

Rustburg Bands

2023-2024 RMS Band Handbook



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www.rustburgbands.org

RMS - 434-332-5141 x355

Christie Cundiff, Principal - RMS

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.

6th Grade Band:

This is a beginner level introductory course where students choose their instruments and we learn the fundamental practices that are involved in instrumental music performance. This is a year-round program which meets every day during the school day. Students will perform in 2 concerts.

7th Grade Band:

Students continue to participate in band as second year players and continue developing their skills that will be required to participate in Symphonic Band. Students who missed 6th grade band may join in 7th grade. 7th Grade band is a year-round class, students will perform 2 concerts.

8th Grade Band:

Students in 8th grade band will receive a high school fine arts credit that will count towards their graduation. This is a year-round continuation of 6th and 7th grade band. Students in 8th grade band may be invited to participate in concerts with the Symphonic Band, and are expected to perform at graduation ceremonies.

OFFICE HOURS / TEACHER CONTACT:

RMS: 434-332-5141 x355

Mr. Ayers - jayers@campbell.k12.va.us

Mrs. Eubanks - lauren.rancourt@campbell.k12.va.us

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
 - Reeds, valve oil, mouthpiece, etc.
- 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)
 - 6th Grade:
 - Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician
 - 7th and 8th Grade
 - Habits of a Successful Middle School 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, and is the culmination of our rehearsal and practice efforts.

Band Class is an academic class; please share these dates with your coach or other teachers in case of any conflicts. Your attendance and participation is expected and is part of your grade!

Please mark dates now:

October 26 - Halloween Concert - HS plays, MS attends for extra credit

December 14 - Christmas Concert - MS and HS play

March 5 - Fine Arts Night Concert - HS plays, MS attends for extra credit

May 21 - Spring Concert - MS and HS play

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 = **5% extra credit!**
 - Practice is *required*, and turning in practice records helps you see the correlation between practice time and success in playing quizzes.

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 it repaired, or the instrument replaced. 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 the director 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 your director know. Try to have repairs taken care of in a timely fashion
- Lost, stolen or damaged instruments should be reported to the band director immediately

BAND BOOKS: This year we will be using the 'Habits of a Successful Musician' books in class. 6th grade will need the book 'Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician', and 7th and 8th grade will need 'Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician'. These books can be purchased on Amazon, or at Hill City Music, or Lynchburg Music. Please let Mr. Ayers or Mrs. Eubanks know if you need assistance with getting your book.

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 (Middle 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

- 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

- 16-17 - MS All District Band 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

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 _____