

Riddle School District



Band Handbook 2019-2020

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am thrilled to start another school year as the Director of Bands in the Riddle School District. The 2019-2020 school year is full of opportunities, concerts and events, and high quality music!

Please take time to look over this handbook with your child. It contains important policies regarding grading, etiquette, instrument information, calendar of events, and much more. All band members and their parents are urged to read the entire handbook carefully at the beginning of the school year to avoid conflicts with any policies and rules. The last page of this handbook is to be signed by you and your child and returned to me during the start of the school year. This is required and will be a grade towards participation.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year, the best way to reach me is by email, but you may also call the High School Band office number. Both are listed below. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year with the Riddle Bands!

Sincerely,

Karalyn Soffer
Band Director
Riddle School District
karalyn.soffer@riddle.k12.or.us
541-874-2251 ext. 2020

RIDDLE BAND DEPARTMENT GENERAL POLICIES

- The band/music rooms should always be left in a **clean, organized** manner
- All instruments are to be put in the Instrument Storage Area when not being used, with the exception of percussion and larger instruments.
*Percussion equipment should always be put away, covered, moved off to the side, and handled with care before, during, and after a rehearsal and concert.
- Vandalizing instruments, equipment (such as music stands), or other school or student property will not be tolerated, and the student will be held financially responsible.
- Gum, food, or drinks (except water) is not permitted in the rehearsal spaces (this includes the Band Room!) or during a concert
- Have all equipment at rehearsals and performances (instrument, music, folder, reeds, oils, sticks, mallets, etc.)
- Have a pencil with you in rehearsal ALWAYS!
- All reed players should have spare reeds at ALL times, at least 3. Do not wait until the last minute to get reeds!
- Be in your spot/seat ready to begin on time (when the bell rings)
- All playing or talking must stop when Mrs. Soffer steps on the podium, is in front of the group, and bell rings to start class. "Hey Band...Hey what!"
- As Band students, you are all working together towards a common goal. It is crucial to treat each other with respect, and support each other in the learning process.
- Always follow the dress code for performances; it is not only important to sound good during a performance, but to look professional, too!
- Mrs. Soffer is here to help students be successful in Band. Extra help is always available by appointment.
- **If the student moves and no longer attends Riddle School District, or changes schools during the academic school year, Mrs. Soffer must be notified by phone or email and any instrument, music, or materials belonging to the Riddle Band Department must be returned immediately.**

Attitude and Discipline

Attitude is one of the single greatest factors that will determine the accomplishment of any individual. The "right" attitude must be there with sincerity, concentration, and dedication in order to reach goals. The achievement of each individual is required in order for the whole band to be successful. Band, by nature, requires strict discipline. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization.

Because Band members are constantly on display to the public, each member must be aware of the importance of good behavior. Students should remember that they represent their organization, school, and community wherever they perform or appear publicly. Any misconduct can undo the good work of hardworking students.

Attendance Policy and Absences

The Riddle School District has a set attendance policy. In regards to Band Class, being at every rehearsal is *crucial* to the entire band's success. If a student misses a day at school (therefore missing Band Class), it

is the student's responsibility to get the assignments that were missed that day and that student is expected to practice them to not fall behind the rest of the band.

If a student misses a performance or dress rehearsal (the rehearsal right before the performance or competition) due to an emergency, the parent or guardian must notify the Band Director *immediately* by phone or e-mail and a note of explanation.

Any unexcused absence from a performance, competition, or dress rehearsal will automatically result in a failing grade in band.

More information on grading is located under the specific ensemble the student belongs to this school year.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment in Band is incredibly important. The equipment that the Riddle Bands use is listed below. It is strongly encouraged that students purchase their own equipment from a local music store or a website such as Woodwind Brasswind (<http://www.wwbw.com>) or Amazon. While this is what students use in general, individual students might use different brands or strengths. It is important to discuss strength options and different brands with Mrs. Soffer prior to purchase. Reed prices are posted in each Band Room.

**** Thursday, September 12th at 6:30pm in the Riddle Elementary Library there will be an Instrumental Rental Night with instruments and accessories. Please put this event on your calendar!**

All Band Students:

Tuner and metronome: Korg

Woodwind Accessories:

Hodge Silk Cleaning Swab
Reed case, such as Rico or Vandoren
Mouthpiece and ligature: Talk with Mrs. Soffer
Saxophones: Neck strap

Junior High/High School Reeds:

Oboe: Talk with Mrs. Soffer
Clarinet: Vandoren Blue Box Strength 2.5-3
Bass Clarinet: Rico Royal Strength 3
Alto Saxophone: Vandoren Blue Box Strength 2.5-3
Tenor Saxophone: Rico Royal Strength 3
Bari Saxophone: Rico Royal Strength 3

Elementary Reeds:

Oboe: Talk with Mrs. Soffer
Clarinet: Rico Orange Box Strength 2.5
Bass Clarinet: Rico Orange Box Strength 2.5
Alto Saxophone: Rico Orange Box Strength 2.5
Tenor Saxophone: Rico Orange Box Strength 2.5
Bari Saxophone: Rico Orange Box Strength 2.5

Reed Prices through the school (by individual reed):

Elementary/JH and HS
Oboe: See Mrs. Soffer
Clarinet: \$1.50/\$2.00

Bass Clarinet: \$2.50

Alto Saxophone: \$2.00/\$2.50

Tenor Saxophone: \$2.50

Bari Saxophone: \$3.00

Payments for reeds are given to Mrs. Soffer. Cash or check is accepted. Checks should be made out to Riddle Band.

Brass Accessories:

Valve oil

Slide cream

Trombones: Spray bottle with water

Mouthpieces: Talk with Mrs. Soffer

Percussion Accessories:

Sticks: Vic Firth SD1 General is recommended

Mallets: Talk with Mrs. Soffer

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

RIDDLE 5TH GRADE BAND (BEGINNING BAND)

At the beginning of 5th Grade, students have the option of joining the Beginning Band. Any interested, dedicated student can join regardless of previous band or music experience. The first year of band is a crucial time in the student's band career, as it is where the foundation and basic skills are learned. Regular practice, attendance, and parental support are essential during this year. This group learns how to read and play music along with developing skills on their chosen instruments.

The first few days of 5th Grade Band are spent demonstrating, trying, and assigning instruments. Depending on availability, there will be a few instruments from the school to rent for the year. These instruments are older and of lower quality. It is *highly* recommended that students get a rental-purchase plan from a local music store. **Students are strongly encouraged to attend the Instrument Rental Night being held on Thursday, September 12th at 6:30pm in the RES Library to try instruments and explore options with renting or buying an instrument.** There is NO obligation to rent or purchase an instrument by attending this event. If a student is going to purchase or rent an instrument, or already owns one, the student will get his/her first choice in what instrument he/she plays in band. Common instruments a 5th grader can start on are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, and percussion (drums AND bells).

Each 5th grade student comes to band as an academic class in the afternoon. Students are required to have their instrument, music, and any other materials for all rehearsal days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Percussionists should have their materials every day of the week, including Wednesdays.

Once a student joins the 5th Grade Band, he/she is *strongly* encouraged to remain in band the entire year. A good time to evaluate whether they would like to continue in band is at the end of the year, after the spring concert (see Band Calendar on page 8). Students who rent a school-owned instrument are still required to purchase the needed supplies list, which will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

Practice Cards:

The elementary level is the best time to establish routine practice habits. Regular practice at home not only builds the student's skills on the instrument, it also reinforces responsibility and commitment to the band. It is a reward in itself to work hard at something and see the growth made throughout the school year as a result from regular practicing. Practice cards will help students stay on task and keep track of their practicing throughout the school year. Each student will have their own name card in the band room and each week a practice card is handed in filled out and signed, a star will be placed on his/her name card. After a certain amount of stars, students will get prizes for their efforts.

5th Grade Band Grading:

Participation, Attitude, and Attendance in Rehearsals: 30%

Prepared for Rehearsal- Materials to school/practice cards: 30%

Participation/Attendance in Performances: 40%

If students wish to earn an “A” in 5th Grade Band, students must be present for rehearsal every day they are in school, bring all of their materials to band rehearsals, hand in practice cards on a consistent basis, be on time and perform their best during every concert, and give their best effort during every rehearsal.

Concert Dress:

5th Grade Band Members should dress as nice as they possibly can for performances. If possible, no jeans. An example of nice clothing is an outfit that could be worn to a special event such as a wedding, a collared/button up shirt, an ankle or knee length dress, khaki pants, and a shirt with no writing on it.

RIDDLE 6TH GRADE BAND

The Riddle 6th Grade Band is made up of students in the 6th Grade class who have completed their 5th grade year in band, or passed an audition with the Band Director. This group performs two school concerts a year, but has also played for other events in the past, such as 6th Grade Promotion and other special assemblies. The ensemble rehearses in the Elementary Band Room every school day except for Wednesdays. The students must have their instrument, music, and other materials for band rehearsal with them on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Practice Cards:

The elementary level is the best time to establish routine practice habits. Regular practice at home not only builds the student’s skills on the instrument, it also reinforces responsibility and commitment to the band. It is a reward in itself to work hard at something and see the growth made throughout the school year as a result from regular practicing. Practice cards will help students stay on task and keep track of their practicing throughout the school year. Each student will have their own name card in the band room and each week a practice card is handed in filled out and signed, a star will be placed on his/her name card. After a certain amount of stars, students will get prizes for their efforts.

6th Grade Band Grading:

Participation, Attitude, and Attendance in Rehearsals: 30%

Prepared for Rehearsal: Materials to school/practice cards: 30%

Participation/Attendance in Performances: 40%

If students wish to earn an “A” in 6th Grade Band, students must be present for rehearsal every day they attend school, bring all of their materials to band rehearsals, hand in practice cards on a consistent basis, be on time and perform their best during every concert, and give their best effort during every rehearsal.

Concert Dress:

6th Grade Band Members should dress as nice as they possibly can for performances. If possible, no jeans. An example of nice clothing is an outfit that could be worn to a special event such as a wedding, a collared/button up shirt, an ankle or knee length dress, khaki pants, and a shirt with no writing on it.

RIDDLE JUNIOR HIGH BAND

The Riddle Junior High Band is made up of students in grades 7-8 who have completed their previous year in band, or passed an audition with the Band Director. This group is for students who are continuing to advance their musical abilities and want more opportunities outside of school to perform. The Junior High Band occasionally travels and performs in various settings throughout the school year. The ensemble rehearses in the High School Band Room as part of an academic class every school day.

Practicing:

Students will use the practice habits that were established at the elementary level and continue them through Junior High. It is at this age that students start developing advanced skills such as technique, expression, a wider range of dynamics, and gain more command over their instrument. After a certain amount of practice, students can receive prizes for their efforts.

Junior High Band Grading:

Grading for the Junior High Band will be based on the following:

Playing Tests: 10%

Preparedness during Rehearsals/Regular Practice: 20%

Participation/Attitude in Rehearsals: 30%

Participation/Attitude in Performances: 40%

Students MUST attend EVERY performance, whether it is a contest during the school day or an evening concert. This is factored into the "Performances" portion of the grade. Accuracy of parts will be frequently checked by recorded playing tests or in-class performance assessments. If a student does not demonstrate that he/she can play the part with 100% accuracy, it is the discretion of the Band Director to not allow him/her to participate in a contest or performance outside of school. This will negatively impact the student's "Performances" grade. The student can do extra practicing to achieve 100% accuracy before a contest/trip. Mrs. Soffer is always available for extra help by appointment.

If students wish to earn an "A" in Junior High Band, students must pass all playing tests, bring all of their materials and be prepared during band rehearsals, give their best effort and attitude during rehearsals, and be on time and perform their best for **every** performance.

Concert Dress:

Junior High Band Members should wear any combination of black and white for performances. This can include a black ankle or knee length skirt, black pants, white shirt or black shirt, or a long black and white dress. The student is required to provide this. Please contact Mrs. Soffer if the student needs any clothing for concerts at least 3 weeks in advance.

RemindApp:

Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, the Junior High Band class will be on the RemindApp. This allows Mrs. Soffer to send out reminders about fundraisers, concerts, etc. to the entire class. All students and parents are encouraged to sign up. Parents will be required to sign a permission slip in order for their child to receive reminders. Please see the additional RemindApp sheet for instructions on how to sign up.

RIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

The Riddle High School Concert Band is made up of students in grades 9-12 who have completed the previous year in band, or passed an audition with the Band Director. This is the top ensemble of the Riddle School District. This group represents the Riddle School District the most by traveling and performing for contests and trips. The High School Band is for students who continue to gain a high level of ability on their instrument, have dedicated themselves to making the ensemble the best that it can be, and want opportunities outside of school to perform. The ensemble rehearses in the High School Band Room as part of an academic class every school day.

Practicing:

Practicing is crucial at the High School level! It is at this age that students start advancing all previously learned skills, increasing their technique and expression, and playing with advanced musical maturity. When every individual practices, the entire band is more likely to succeed at its goals.

High School Band Grading:

Grading for the High School Band will be based on the following:

Playing Tests: 10%

Preparedness during Rehearsals/Regular Practice: 20%

Participation/Attitude in Rehearsals: 30%

Participation/Attitude in Performances: 40%

Students MUST attend EVERY performance, whether it is a contest during the school day or an evening concert. This is factored into the "Performances" portion of the grade. Accuracy of parts will be frequently checked by recorded playing tests or in-class performance assessments. If a student does not demonstrate that he/she can play the part with 100% accuracy, it is the discretion of the Band Director to not allow him/her to participate in a contest or performance outside of school. This will negatively impact the student's "Performances" grade. The student can do extra practicing to achieve 100% accuracy before a contest/trip. Mrs. Soffer is always available for extra help by appointment.

If students wish to earn an "A" in High School Band, students must pass all playing tests, bring all of their materials and be prepared during band rehearsals, give their best effort and attitude during rehearsals, and be on time and perform their best for **every** performance.

Minimum Grade Requirement: OSAA

Just like any other sport or activity (football, volleyball, basketball, etc.) band students must maintain passing grades. Students who let their grades drop will lose their privilege to attend OSAA (Oregon School Activities Association) sponsored events (contests and trips), but will still be required to perform in concerts given at the Riddle School District.

Any student not meeting the following requirements cannot participate in OSAA events:

Students must be enrolled full time.

Students must be enrolled in at least one band or percussion class.

Participating band members have to pass at least five classes per semester.

Other Grading Factors:

Grade Checks may be factored in to participate in OSAA Band Contests. This will be at the discretion of Mrs. Soffer. However, students must maintain OSAA eligibility in order to participate in OSAA events.

Concert Dress:

High School Band Members will be provided with a concert dress (females) or tuxedo (males) with shoes that they will wear to all performances. It is the responsibility of the student to bring it to wear for concerts and contests. Students must keep them in their garment bag and take the best care of it while traveling. New students and freshmen will be fitted for concert clothes in the beginning of the school year.

Band Shirts:

High School Band Members will be required to purchase a shirt to wear for the Homecoming Parade, which they can use for every year they are in Band. They also wear Band shirts for various events, including certain fundraisers. Students are encouraged to wear their Band shirts during Band trips and to show Irish Pride throughout the school and community any time of year. At the start of the school year, the cost for the new shirt is \$10.00. Checks can be made out to Riddle Band.

RemindApp:

The High School Band class will continue to use the RemindApp. This allows Mrs. Soffer to send out reminders about fundraisers, concerts, etc. to the entire class. All students and parents are encouraged to sign up. Parents will be required to sign a permission slip in order for their child to receive reminders. Please see the additional RemindApp sheet for instructions on how to sign up. If you and your child have previously signed up, they are already on the High School Band class list for the RemindApp.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising has been an important part of the Riddle Band program for years. It is the majority of the reason the High School Concert Band has been able to travel to places such as San Francisco and Disneyland. While it is mostly the High School Concert Band and the Junior High Band that do fundraisers, it is not out of the question for the Elementary Bands to participate to earn money, as well.

If a band is scheduled to do a fundraiser, every student should participate if possible and show Riddle Band spirit while doing so. Parental support and volunteers are also very important, as it takes a lot of effort to put on a successful fundraiser. The fundraising ideas are endless! Some popular ones the Bands have done in the past are:

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Raffle tickets for an item at a sporting event
Java Joe's Coffee/Cookies/Fudge
Popcornopolis
Pumpkin Logs

If you have an idea for a fundraiser, or would like to be a parent volunteer for one, please contact Mrs. Soffer. Any help would be very much appreciated.

Sponsorships from local businesses have given tremendous help with big trips in the past. If your company, or know of one, who would like to sponsor the Riddle Bands, please contact Mrs. Soffer for more information.

LOCAL MUSIC STORES AND REPAIRS

In Roseburg:

Absolute Sound and Music: 2210 NW Stewart Parkway
(541) 440-9525
www.absolutesoundandmusic.com

Absolute Sound and Music has the Essential Elements method books for the 5th and 6th Grade Bands, Foundations for Superior Performance books for Junior High and High School Bands, band instruments for rent or purchase, and instrument supplies such as reeds, oils, etc. They also do instrument repairs.

In Myrtle Creek:

Michael Lajko: Instrument repairs (ask Mrs. Soffer for contact information)

In Eugene:

Beacock Music: 791 W 8th Ave, Eugene
(541) 653-9929
www.beacockmusic.com

Beacock Music has all the method books the Riddle Bands use, band instruments for rent or purchase, and instrument supplies such as reeds, oils, reed cases, mouthpieces, etc. They also do instrument repairs.

2019 - 2020 BAND EVENTS CALENDAR

There are many band performances scheduled that occur throughout the year. Please add them to your calendar ASAP and let Mrs. Soffer know if there are conflicts. Some event details have yet to be determined, and students will be notified when the dates/times/places have been set. Please note that events and performances may be added, changed, or removed throughout the school year. All students are expected to attend ALL events for the ensembles they are in.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	ENSEMBLE
Thursday, 9/12	Riddle/SU Instrument Rental Night	RES Library	6:30pm	5 th Grade/Any Band Members
Friday, 10/25	Homecoming Parade	RHS	2:00pm	All HS Band
Wednesday, 12/11	Elementary Winter Band Concert	RES Gym	7:00pm	All 5 th and 6 th Grade Band
Monday, 12/16	JH/HS Winter Band Concert	RHS Gym	7:00pm	All JH and HS Band
Friday, 12/20	Caroling in Riddle	Riddle	3 rd Period	All HS Band
Thurs. 1/16- Sun. 1/19	OMEA Oregon All- State Festival	Eugene	*****	Selected Band Members
Wednesday, 1/29	Senior Honor Band Rehearsal	South Umpqua HS	6:00- 9:00pm	Select Band Members
Wednesday, 2/5	Junior and Senior Honor Band Rehearsal/Concert	UCC/Oakland HS	All Day	Select JH/HS Band Members
Tuesday, 3/3	Roseburg Band Invitational	Roseburg HS	All Day	All JH Band
Saturday, 3/7	OMEA 10 Solo/Ensemble Contest	Glide HS	*****	Select Band Members
TBD	OSU Band Festival	OSU	All day	All HS Band
Thursday, 3/19	Willamette Band Festival	LCC	All day	All HS Band
Wednesday, 4/15	Special District Band Festival	North Douglas HS	All day	All HS Band
Wednesday, 4/22	Middle School Band Festival	UCC	All day	All JH Band
Tuesday, 5/5	Elementary Spring Band Concert	RES Gym	7:00pm	4 th Grade Recorders, 5 th & 6 th Band
Friday, 5/15	State Band	OSU	All day	All HS Band
Thursday, 5/21	JH/HS Spring Band Concert	RHS Gym	7:00pm	All JH and HS Band
Saturday, 6/6	RHS Graduation	RHS Gym	11:00am	All HS Band

**RIDDLE SCHOOL DISTRICT –
SCHOOL INSTRUMENT RENTAL FORM
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In the Riddle School District, there is a **\$25.00** rental charge for the use of school instruments during the school year. This cost helps to cover maintenance for the instrument due to normal wear and tear, possible unforeseeable repairs, and to purchase new instruments to replace older ones. It is important that this fee be paid as soon as possible shortly after the school year starts. The instrument will get lots of great use from your child during the year, but it is expected that it will be returned at the end of the year in the same condition it was at the beginning. Please see the General Policies section of the Band Handbook about returning the instrument if the student leaves the Riddle School District during the school year.

Students: Please fill out, have signatures from both student and parent, and return the form below ASAP to Mrs. Soffer.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____	
Parent Name(s): _____	
Address: _____	City: _____
Contact Phone Number: _____	
Email Address: _____	
I would like to rent and use the following school instrument for the 2019-2020 school year:	
Instrument: _____ Make: _____	
Serial number: _____	
I hereby accept responsibility for the use, care, and maintenance of the instrument listed above. I will report any maintenance issues to Mrs. Soffer immediately as they occur so the instrument can be properly repaired throughout the year.	
_____ Student Signature	_____ Parent Signature

A copy of this agreement can be given to you upon request. Checks can be made out to "Riddle Band"

Date of payment: _____ Method of payment: _____

SIGNATURE PAGE
2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Please remove this page from the Band Handbook, fill it out, and return it to Mrs. Soffer by **Friday, September 13th, 2019.**

Name of Student: _____

I have read all of the components to this Band Handbook that pertain to my/my child's Riddle Band ensemble. I have noted all of the performances on the calendar and agree to all of the policies listed in this handbook.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Phone Number(s): _____