

ROSCOE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2023-24

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ALSO... CHECK YOUR STUDENT'S GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR IMPORTANT
INFORMATION AND UPDATES!



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Band

There are three performing concert bands at Roscoe Middle School, one at each grade level. Each grade level band rehearses during the school day. The seventh and eighth grade bands are combined for the performances and will have special combined rehearsals before each concert. Sixth grade students will have the opportunity to have sectional lessons before, during lunch/homeroom, or after school. Individual music lessons are not available to band students during the school day but are highly recommended. If a student needs individual help on their music, they can see Mrs. Boelte before or after school on an as needed basis.

Marching Band

The seventh and eighth grade bands march together for the Fall Festival Parade, Memorial Day Parade, and the Hononegah Homecoming pregame show. Sixth grade students will only march in the Memorial Day Parade at the end of the school year. Students are expected to wear the RMS uniform to all parades. The Uniform is as follows: RMS green polo shirt, black pants (no shorts, skirts, capris unless specified by the director), and tennis shoes. Sleeves on the shirts should NOT be rolled up and collars should be down with only the top button unbuttoned. Shirts will be available for a fee of \$26.00 per shirt.

Jazz Band

Students may audition for the jazz band in the fall. Rehearsals will be before or after school and/or one night each week in the RMS band room. The jazz band will be included in the concerts! Several HHS students may be available to help with the rehearsals.

ILMEA Honors Band

Each year, the Illinois Music Educators Association sponsors a regional honors band and jazz band for talented students in grades six through eight. Students from all over Northern Illinois audition for the privilege of performing in one of these outstanding groups. The time commitment is minimal, but the rewards are many. The auditions are held at a site to be determined or may be virtual. After the auditions, students are notified if they have been chosen to perform at the Honors Band concert at DeKalb High School. All students who are selected to participate in the ILMEA Festival will be recognized in our concert and will receive a trophy at the end of the year. Students may sign up in the band room at the beginning of the school year if they wish to participate. Before and after school rehearsals will be available if needed.

Trills and Thrills Music Festival/Great America

Each year the eighth grade band participates in the Trills and Thrills Festival at Johnsbury High School. This is a large group festival where each band performing is recorded and adjudicated by collegiate judges. The group is then presented with a plaque and ribbon with its earned rating. After the morning festival is completed, students travel to Great America in Gurnee, Illinois for the rest of the day. The festival will occur sometime in May, pending notification from the Trills and Thrills Festival coordinator.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BAND CAMPS

The Braves Band Booster organization awards both Kinnikinnick and RMS band students with scholarship money to attend a summer band camp of their choice. Students may research different colleges and print off the registration form of the one that they would like to attend. Scholarship applications will be available in the band room in April. Students are strongly encouraged to apply!

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

When students are at school, they are expected to play their instrument during rehearsal unless they have a written excuse. If a student is not feeling well, he/she may be sent to the school nurse. If a student has soreness from braces being tightened, he/she should still be in a seat with the music, following along and fingering through the music while the other students play. Study halls will only be given in extreme circumstances or when the director calls a sectional rehearsal. Students who are not involved in the sectional rehearsal must bring homework or something to read and sit quietly and use the time wisely.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

Individual or group lessons are not provided for band students at school but are a very important part of a student's musical growth and understanding. Students who take private lessons have the opportunity to further develop their musical skills. Private lessons also allow students to study with an instructor who specializes with a particular instrument and can share a high level of expertise with the student. Parents are encouraged to seek out teachers who have an accredited music degree from a university and should ask prospective teachers for their credentials and teaching experience. These professionals usually charge between \$20 and \$30 for a half hour music lesson. Lessons can be set up on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on the instructor. There are also several Hononegah High School students who give private lessons. Information on these lessons will be sent home throughout the year as the information becomes available. Check out my website at www.roscoemiddleschoolband.com for a list of private lesson instructors.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be determined by some or all of the following criteria:

1. Playing Tests and Written Tests/Assignments: Students may receive points for performing assigned music accurately with good posture, tone, technique, interpretation, etc. Written assignments and tests may be given on material that has been covered in class.
2. Conduct: Students will receive daily points based on behavior and class preparation.
3. Practice Charts: Students may be asked to keep a record of their weekly practice.
4. Attendance at performances: See "Concert Attendance Policy"
5. Demerits can be given to students who: are tardy to class; talk excessively or are off-task; forget to bring their instrument/*music/pencil to class; do not have the supplies, reeds, valve oil, etc.; do not take proper care of the instrument.
6. Extra Credit can be given to students who attend concerts or participate in additional performances beyond those that are required for band class. Extra credit opportunities are listed at the bottom of the band events calendar.

***EACH STUDENT MUST HAVE A ONE INCH 3 RING BINDER WITH PAGE PROTECTORS. ALL STUDENTS WILL ALSO NEED A PENCIL THAT SHOULD BE KEPT IN THE BINDER.**

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students who are members of a performing group are required to attend ALL band concerts and functions. (Please see the performance dates attached to the end of this handbook.)

Performances are a large part of the band student's grade. They are equivalent to a major exam. Through these performances, students demonstrate what they have learned. Each student is an important part of the success of the band. If a student is absent from any one of these functions, he/she will receive 0 points (or an "F") for that event. A student will only be able to make up the points given for the performance if their absence is considered excused. If possible, all absences need to be communicated to the director no later than three weeks before the performance date. The Kinnikinnick School District makes every effort to avoid conflicts with the many school activities that are offered. If a conflict arises within the district, it will be the director's responsibility to work out a fair solution for the student(s) involved. **It should be noted that non-school activities and club sports should not take precedence over a school band concert or performance. ANY ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE THAT IS NON-SCHOOL RELATED CAN BE CONSIDERED AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.** If an absence is unexcused, the student will not be allowed to make up the points.

How to make up a missed performance

1. Prepare and perform a piece of music selected by the director. Performance may be recorded and emailed to the director.

OR...

1. Attend a complete concert at the high school or other approved concerts. Students will turn in a program from that concert. The program is to be signed by the student and the parent/guardian of the student.

2. In addition to the signed program, the student will write a one page critique of the performance. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins all around. Pictures and graphics will not be allowed. Paper will be graded on content, spelling, organization, and grammar. Font size should be 12.

OR...

1. Write a two page research paper on a topic given by the band director. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins all around and will be graded on content, spelling, organization, and grammar. Font size should be 12.

OR...

1. Any other activity approved by the director and parents that would be appropriate.

CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM

- * The equipment in the room is for the students to use and NOT abuse.
- * Students should not handle any equipment that does not belong to them without permission from the director. Students must only play their own instruments.
 - * Students should NOT bring homework/books to class unless instructed to do so.
 - * No food, drink, or gum allowed in the band room.
- * Take proper care of all instruments and music binder. Both should be kept in their assigned spots with cases properly latched. Students must ALWAYS have a pencil in their binder.
- * The band room telephone is not to be used without permission from the teacher.
 - * Students will demonstrate respect to all people and all things at all times.

SECTIONAL LESSONS

All sixth grade students are encouraged to attend one sectional rehearsal each week. A schedule of dates will be sent home with your student at the beginning of the school year. Please put these dates on your calendar. Seventh and eighth grade band members are also encouraged to sign up to be a "band buddy" to a younger student!

PRACTICE

Practicing is an integral part of the success of the band student. Without practice, the student basically will see only a minimal amount of improvement in his/her musical accomplishments. Consider practice time to be the student's daily homework assignment for band class. With this in mind, 20-30 minutes each night would allow for the students to learn their music for band class and work on their particular problem spots. **Practice minutes should be submitted each week by filling out the paper form given to you each week.** All band students are highly encouraged to take their instruments home on a daily basis but we do understand that this may not always be possible. However, students should take their instruments and music home for the weekend when they generally have more time to practice.

Helpful Practice Tips

- * A minimum of 20 minutes per day of home practice should be a realistic goal for the student. This does NOT include band time during the school day.
- * Try to establish a routine practice time and place for your student. Try to find a place that is free from distractions or interruptions.
- * Practice with a hard-backed chair and a music stand to promote good posture.
- * Warm up on scales, then work on the music. Keep in mind that we practice to be better musicians, not just to keep playing music that we already know. Use that music as a reward at the end of the practice session.
 - * Parents can encourage the student by listening to the practice and offering praise for their accomplishments.
- * Have your student record the songs. Sometimes it helps the student to hear what they are sounding like. Another option is for the students to record themselves playing one part of a duet and then play the second part of the duet with the recording!
- * Practice with a friend or with the accompaniment CD that comes with the book!

BRAVES BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

WE NEED YOU!!!!

The Braves Band Boosters is a parent organization that supports the Kinnikinnick Band Program. The organization raises the necessary funds to run the band program. Some of the fundraisers include: fruit sale, band dance, and chocolate sale. With the money raised, the group is able to purchase new instruments and music for all grade levels, build shelving and storage units, provide scholarships to summer music camps, provide rewards and incentives for student achievement, and send the entire eighth grade band to Trills and Thrills Music Festival! Any parent of a student enrolled in the Kinnikinnick School District's Band Program is welcome to become a member. The meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. in the RMS Band Room. Please check my website for further information and listings of all board members, www.roscoemiddleschoolband.com.

Meeting dates for the 2023-24 school year are as follows:

Sept.5 (Tuesday); Oct. 2; Nov. 6; Dec. 4; Jan. 8; Feb. 5; Mar. 11; Apr. 1; May 6 (dates are subject to change)

REPAIRS

Privately owned instruments: If a student's instrument is in need of repair, the director will notify the student and/or send a note home letting the parents/guardians know that the instrument is not working properly. Stateline Instrument Repair is the recommended place to fix the broken instrument.

Jerry Disney
Stateline Instrument Repair
5351 Stateline Road
South Beloit, IL
(815)389-4380

www.statelineinstrumentrepair.com

*Jerry does ask that you call to set up an appointment.

Rental Instruments from Voigt Music: If the student is renting an instrument from Voigt Music, all repairs are covered in the rental price. A representative from the music store will visit the school during the week to pick up any instruments in need of repair. The student may be given a loaner instrument to use until the instrument is returned. These repairs are usually done within the week. A student will not be penalized for not having their instrument in class if it is in repair.

School Rental Instruments: There is a \$100 per year rental fee for any student using a school owned instrument. This fee will cover the cost of summer maintenance and cleaning. **All repairs will be the responsibility of the student/parents. Parents will be responsible for drop off and pick up of the repair.** All instrument repairs will be handled through Jerry Disney at Stateline Instrument Repair.

RESALE ITEMS

You may call or email Voigt Music to order supplies that you need and they will deliver them to school! You may also pick them up at their store which is located at 1401 W. Court Street in Janesville, Wisconsin.

1-608-756-0081

www.voigtmusic.com

Please feel free to purchase any needed items through any other music store of your choice.

I hope that your student's band experience will be challenging, exciting, fulfilling, and fun! If there is anything that I can do to help your student succeed, please feel free to contact me anytime!

PLEASE RETURN THE BAND INFORMATION SHEET WITH YOUR SIGNATURE AND INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED AND READ AND UNDERSTAND THE BAND HANDBOOK AND BAND EVENTS CALENDAR.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kinnikinnick School District Band Program!

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