

Richmond High School Band Handbook 2020/2021

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Building a Tradition of Excellence



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Richmond Community School's High School Band Program consists of the marching band and concert band. The Blue Devil Marching Band attends summer band camp and rehearsals and performs at football games, BWAC Invitational, MSBOA Marching Band Festival, area parades and pep band events. When school begins after Labor Day, marching band meets as a class during regularly scheduled band class time as well as evening rehearsals.

When marching band is over at the completion of the Marching Band Festival, the focus becomes concert band. The concert band performs at the Christmas concert, pre-festival and MSBOA Band Festival and the spring concert. There is also opportunity for honors bands and solo and ensemble events throughout the year.

OUR PURPOSE

Students will be involved in many learning experiences in high school band. There are many facets to the band, including marching, concert, jazz and pep bands and other various performing ensembles. They will have opportunities to be leaders and learn to work together. Band students will gain a depth of musical knowledge while improving their individual skills on their chosen instrument. Students will also gain life experiences through learning to work as a team for a common goal, listening and responding to each other as they each learn to become responsible young adults.

STAY IN TOUCH

Website

Visit www.bluedevilmusic.weebly.com for all things band related. The website contains reference recordings of our music, all things related to marching band, the most up-to-date calendar of events, information on music advocacy and how to improve on your instrument. If you think something should be on the website but is not, please let me know by filling out one of the online forms.

Remind Text Messages

Sign up for text message reminders via remind.com which is an efficient, one-way text messaging and email system. Text @rhsband6 to 81010. More information on this is located under the band info tab on the webpage. Standard text message/data rates apply.

Facebook

Like us @richmondbluedevilbands on Facebook.

GRADING POLICY

20% Formative Assessments

Including:

- Daily in class work
- Daily Rehearsal Skills
- Homework

80% Summative Assessments

Including:

- Written quizzes and tests
- Playing quizzes and tests
- Performances

Summative assessments may be made up one time by following the school-wide re-take procedure. See the school student handbook for more details.

1st Semester Grading:

40% 1st Quarter

40% 2nd Quarter

+ 20% Midterm Exam

100%

2nd Semester Grading:

40% 1st Quarter

40% 2nd Quarter

+ 20% Midterm Exam

100%

Powerschool: Powerschool is a "live" Internet program that allows students or parents to access student grades and attendance at any time. Please visit this website (<https://ps.ric.misd.net/public>) for up to date reports.

ASSESSMENT RETAKE POLICY

This will also align with the district retake policy. See student handbook or posted sign in the room for official school policy. 1) Students are only eligible for a retake if the original assessment (written or performance based) has been attempted to a degree of your best effort on the original assessment. 2) 80% of all formative assessments turn in. 3) Completion of the retake within a reasonable time (teacher discretion) frame, e.g., within 1.5 weeks of the original summative assessment. 4) It will occur on your own time (not during class) on a day agreed upon by student and teacher. 5) The best grade will stand. 6) You may retake up to 50% of the quarter summatives.

Students absent from the day of the assessment will need to take the original assessment (playing or written) upon their return to school and the retake policy will be effective from that day forward. Any assessments performed in groups will be retaken on your own or an alternative assignment will be given at the discretion of the teacher.

Standards of Music Education

Perform alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

Compose and arrange music with specified guidelines.

Reading and noting music.

Listening to, analyzing and describing music.

Evaluating music and music performances.

Understanding relationships between music, the other arts and disciplines outside the arts.

Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

BAND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1) Daily Rehearsal Skills:

- Playing alone and with others
- Being prepared with your music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Arriving to class on time, and immediately getting your instrument out to begin warming up.
- Participating appropriately during rehearsals and not talking, playing out of turn, chewing gum, etc.

2) Homework:

- Always having your part learned for class.
- Playing all quizzes with minimal to no mistakes.
- Participating at all sectionals.
- Participating at all rehearsals that are held in addition to class.

3) Performances:

- Participating in all concerts and performances.
- Arriving to the performance at the stated call time.
- Wearing the proper attire needed for that performance.
- Being prepared with the correct music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Playing your part to the best of your ability in the large group setting.

RULES OF THE CLASSROOM

1. Be prepared for class (be on time, practice, have materials, etc)
2. Be respectful of each other, the teacher and the classroom at all times.
3. Bottled water is only allowed in the band room at any time.
4. Stack chairs and put away stands when instructed to do so.
5. All cell phones and electronic devices are not allowed during rehearsal unless stated by the teacher (red – not allowed, yellow – specifically for projects/tuning), green zones – at will of the students within educational guidelines). Students may use them for tuning or metronome purposes during rehearsal.
6. The main hallway door is the entrance to be used during the school day.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- ❑ Instrument in good working condition
- ❑ Music
- ❑ Pencil
- ❑ Reed players: 3-4 reeds in good playing condition – No chips or cracks!
- ❑ Brass players: Valve oil, slide cream
- ❑ Any cleaning products (cloths, swabs, etc)
- ❑ A positive attitude!

BAND MEMBER ATTENDANCE POLICY

TARDIES

When the student is tardy to band s/he greatly disrupts rehearsal and arrives without having a chance to adequately warm-up, affecting his/her performance throughout the hour. For this reason tardiness is greatly discouraged. Students will lose points toward their daily rehearsal skills grade.

PERFORMANCE/BAND CAMP/REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because of the unique nature of the class, band is a *co-curricular*, performance based class. **Attendance at scheduled performances as outlined in the band events calendar is a mandatory part of the overall summative band grade.** However, unforeseen circumstances arise which prevent the student from attending the performance. Therefore, the following policy addresses these concerns in a manner fair to all students.

Be sure to look at the calendar at upcoming evening events and plan ahead. Extra-curricular games, recitals, practices, etc, are not eligible for excused absences. Students must attend the curricular band concert for their grade. However I am very flexible on working out the details so the student can try and do both. Communication is key between the parents, band directors and extra-curricular coaches!

**** All concerts are required. With crowd limitations we may not have an audience. We may also record our concerts in class to present to our families. Our curriculum & concert cycle will remain similar to year's past.**

This is a performance based class and everyone is important to that performance. Each concert cycle provides new opportunities for musical growth. Performances are a summative grade.

Excused Performance Absence

If a student must be absent from a performance, a parent/guardian must notify the director in writing or by telephone BEFORE the performance. If an emergency arises the day of a performance such as severe illness, hospitalization, death in the family, etc., the instructor must be notified by telephone or in writing by next class in which the student is present.

If a performance is missed, it is impossible to truly make up that experience. If the student is excused, they may recover the points missed by completing a re-take/make-up assignment. The student must see Mrs. Schack for that assignment and complete it in a timely manner. If not, the points for the performance will be a zero. The assignment is graded on the quality of the work.

School-related Conflicts:

It is expected that students who choose to participate in several activities or classes that have an "after-school" practice/performance component will make every effort to completely fulfill their obligation to each group. In many cases, splitting time equally between the two simultaneous activities is the best compromise. Graded academic activities, such as performances within the arts, need to take precedence over non-graded extra-curricular activities.

School-related Athletics:

Performances/games take precedence over practices/meetings. The student and/or parents should resolve practice conflicts by giving advanced notification to that student's coach. If possible, the director will make special arrangements to limit the amount of practice time missed.

Performance/game conflicts should be resolved with full understanding and cooperation of all involved including complete and open communication between the students, teachers, parents, and coaches. Students can only be excused if participating in the sporting event's game. If possible, arrangements may be made to split time between the two events.

Because our calendar is available from the beginning of the year, it is expected that students check their schedule against the band schedule. Any conflicts should be addressed at the beginning of a sport's/activity's season. All conflicts must be worked out no few than two weeks prior to the conflict. This will allow coaches and directors to make the necessary adjustments to their ensemble or team.

Emergencies/Illness:

If you suddenly miss a rehearsal or performance due to an emergency or illness, a parent must attempt to make contact with the director via voice mail within 24 hours of the missed event (586.727.3225 ex. 3125). This is still required if the student has been excused from school during the day.

Make-up Work:

If a **performance or rehearsal** is missed, it is impossible to truly make up that experience. Upon the notice of an excused absence, an assignment will be given to earn the points lost while missing the performance. The assignment due date will be determined by the director and will be completed before the end of the marking period that contained the missed performance. The director reserves the right to deny make-up work to a student who does not provide two week's notice for missing a performance. Partial credit may also be given for situations that may not be deemed fully excusable. For emergency absences, the student is held responsible for the missed performance and should arrange to get the make-up assignment with-in five days of the performance. **It is the student's responsibility to arrange for and complete the required assignment**. Failure to complete the assignment within the time frame allotted will result in a "0" (zero) being entered into the grade book for that performance.

All written and playing tests and quizzes need to be completed, even if absent on the day of the test. Each student will complete the test on the day they return to school (exceptions must be arranged with the director).

COVID-19 RELATED POLICIES

The band program will follow any protocols set in place by the school district including social distancing and wearing masks.

Because of the nature of band (wind instruments expelling aerosols & sharing percussion equipment) extra measures will be in place this year such as, but not limited to:

- A one-way flow in the room
- Wearing a bell "mask" during class
- Wiping down any share equipment
- Percussionists providing all their own mallets and sticks
- Not using the folder cart
- Wearing a mask while playing (where applicable)
- Wash. Your. Hands.
- Clean your instrument/mouthpiece regularly
- If/When we go virtually – students will be required to have an instrument at home. Teaching through TEAMS and assignments through Schoology.
- Concerts are scheduled but may be performed during class without an audience.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

BAND & LOCKER ROOM ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to show respect for each other, directors, adults and the facilities at all times in the band hall and all practice areas. The utmost care should be taken with instruments and with all room equipment. Use common sense at all times. In and outside of school you represent the Richmond High School Band and are expected to act accordingly. Locks can be provided by the school. If the student breaks or loses their lock a fee of \$10 will be assessed to their account through the main office. Students are expected to use their lock on their locker.

CONSEQUENCES

All behavior problems are handled on an individual basis. Misbehavior, disturbance, or disrespect in the classroom will not be tolerated. Parent support may be requested in the disciplinary process. If it becomes necessary to send a student to the office, all interventions leading to that point will be communicated to the administration for continuity of care.

PRACTICING

It is expected that you practice regularly and have developed good practice habits. Ensure that you are practicing well with good warm ups, working to develop your tone and technique along with working on specific music we are performing as a band. You are responsible for your practice time. Playing quizzes could happen with or without notice.

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

Student-Owned Instruments: Students are responsible for their own repairs. Instruments must be kept in good playing condition. Contact Port Huron Music for repair costs and timelines.

School -Owned Instruments: Anything beyond what is considered "normal wear and tear" will be the responsibility of the student. You are responsible for obtaining your own reeds.

VARSITY LETTER

Band students have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter in band at the conclusion of their second successful year in band. This is a letter for both marching band and concert band. Letters will be presented at the annual band banquet in the spring.

- Students must be a member of the high school band, including marching band, for two years.
- Students must not have any unexcused absences for any performance leading up to earning their varsity letter.
- Students must be in good standing with the band program earning a B or better in the class.

MUSIC POLICY

Students will be given their own copy of each piece we perform. Students are responsible for bringing that copy with them to rehearsal every day. Each student will each be issued a folder for this purpose.

CHAIR PLACEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

A fundamentals test will help determine concert band chair placements and will be in October near the end of marching season. The postings will be made after all sections have auditioned. The chair positions will be subject to change depending on a few things:

1. The student chooses to challenge.
2. The student loses his/her chair due to not learning/playing their assigned part after an allotted amount of time.
3. The student loses his/her chair due to disciplinary measures.

If the student chooses to challenge, the following guidelines must be met.

1. You can only challenge up one (1) chair at a time.
2. You must notify the person you are challenging and the director one (1) week in advance.
3. You choose the piece you'd like to challenge on in advance and the director chooses the selection of the piece to be played the day of challenge.
4. You may not challenge the same person more than two (2) times per semester.
5. All challenges must be **completed** at least three (3) weeks before the concert.
6. Class time will not be used to complete challenges.
7. You must be receiving a B or better in band.

All challenges are judged by Mrs. Schack.

BULLETIN BOARD

The bulletin board outside of the band room. Look there from time to time for new information! There is also one outside Mrs. Schack's office has information on upcoming concerts, workshops, and summer camps that students can participate in.

BAND BOOSTERS

We have a parent organization called the Band Boosters that supports the band program. The Boosters is a voluntary organization that has pre-arranged meetings at the Richmond High School band room. The Boosters also have an e-mail loop for parents to stay in touch with band activities. If you'd like to be on the loop to receive band information (much of it will be HS band related during fall marching season) please visit

www.richmondbandboosters.weebly.com.

There is information on meeting dates, minutes from previous meetings, various media (pictures and video), as well as contact information to reach the boosters.

UNIFORM POLICY

A \$30 dry clean/alteration/repair fee is part of the \$110 band fee.

Marching Band Uniforms

Your uniform identifies you as a Richmond High School Marching Band member; it MUST be kept in excellent condition and must ALWAYS be worn properly. Uniforms are stored in the band room, but students are responsible for maintaining their uniforms and having all of the parts for each performance. ***Students are responsible for hanging up their uniforms properly after performances and making sure they have all the parts.*** Replacing your uniform is expensive.

SUMMER UNIFORM:

Band Polo Shirt (purchased through the boosters)	White socks (student provides)
Khaki shorts (student provides & must meet school dress code)	White shoes (student provides)

Your uniform (including your shoes) should be clean, wrinkle free & presentable. When in your summer uniform, shirts must be tucked-in at ALL times.

FULL MARCHING BAND UNIFORM:

Coat (Booster issued)	Bibs (Booster issued)
Hat/Box (Booster issued)	Long Black Socks (student provides)
Drill Master Shoes (purchased through boosters)	Band Camp Shirt (booster provided)

Arrive to school for performances in camp shirts, shorts or pants, black socks and drill masters. Band Camp Shirts are to be worn under your uniform. Students also need to be certain that their pants under the uniform are tighter fitting and do not hang lower than the uniform pants.

Additional part of your uniform include a knit hat for cold games. This is at times a formal uniform part as well as for informal events!!

UNIFORM CARE:

- **CLEANING**- Uniforms are dry-cleaned once at the beginning of the season. You are responsible for keeping your uniform clean throughout the season. Check your seat before you sit down.
- **HANGING**- Bibs are to be folded in half & placed over the hanger with your coat over your bibs. Coats should be hooked at the top. DO NOT PUT YOUR SHOES INSIDE YOUR BAG WITH YOUR UNIFORM. Hats go back in boxes and plumes are placed properly back in the tubes after each game.
- **REPAIR**- If your uniform needs repair or resizing please inform one of the volunteer parents as soon as possible. Never cut or alter your uniform.
- **APPEARANCE**- Hair should not touch the collar of the uniform. Girls (and boys) with long hair must tie or pin it up inside their hat. No jewelry. Minimal make up (excluding Color Guard). Shoes must be cleaned before every performance.
- **REPLACEMENT**- All uniform parts are issued to students by with an assigned number found on each item. Any damage to the uniform, other than normal wear & tear will be the student's responsibility to replace. Any lost items will have to be paid for before a replacement will be issued. Any outstanding balance for missing uniform parts will go against the student's school debt and/or grade.

Marching Band Uniforms (continued)

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT COST OF UNIFORM PIECES:

Bibs - \$100	Coat - \$250	Guard Uniform - \$80	Shoes - \$40/pair
Hat - \$75	Plume - \$20	Garment Bag - \$15	Camp Shirts - \$15
Knit Hat - \$15			

Every time you perform, you represent not only Richmond High School, but your band mates, families and most importantly yourself. You are responsible for making the RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND superior!! By taking pride in your uniform, you take pride in YOUR band!

Concert Band Uniforms

Girls

- Black skirt (provided by school)
- Plain black dress shirt (long or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves only please). No tank tops unless covered by a jacket/cardigan (provided by student). This shirt does not need to be tucked in.
- Low heel (1" max) dress shoes.

Boys

- Black pants, black jacket, bow tie (provided by school)
- Black shoes (either your marching shoes or black dress shoes of your own)
- Black socks & white tux shirt (provided by student)

Concert uniforms will be issued to take home. Your uniform is your responsibility. It needs to be kept neatly on a hanger at home, and not bundled into a ball in the back of your locker.

REPLACEMENT- All uniform parts are issued to students by with an assigned number found on each item. Any damage to the uniform, other than normal wear & tear will be the student's responsibility to replace. Any lost items will have to be paid for before a replacement will be issued. Any outstanding balance for missing uniform parts will go against the student's school debt and/or grade.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT COST OF UNIFORM PIECES:

Tux pants - \$75	Tux Coat - \$125	Bow Tie - \$6
Skirt - \$40		

BAND COURSE FEES (\$110 due by July 1st)

A total of \$110 is due by July 1st of the new school year. \$60 is due by the end of the previous school year and the other \$50 can be mailed to

Richmond Band Boosters
P.O. Box 611
Richmond, MI 48062.

Or you can make one payment by the last day of school.

A **\$30 fee** is used for any alterations and end of year cleaning for all concert and marching band uniforms. If your uniform is returned with missing parts or is unusually stained, you will be responsible for additional costs. Please see the uniform contract for further details. An **\$80 fee** is for all other band expenses. These include band camp instructors, drill, music, food throughout the year provided by the boosters (not just band camp), marching band t-shirt, etc. We are well supported through the school district but it does not cover all of our expenses.

RESOURCES

Richmond Band website

A great source for information! **www.bludevilmusic.weebly.com**
Reference recordings; documents; band calendar; other information on performances, fundraisers and news in the band world.

Music Repair/Supply Stores

Port Huron Music
2700 Pine Grove Ave
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 984-5081
www.porthuronmusic.com

A&G Central Music
51170 Romeo Plank
Macomb Township, MI 48042
(586) 677 3784
www.schoolmusiconline.com

Calendar of Events

Please visit

www.bluedevilsmusic.weebly.com

for the most up-to-date calendar.

