

ROME MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK
2020-2021

Corey Newton, 8th Grade Director
Ben G Williams, 7th Grade Director



Mr. Parke Wilkinson, Principal
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Dear RMS Band Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Rome Middle School Band Program. We are delighted that you and your child have chosen to participate in this year's program. Music can be enjoyed by everyone and playing an instrument is a skill that can last a lifetime. Statistics have proven over and over again that students who participate in music programs are among the academically elite in their schools. Their adult lives are filled with successes, often attributed to the skills gained through the band experience: self-discipline, work ethic, attention to detail, teamwork, and confidence, to name a few. Band membership can provide this foundation for your child during what can be an awkward growing time in middle school and high school.

Playing an instrument allows for a *daily*, "hands on" experience not often found in the other classrooms in the school. Certainly, there are many excellent opportunities in school for children to exercise their imagination, but the band allows for the students to actually be *inside* of the art they are creating. And, rather than simply exercising their thumbs while viewing action on a video screen, the students interact with the entire atmosphere in which they sit - sight, sound, touch. They **are** the action and learn to control what they do, not merely watch it as it goes by. Being in a music class also helps access creativity that might otherwise go undeveloped. The universal language of music provides a wonderful vehicle for this personal growth.

For parents, being involved is a bonus. Research points to the importance of supporting children in the positive activities they become a part of. We hope you will enhance your child's music education by becoming involved with the band this year. There are many ways you can help us as a band parent, including, but not limited to, chaperoning, fundraising, and volunteering at the Peach State Marching Festival or football concessions.

This handbook is your reference to the activities planned for the Band Program this year. It also outlines program policies and procedures. Please review this handbook with your child and refer to it as necessary throughout the school year.

Please contact us and we will be happy to assist you in any way. We are looking forward to another rewarding year with your family as a part of our program.

-Corey Newton and Ben G. Williams

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide each band family with an understanding of the policies and procedures that govern the Rome Middle School Band Program. These guidelines exist to ensure consistent rules are applied to every student in all aspects of the Band Program.

Personal Instruments

Personal Instruments are defined as instruments that belong to or are rented by an individual student's family from a community music store or private business. These instruments are not owned or insured by Rome Middle School, the Rome City School System, or the State of Georgia. The student (and family) is responsible for maintaining the instrument in working order (see p. 3 "Participation") with the proper accessories (see p. 4 "Class Materials"). The band directors will recommend repairs (when needed) and specific quality accessories as the student progresses through the program.

School Instruments

School Instruments are defined as instruments which belong to Rome Middle School or the Rome Band Boosters. These typically include larger instruments: bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horns, euphoniums, tubas, etc. The school bears the responsibility of repair costs on these instruments. However, students are obligated to treat them with special care so that needless and expensive repairs do not have to be made. Future students must be able to use these instruments. Obvious damage to school instruments will be considered vandalism and will be dealt with in the manner outlined by Rome City Schools in the RMS Student Handbook. To ease transportation and increase home practice, it would help your child if you could rent one of these instruments to keep at home.

COMMUNICATION

	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Email	bgwilliams@rcs.rome.ga.us	cnewton@rcs.rome.ga.us

Remind	text “@romeband7” to 81010	Text “@romeband8” to 81010
School Status	Please make sure that your contact info is up-to-date with the RMS front office. Call (706) 235-4695 or email kjbrannon@rcs.rome.ga.us	

BAND FEES

A Band Fee of \$60 will be collected this year. Band fees will provide students with:

- 1. Band Polo (for 7th grade and 8th grade students who need a new one.)**
- 2. Music Binder**

Why is a band fee necessary?

It is becoming more and more difficult for the school system to provide the financial support necessary to maintain a successful, active band program. As a result, there is a fee for each student in the band. This will not only help to support the band program, but it will also consolidate traditional beginning-of-the-year expenses into one payment. The operations fee will cover a significant number of costs associated with the RMS band program, including but not limited to the following: Band Binders, Method Books/Supplementary Materials, Clinician Fees, Music (the cost of one band piece is between \$50 and \$100), pencils, maintenance of school owned instruments, purchasing new instruments and equipment, and various other miscellaneous expenses.

CALENDAR

The RMS Band calendar is available online and is accessible at www.romebands.net. Hover over the “Middle School” tab, then click on “Calendar.” Paper calendars will also be distributed every month. A digital version of the document will be sent using Remind and School Status.

BAND CAMP

Band camp will be held from July 13-17, 2020 from 8:30am-4:30pm

Students should be dropped off and picked up at the RMS bus lane. Lunch will be from 11:45-12:30. Students should bring their own lunch; no one will be allowed to leave campus for lunch. Dress comfortably and wear athletic shoes.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

All after school rehearsals will be from 3:45-4:45. Rehearsals are mandatory and will be graded in the Daily Participation category. The following information gives you an idea of generally how rehearsals are scheduled. Please defer to the online calendar if you have questions.

First semester:

- We have regular marching band rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- After our Peach State Performance, only 7th grade will meet on Tuesdays and only 8th grade will meet on Thursday.
- After our Christmas Concert and Parade, there will be no after school rehearsals.

Second Semester:

- 7th Grade rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays. Sometimes not every student will need to stay every day, so pay attention to the rehearsal calendar.
- After school rehearsals after LGPE will be communicated near the end of February.
- 8th Grade rehearses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For all of January and most of February, Tuesdays will be reserved for sectionals and the full band will meet every Thursday. After sectional rehearsals are completed mid-January, the full band will meet every Tuesday and Thursday.

How to handle conflicts:

Students participate in a variety of activities, and sometimes conflicts will occur. Use the following guidelines to resolve any conflicts:

1. *Copy the Band Calendar (included in this handbook) into your family calendar.*
2. *Notify your director of any conflicts. Students who are participating in an on-campus sport or club may be allowed to “split time,” at the discretion of the director.*

GRADING SYSTEM

Daily Participation 40%

Having instrument, music, classroom materials (see below) during rehearsal.

Attendance at mandatory after school rehearsals.

Performance Projects 60%

Individual playing tests and ensemble performances.

CLASS MATERIALS

Instrument-Specific Supplies:

Flute: Tuning rod (specific to your make & model), cotton cleaning swab or bandana.

Oboe: 3 reeds at all times; reed case, small canister (prescription bottle) for reed soaking, weighted silk swab, cork grease.

All Clarinets: 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Van Doren; 2½ strength for 7th grade, 3 strength for 8th grade), weighted silk swab, cork grease

All Saxophones: 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Van Doren; 2½ strength for 7th grade, 3 strength for 8th grade), weighted silk swab, cork grease, neck strap

Trumpet: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Bach 5C or 3C mouthpiece or equivalent

French Horn: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Schilke 30 mouthpiece or equivalent

Trombone: Slide lubricant, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Bach 6½ AL or Schilke 51D mouthpiece or equivalent

Euphonium: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Bach 6½ AL or Schilke 51D mouthpiece or equivalent

Tuba: valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, Bach 24 AW mouthpiece or equivalent is best.

Percussion: Concert drum sticks

BAND PROGRAM BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

All school-wide rules and expectations are in effect in the music classrooms and on any trip the students may take with the Rome Middle School Band.

Each music classroom exists to educate each and every child in the fundamentals of music. For all students to receive such an education, the following expectations will set the classroom climate:

Listen, Follow Instructions, Show Respect, Be Prepared, Stay on task.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

**Students are expected to attend every performance.
Every performance is mandatory and will be graded.**

A band is a performing group which can only develop to its fullest potential when each member is fulfilling his/her role completely. Absences not only affect the learning of one student, but also the learning of entire group. Concert dates and times are published on the band website calendar (www.romebands.net), on paper calendars, rehearsal and performance lists, and in letters that go out approximately two weeks before each event.

Grading for Performances

Credit for marching and concert performances are recorded in the "Performance Projects" portion of the gradebook. If you are on time to the performance, wearing the appropriate attire, and demonstrating proper behavior, you will earn a grade of 100 in the "Performance Projects" category. If you are absent from the concert, regardless of the reason, a "0" will be recorded. Make-up assignments are assigned at the discretion of the director. Real family emergencies are the only exception.

Make-Up Policy

Missing a performance is the same as missing an exam or summary project in another class. Make-ups will be graded based on the quality of the individual's performance. Students should prepare to play all concert selections in their entirety.

It is up to the student to communicate with the director, and determine the best way to submit recordings or schedule a time before or after school with the director. If the student misses their make-up time or misses the deadline, they will receive a zero.

Family Emergencies

To be excused from a make-up performance, we must receive written notice of the emergency upon your child's return to school. This may be written by another parent or a caregiver if you are unavailable during the time of crisis.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

All students dress the same for band performances. Students should wear the red band polo (provided after fee is paid), khaki pants (provided by student), and band shoes (shiny "Dinkles").

Exceptions: the directors may allow layering underneath the band polo shirts for performances. In these cases, students should wear white, black, grey, or red long sleeve items UNDERNEATH their polo shirts. No clothing items may cover the band polo.

Students who arrive at a performance without the proper clothing will be prohibited from performing.

We encourage you to address concert attire issues long before the day of a concert. We all work hard to prepare for public performances, and deserve to be presented in a manner worthy of public scrutiny.

REGULAR YEARLY PERFORMANCES

- Band Camp Finale Performance (RMS gymnasium)
- Halftime at RHS football game (Barron Stadium)
- Afternoon performance at the Peach State Marching Festival (Barron Stadium)
- Rome Christmas Parade (Broad Street)
- RMS Christmas Concert (RMS gymnasium)
- Winter Concert (RMS gymnasium)
- LGPE Performance (Large Group Performance Evaluation; location TBA)
- Jazz & Jeans
- Prism Concert (Forum River Center)

PRIVATE LESSONS

We encourage EVERY STUDENT to take private instruction from an accomplished musician. Private lessons make the most of your band investment, allowing for individual attention and a specialist's advice. Furthermore, lessons typically raise your audition scores for Honor Band and All-State; most students in these groups take private lessons. As an added benefit, private lessons help the band improve. As the saying goes, "Make the individual better, and the band will get better."

- Flute-
- Oboe-
- Clarinet-
- Saxophones-
- Trumpet-
- French Horn-
- Trombone-

- Euphonium/Baritone/Tuba-
- Percussion-

PURCHASING EQUIPMENT

Contact the directors before upgrading or purchasing additional equipment for your instrument. We frequently purchase instruments for the band and can certainly point you toward quality products.

BAND FUNDRAISERS

The Rome Band Program will sponsor several fundraisers each year, the biggest of which is the Peach State Marching Festival, which is always held on the third Saturday of October. ALL PARENTS should plan on volunteering for all or a portion of the day for this event. All fundraisers provide funds to enhance the education of the students and to supplement the funds supplied by RCS. Money raised will go toward: LGPE fees, recording fees, clinicians/instructors, music purchasing (one piece of music is between \$50-100), instrument maintenance and purchases, and professional development.

INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS IN BAND

What can parents do?

- Make sure your child's instrument is in good working condition.
- Provide a quiet place to practice.
- Schedule a consistent, daily practice time.
- Come to band performances! Let them see your face in the audience.
- Praise your child's efforts and accomplishments.
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music including live concerts and recitals.
- Allow your child to play many types of music.
- Decide that you and your child have made a commitment to band and stick to it.

Statement of Obligations, Contract of Membership, and Handbook Acknowledgment Form

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I desire to be a member of the Rome Middle School Band. I understand that the Rome Bands have a long tradition of musical excellence and that all students are expected to acquire skills quickly in order to maintain the tradition that was established by those who came before me. I understand that being a part of this fine band program requires absolute commitment to the ensemble. If I am going to miss a rehearsal, my guardians will notify my band director before the absence occurs. I also agree to learn and abide by the following expectations of all RMS band members:

- I will try my best.
- I will not bring food or drinks into the band room.
- I will follow instructions perfectly the first time.
- I will not speak or make unauthorized noises when an adult is speaking.
- I will be better every day.
- I will always assume responsibility for my actions and decisions.
- I will never be disrespectful to my classmates or my teacher.
- I will do what is right, always.
- I will be on time to all rehearsals and performances.
- I will always have my instrument.
- I will have a pencil at every rehearsal.
- I will have my music at all rehearsals.
- I will be in the correct uniform for performances.
- I will keep the band room clean.
- I will practice my instrument so that I am prepared for playing test and quizzes.
- I will be prepared for all rehearsals and performances.

The handbook has been gone over with me by an RMS Band Director and/or my parent/guardian. I understand that the consequences for a failure to follow classroom procedures are: 1) verbal warning 2) parent contact 3) detention and parent contact 4) parent/teacher conference with follow up to discuss improvement 5) office referral and parent contact. I understand that detentions and/or office referrals may be immediately assigned to those students who continuously refuse to meet behavior expectations. I also understand that if I continually refuse to follow procedures or if I miss a performance or rehearsal without informing the Director in advance, he may remove me from the program for these and any other policy infractions.

Student Name (PRINT CLEARLY) _____ **Date** _____

PARENTAL AGREEMENT

I will help keep my child's instrument in good repair with periodic servicing. I will also see that my child has reeds, oil, mouthpieces, and other supplies necessary to keep the instrument in good working order. I will make sure that my child has a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption. I will keep a schedule of band activities in a prominent place to help avoid conflicts with other activities and appointments. I will make sure my child has a ride to and from all rehearsals and performances and that my child is picked up and dropped off on time. I will make prior arrangements to make sure that my child has alternate transportation if I am unable to drop off or pick up my child in time. I understand that I have 15 minutes from the time of the announced conclusion of an event to pick up my child. I have read the band handbook and will support my child in meeting the obligations that are outlined within. I agree to cover my child's Operations Fee and other applicable costs. I understand that the RMS Band Directors will gladly work with me if unforeseen difficulties arise. I will communicate with him regularly about the overall status of my child's band account, behavior, progress and attendance.

Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____