

Rustburg Bands

2023-2024 Band Handbook



Mr. Joseph Ayers

Band Director

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`www.rustburgbands.weebly.com`

RHS - 434-332-5171 x307

Brantley Shields, Principal - RHS

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. It is my pleasure to have you in band class. This handbook is a guide for parents and students to understand the policies of the band program. Please make a note of the dates of concerts / rehearsals, as these are mandatory and are part of your class grade!

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Band is a course of continued education that begins in 6th grade. Each year you continue to participate in the band program, you will learn and develop new skills related to playing and performing on a wind or percussion instrument. We will perform in several concerts throughout the year. Band is a participation and performance based class.

Symphonic Band (9th-12th grade):

Students who continue to take band class into high school are in the advanced Symphonic Band. This class is the premier performing ensemble of the Rustburg Bands. There are 2 separate semesters of Symphonic Band - 1st Semester and 2nd Semester. Students are encouraged to sign up for both semesters if you have room on your schedule!

Marching Band:

This is an after-school, non-credit, extra-curricular activity where students learn to apply their instrumental skills in a marching band setting. The Marching Red Devils will perform at all home football games, as well as travel to several marching band competitions throughout the fall. Students in 8-12th grade are invited to try out for the marching band at RHS. Students who intend on participating in marching band are required to attend summer band camp at RHS. The cost to participate is \$200. Please see the separate RHS Marching Band Handbook for more information.

OFFICE HOURS / TEACHER CONTACT:

Mr. Ayers is at both Rustburg High and Middle at different times throughout the day.

Contact info for **Middle School** is --- RMS: 434-332-5141 x355

Contact info for **High School** is --- RHS: 434-332-5171 x307

Mr. Ayers email is; jayers@campbell.k12.va.us - this is the best way to contact Mr. Ayers

Band Website: www.rustburgbands.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/rustburgbands

Email: rustburgbands@gmail.com

CLASS REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- A working instrument, either provided by the student or borrowed from the school, maintained to proper playing condition with all necessary accessories
- A pencil, which should be with you every day in class
- Your band Folder / Binder - kept neat and organized
- Your band method book (can be ordered the first week of school)
 - HS = Habits of a Successful Musician
- A good attitude (most important!)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- **Be Respectful**; to yourself, to others, to the equipment, to the teacher
- **Be Prepared**; practice your part / skills, contribute, have your required materials
- **Follow Directions**; the first time they are given
- **NO food, drink, or gum in the band room!**
- **All school rules will be enforced**

Supportive Feedback:

- Praise in class / Invitation to participate in incentives / Field Trips /Class rewards
- Good notes or calls home
- Grades are *earned*, not given!

Corrective Actions: What happens when you are not behaving appropriately?

- Warning - verbal warning, you may receive one warning per class
- Pack up instrument / move seats / writing assignment / lose points for the day
- Phone call home / contact parents
- Referral to Administrator

CONCERT AND REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The Rustburg Band Program will have several concerts throughout the year, and attendance is mandatory for students in the program. There may be after school rehearsals scheduled throughout the year, we will communicate these as much ahead of time as possible.

Please mark dates now!

December 15 - Christmas Concert (RMS and RHS perform)

March 7 - Fine Arts Night Concert (RHS performs, RMS required to attend)

May 18 - Spring Concert (RMS and RHS perform)

(**June 2 or 3** - tentative Graduation date - 8th grade and HS perform)

GRADING POLICY:

- Weekly Class Participation = **40%**
 - Participation, having required materials, contributing to the ensemble, behavior
- Playing Quizzes / Practice Check / Skills Tests = **30%**
 - Weekly / Bi-weekly playing tests to verify practice and proper technique
 - Your 9-weeks checklist
- Concert / Performance / Rehearsal Attendance = **30%**
 - Attending the concert with required materials
 - Alternative assignment with approved excused absence
- Practice Records = **10% extra credit!**
 - Practice is *required*, and turning in practice records helps you see the correlation between practice time and success in playing quizzes.
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COMMUNICATION:

It is imperative for the success of the students and the program that we stay in touch throughout the school year. Items of importance will be communicated in various ways to students and parents. Along with **email**, please keep an eye out for paper **letters** sent home with students. Also, the Rustburg Bands **Facebook** page and **website** will be used for quick communication.

INSTRUMENTS:

Having a well-maintained and properly working instrument every day in class is vital to the success of the individual player as well as the success of the band.

- Student provided instruments - must be cleaned, maintained, and playable for every rehearsal. If the instrument is in need of repair, that is the responsibility of the student.
- School provided instruments - students must fill out an instrument rental form and have it signed by a parent or guardian. Any damage to the instrument beyond what is considered 'normal wear and tear' will be the responsibility of the student to have repaired. Students will also need to provide their own accessories, like mouthpiece/ reeds/ cleaning kit / etc.
- Students who do not bring a properly working instrument: will lose daily participation points for that day. If your instrument is in need of repair, ask the repair shop for a loaner or ask Mr. Ayers if there is one available to borrow while yours is in the shop. If you need an instrument to be sent to the shop, please let Mr. Ayers know. Try to have repairs taken care of in a timely fashion
- Lost, stolen or damaged instruments should be reported to Mr. Ayers immediately

METHOD BOOKS:

Band class method books will be ordered in the first weeks of school. High School Students will use "Habits of a Successful Musician". Students are expected to keep their books safe in their folders and bring them to class each day.

FUNDRAISING:

There may be several fundraisers throughout the school year. A fully funded band program can be *very expensive!* It is imperative that we have as many students and parents participating in our fundraising efforts as possible.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS & RUSTBURG BAND BOOSTERS, INC.

Throughout the year the bands at RHS are involved in many activities, which require volunteer assistance from parents. The **Rustburg Band Boosters, Inc.** organization is very active in supporting band activities. They help to raise money for the Rustburg band program at RHS and RMS. RMS band parents are invited to become involved in the Band Booster activities at any time. Please take the time to check the list of volunteer opportunities at the end of this handbook and check the areas you can help. Return this to the band director promptly. More information is available from Mr. Ayers.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Each student may earn extra credit or positive points towards their Nine Week Grade. The student must have their extra credit project/performance approved by the band director in advance to receive credit.

BAND OPPORTUNITIES:

Students who participate in band class and marching band will be invited to participate in other band-related activities, such as field trips, other concerts, honor bands, pep rallies, etc. Your behavior in class and level of practice and participation will determine your invitation to these events.

BAND - Performance / Participation Rubric (weekly grade)

	Unsatisfactory (1)	Needs Improvement(2)	Satisfactory (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)
Behavior 10 pts	Student is unenthusiastic, rude, or unprepared	Displays some willingness to participate	Shows average enthusiasm, mostly respectful	Well behaved and attentive during class. Respectful.	Model behavior and enthusiasm, always respectful
Preparation 10 pts	Rarely or never brings instrument, music, other required materials	Rarely attends rehearsal, often does not come prepared	Occasionally attends rehearsal, tends to forget materials	Attends most rehearsals, is prepared with instrument and materials	Always attends rehearsal and lessons, is always prepared with materials
Practice 10 pts	Appears to not be practicing at all	Appears to practice sometimes	Meets <u>most</u> music practice requirements	Meets <u>all</u> practice requirements	Exceeds practice expectations, always prepared
Instrument Technique 10 pts	Instrument is not held properly, hand position incorrect	Some effort is made to hold properly but performance is hindered	Hand and finger position are good but is not correct to project tone	Playing position is good but there are minor errors	Playing and finger position are correct and allow for good tone and technique
Posture 10 pts	Student does not demonstrate attempt at proper posture	Sits in slouched position; head, shoulders, feet are improper, back slouched	Sometimes aware of proper posture with some tension in body	Usually aware of proper posture, sits up straight with minor adjustments needed	Fully aware of proper posture – sits with head up, back straight, feet flat on floor, arms correct
Articulation 10 pts	No real attempt to properly articulate	Difficulty tonguing or slurring	Usually follows articulation, but clarity is issue or some small mistakes	Almost all articulation is correct with occasional error	All articulation patterns performed correctly
Pitch 10 pts	No recognizable tone is present	Many notes incorrect, tone is airy or wavering	Shows a good feel for tone and notes, some small intonation problems	Mostly correct with few intonation problems	Pitches are correct and intonation has characteristic quality sound in all registers
Tone Quality 10 pts	Totally lacking due to poor embouchure/ playing position/ breath support	Limited projection – tone is poor, needs stronger embouchure or air	Fair use of projection and fullness of tone, room for improvement	Considerable use of projection and fullness of tone, short of a mature sound	Tone is full and well projected, truly characteristic sound for the instrument
Rhythm Accuracy 10 pts	No evidence of steady pulse	Pulse is unstable with major errors	Pulse is fairly steady, small errors	Steady pulse with few errors	Steady pulse with accurate rhythms and no errors
Musicality 10 pts	No attention to dynamics, tempo, or style indication	Rare use of dynamics, rarely follows tempo or other markings	Use of dynamics is narrow/ inconsistent in playing style	Displays ability to play with correct dynamics, phrasing, tempo with only minor errors	Consistently plays with appropriate dynamics, phrasing, and other markings.

Rustburg Band Calendar of Events 2023-24 (High School)

August

- 16 - School Begins
- 25 - Band Handbook Forms Due

September

- 4 - Labor Day (no school)

October

- 19 - End 1st 9-week grading period
- 20-23 - Fall Break (no school)
- 24 - Begin 2nd 9-week grading period
- 26 - **HS Band Halloween Concert - 7:00 @ RHS**

November

- 6 - Teacher work day (no students)
- 7 - Election Day(no school)
- 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break (no school)

December

- 9 - HS All District Auditions
- 14 - Band Winter Concert - 7:00PM @ RHS**
- 19 - Last day before break (Winter Break - December 20 - January 2)

January

- 2 - Classes Resume
- 12 - End second quarter / first semester
- 13 - Middle School All District Band Auditions
- 15 - MLK Day (no school)
- 16 - Teacher Work Day (no students)
- 17 - Begin 3rd Quarter, Second Semester

February

- 2-3 - HS All District Event
- 19 - Presidents Day (no school)

March

- 5 - Fine Arts Night Concert** (HS performs, MS attends)
- 23 - end third quarter

April

- 1-5 - Spring Break (no school)

May

- 21 - Band Spring Concert** 7:00 RHS Auditorium (HS and MS perform)
- 27 - Memorial Day (no school)
- 30 - Last Day of School

June

- 1 - Graduation - HS band performs

Band Handbook Agreement: (Handbook available on Canvas or band website)

I have read over the Rustburg Bands 2023-2024 Handbook. I agree to abide by all policies set forth in the handbook. I have seen the calendar of events and will be at all performances and rehearsals. I understand the commitment to the band program and will participate to the fullest of my ability.

I have the contact information for the band director and will reach out with any questions regarding policies, concerts, dates, participation, boosters, or any other questions about the Rustburg Band Program.

I understand that all students, regardless of financial means, are able to participate in the Rustburg Band Program. If financial assistance is needed, please contact the director.

Please fill out the following information and return by August 25

Required materials: instrument, band book 'Habits of a Successful Musician'

Band Website : www.rustburgbands.org

Student Name _____

Parents Names _____

(please circle best way to contact you - all information is requested to be filled out)

Phone _____ / _____

Email _____ / _____

Mailing Address _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____