



Royal 5th-8th Grade Band Handbook 2022-2023

Director: Miss Ashley Almquist

Email Address: aalmquist@dps170.org

Phone: 815-253-4966 ext. 3157

Resources Used: Canvas, Lumen, Remind

Course Description:

Length of Course: 2 semesters (1 year)

Years Offered: 5th-8th grade

References:

All rules & regulations stated in the Reagan Middle School Student Handbook & Dixon High School Athletic & Activity are to be upheld.

Rules:

1. Be prepared- instrument(s), music, pencil, any other items your instrument needs (at least 2 reeds, swab, valve oil, etc.)
2. No gum, food or drinks (besides water) in the band room.
3. Respect property and equipment.
4. No homework/books during rehearsal.
5. No playing/talking while director is rehearsing.
6. Name tags on all instruments and folders/music properly stored (cases closed!)

Expectations:

1. Show respect to classmates, visitors, equipment, and director.
2. Be on time to class, in your seat, prepared to play.
3. If "it" is not yours, leave "it" alone.
4. Have appropriate classroom materials **everyday**.
5. Attend all **required** performances.
6. **Know your part!** We're only as strong as our weakest player.
7. HAVE FUN!

Attendance & Enrollment:

Band is a performance based class, and it takes everyone to make the best sound possible. As a member of the Royal Band, students are expected to:

- Consider rehearsals and performances of equal priority to other activities.
- Inform parents / guardians / employers of performance dates.
- Inform director of potential conflicts **in advance** of the rehearsal or performance.

*****Students are ONLY able to withdraw from band at the END of a semester or year. A conversation with Miss Almquist MUST be had prior to withdrawal.*****



Absences:

Performance absences are excused for serious illness, accident, or family emergency if and when communicated to the director. **Parent / guardians must communicate any known absence to the director prior to the performance/event.** The absence is unexcused if no communication occurs within 24 hours on either side of the performance absence. Students involved in or attending any performances must be in attendance the full day of an activity to be eligible to perform.

Exceptions to this rule are excused absences for:

- Medical or dental appointments amounting to a maximum of ½ day.

Students must be in school one-half of the day on Friday to participate in weekend activities except for the above exception.

Any illness, accident, or family emergency will be excused, no questions asked. A makeup assignment will NOT be necessary for these excused absences.

Students with an UNEXCUSED absence will have the opportunity to make up points with an assignment. This can be done by contacting Miss Almquist.

Materials:

Students are responsible for obtaining and maintaining ANY and ALL materials necessary for their instrument, this may include and is not limited to:

Instrument, method book, music, pencil, valve oil, slide grease, cork grease, extra reeds, sticks and mallets, etc.

*****Dixon Public Schools has a partnership with West Music (formerly known as Griggs Music). Our representative, Al Moore, comes to our school on a **weekly basis**. If students are in need of materials, they can let Miss Almquist know and Al can bring them and parents can send a check or cash with the student.*****

Reeds & other materials will cost approximately:

Reeds (price for 1):

Clarinet/Alto Sax: \$2.50 Tenor Sax: \$3.50 Bari Sax: \$4.00

Boxes of 10 reeds run about \$20-\$40 per box.

Cork Grease: \$3 Slide/Valve Oil: \$5-8 Woodwind Swab: \$8-12

Brass Snake: \$10-15

Prices are approximate. Prices are subject to change due to store costs.

Equipment:

The Dixon Band Program has a number of instruments and accessories available for student use. If borrowing an instrument from the school, **repairs may be billed to the parent/guardian if damaged by the student.** Improper use of ANY equipment may result in monetary charges.



Folders and Music: Students will be issued a band folder in which to keep music. In the case of lost or damaged folders or music, the replacement will be the responsibility of the student, *cost to replace music may apply.*

Fundraisers:

Throughout the school year, fundraisers may be issued to offset music department costs, fundraise for trips, etc. Informational emails will be sent when those dates are set.

Grading Policy:

The band grade relies **heavily** on participation in class and attendance of concerts and other events. The band grade will follow the school-wide grading policy. *Any late assignments will result in point reduction or a zero unless discussed with the director.* The breakdown of the grade lies below:

30% - Rehearsal Participation* *see below*

30% - Performances

20% - Assignments/Tests/Quizzes

20% - Lessons

***Each rehearsal has a maximum of 10 points. To receive the full 10 points for every rehearsal:**

- Be on time
- Actively participate in the rehearsing process
- Have ALL materials (instrument/folder, music, pencil, Computer if specified)
- Respect fellow band members, director, and equipment
- Return materials to correct locations at the end of every rehearsal

-Rehearsal points will be adjusted as such:

→ Unexcused absence (in school, no notice to director of absence)

◆ 5 points

→ Unexcused absence from school

◆ 0 points

→ Disruptive behavior during rehearsal

◆ 5 points

→ Inappropriate behavior with warning

◆ 5 points

-No points will be deducted:

❖ For an excused absence from school

❖ For student working with another teacher - must have pass

❖ If student has given director advanced warning of a rehearsal conflict

❖ A missed lesson excused by another staff member



Performance Attire:

School dress code applies or students will be sent home and receive a zero for the performance. Attire is subject to change based on the event.

- Concert Band/Festivals/Community Events
 - TOP: ***Black*** blouse, shirt, polo, button-up, dress
 - NO shoulders will be shown
 - BOTTOM: ***Black*** pants, slacks, skirt (must touch knees)
 - NO JEANS OR NAVY BLUE
 - Concert dress is to remain “intact” until the conclusion of the concert.
- Solo & Ensemble, ILMEA & other performances
 - Nice, modest clothes

Communication:

Every good program starts with good communication! Emails & phone numbers should be put on the slip attached, but please add yourself to the correct group(s) on the REMIND app to receive reminders about all events!

To join, text the correct code to the following number: 81010

5th grade band: @948cc7

6th grade band: @22c4ff

7th/8th grade band: @ag7679c

