activity. Members may attend scheduled ***school-related games*** when they conflict with the practice schedule. Students cannot miss performances, rehearsals, etc. for activities ***not directly related to Rising Starr!*** If this is a problem, you should consider moving to the Concert Band! Please try to schedule all necessary appointments on other days during the week, as to not conflict with after school rehearsals.

***An unexcused absence from any symphonic band rehearsal or performance
could result in dismissal from the Symphonic Band!***

JAZZ BAND

The **STARLINERS** jazz band is open to all 7th and 8th grade band members through audition. The audition times and dates will be announced when finalized. The **STARLINERS** have met every Friday morning at for rehearsal. We may consider changing this. Rehearsal day and time is TBA. The **STARLINERS** will perform at the Villages Jazz Festival at the Villages Amphitheater in Fayetteville on Saturday, April 28th. The **STARLINERS** may also perform at the Jazz Performance Evaluation in April; however, this is still TBA.

FOOTBALL BAND

PANTHER POWER is open to all 7th and 8th grade band members who have an interest in performing at home middle school football games. There are no auditions to be a member of **PANTHER POWER**. The band will rehearse on Tuesdays during the middle school football season. Two regular home games are scheduled for Tuesday, September 6th and Tuesday, September 27th. Both games begin at 5:00. However, Tuesday, September 27th is Marching Exhibition at Fayette County High School and we will need to leave immediately after playing the national anthem in order to make it to Fayette County High School before 6:00 pm.

TRIPS

TBA

“MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING”

To remain in “Good Standing” students **must** be dedicated to the band program. Students must be at all rehearsals when not excused prior to the scheduled rehearsal. Non-school related sports are not excused! All students must be eligible according to **no pass / no participate** standards as dictated by the Fayette County Board of Education policy.

UNIFORMS

6th Grade Band members will wear black slacks, black shoes and black socks, and the BAND SHIRT for all concerts. The BAND SHIRT can be ordered using the form on the web site for \$25.00. These shirts can be worn for 6th, 7th and 8th grade, so order a little big.

Concert Band members will wear black slacks, black shoes and black socks, and the BAND SHIRT for all concerts. Again, the BAND SHIRT can be ordered using the form on the web site for \$25.00. It is possible that a more formal uniform may evolve for concert band members including a white blouse for ladies and a white dress shirt and for gentlemen.

*****We will be using hopefully a blue band golf shirt with the contemporary panther head logo.*****

Symphonic Band Ladies will be ordering a long black gown as a formal uniform. The style will be decided soon and I promise to keep the price as reasonable as possible.

Symphonic Band Gentlemen will be ordering black tuxedo slacks, a white tuxedo shirt, blue cummerbund and bow ties. (Black dress shoes and socks are to be purchased by the parents.) As in the past, we will keep the prices reasonable. We will be ordering these as soon as possible. It is my hope that the students who leave RSMS at the end of their 8th grade year will be able to sell their concert uniforms to incoming symphonic band members.

Uniform Costs: I am estimating these costs to be approximately \$60.00 for ladies (dress) and \$45.00 for gentlemen (slacks, shirt, cummerbund, bow tie). A limited number of used uniform pieces can be purchased on a first come, first served basis at a reduced cost.

PRACTICE & INSTRUMENTS

All students are expected to practice **outside** of class time. This is necessary in order to maintain progress in total musicianship.

Each student will be assigned an instrument storage spot for his/her instrument. **Instruments must be kept in the assigned areas!**

Students who will use **school-owned instruments** (French horns, tubas, euphoniums, and other school owned instruments) this year need to submit **to the Band Booster organization a one-time maintenance fee of \$50.00** for the entire school year. This will mean that the boosters will cover any repair costs due to normal wear and tear, if you choose this option. Please see the “Band Instrument Maintenance Form” on the web site, or obtain one from Dr. Warnock.

Percussionists will be asked for a **\$25.00 fee** for the year for coverage of all percussion equipment.

Damage due to negligence will still be the responsibility of the student!

PRIVATE LESSONS

ALL serious musicians seek out private lessons on his/her instrument. This helps the musician with a more in-depth study of the mechanics, and helps in preparing for important auditions. See me for help in securing a private teacher! Also check the web site link for private teachers.

SOLO / ENSEMBLE AND ALL-STATE AUDITIONS

Information on All-State and Solo / Ensemble will be posted as they are made available. There will be an application form and a minimal fee associated with these. See Dr. Warnock for details and watch the band web site.

District & All-State audition application fees are due to Dr. Warnock by September 13, 2011. The fee for All-State ONLY is \$18. The fee for District and All-State is \$23. The District level auditions are on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at Union Grove Middle School in Henry County, GA. If the student passes the District audition, they would continue to the state level audition to be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at Perry Middle School in Houston County, GA. The 2012 All-State Band will be held in Savannah, Georgia on March 1st – 3rd.

District Solo / Ensemble sign up forms will be distributed in late Fall. The deadline to pay the fee will be January 31, 2012. Solo / Ensemble will be held Saturday April 21, 2012.

Please make all checks payable to **Rising Starr Middle School Band Boosters**.

****6th Grade Students****

PLEASE consult Dr. Warnock BEFORE signing up for All-State OR Solo / Ensemble!

District VI Honor will be held February 10th – 11th, 2012 at Flat Rock Middle School (rehearsal) and Sandy Creek High School (performance). District Honor Band seats are determined by the DISTRICT level All-State auditions.

District VI Band Large Group Performance Evaluation (FESTIVAL)

Rising Starr Bands will be participating in District Band Festival possibly the 3rd week of March. Exact time and date is still TBA. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Please check all of your scheduled events for those days, as it is important that all members participate!

This is the most important performance of the year for each group!



Other Dates to Take NOTE!



- **High School Marching Exhibition** on Tuesday, September 27th at Fayette County H.S. Stadium. Massed middle school band performs National Anthem at 6:30 PM. Event is open for members of PANTHER POWER and others interested in high school marching band.
- **8th Grade Night with Starr's Mill High School Panther Pride Marching Band** on Friday, October 7, 2011 at H.S. Stadium. More information to follow.
- **RSMS BAND FALL CONCERT IN AUDITORIUM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011 AT 7 PM.**
- Clayton State University Middle School Honor Band at Spivey Hall on Saturday, November 11-12, 2011. Possible previous rehearsals could be Oct. 15 or Oct. 22 9a.m. – 12noon (auditions for chair will occur first), and Nov. 5 from 10:00a.m. – 12:00noon. Guest Clinician is Dr. Quincey Hilliard, band composer, arranger, author, and teacher. The band will be made up of approx. 60 students from surrounding counties.
- **Pyramid Concert** with High School Bands and Elementary Band on Monday, December 5, 2011 in H.S. Gym from 7 – 8 PM.
- **Showcase of the Starrs** on Tuesday, December 6, 2011.
- **6th Grade Honor Band** on Saturday, May 12, 2012.
- **RSMS BAND SPRING CONCERT IN AUDITORIUM ON MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012 AT 7 PM.**

IN CLOSING...

A rehearsal schedule for Concert and Symphonic Bands will be available shortly and will be posted on the web site. Please return signed maintenance forms, handbook acknowledgement sheet, and shirt order forms as soon as possible.

All money and fees should be in check form (payable to R.S.M.S. Band Boosters), sealed in an envelope, labeled with student name and contents, and deposited in the wooden drop box next to Dr. Warnock's office.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year!

DR. EMERY C. WARNOCK

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