# RUSSELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT MUSIC DEPARTMENT 

 2023-2024
## STATEMENT OF

## POLICY AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

RUSSELLVILLE BAND PROGRAM

Compiled: May, 1983

Revised: April 2023

## RUSSELLVILLE BANDS STATEMENT OF POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITY

## PREFACE

This statement of policy has been written for the Russellville Band program with the purpose of giving information regarding the various phases and activities of the band program in Russellville.

All band members and parents are urged to read this statement carefully at the beginning of each school year to avoid conflicts with the policies and rules stated herein.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BAND DEPARTMENT

The band members will be provided with the proper type of rehearsal atmosphere including a clean and neat room, proper lighting, and modern and well-maintained school equipment. Each day the director will be organized with a lesson plan designed to gain maximum use of the rehearsal time. Furthermore, the director will see that all members conform to school, band, Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association, and Arkansas Activities Association policies. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken when these regulations are not followed. Finally, each student and parent will receive written information about performance dates, rehearsal dates, and other special events well in advance of the scheduled event.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

Participation in any of the organizations of the Russellville Band Program is a distinct privilege which carries with it certain responsibilities for band membership. A band member should always be regular in attendance and account for all his absences in advance if at all possible. He should constantly endeavor to improve on his instrument technically and musically and strive to set an example of pride and leadership for other band students. A band student should always be honest and above reproach in all dealings with teachers, parents, as well as other students. A constant attitude of cooperation and willingness to work is expected of all band students, at all times. A good general rule of responsibility for a band member is: "BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT, WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE, READY TO CONCENTRATE AND WORK."

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENTS

The parents of a band student can be most helpful by encouraging home practice, as well as reminding the student to have the proper equipment which is always clean and in good repair. Parents need to assist a student by making sure that transportation is provided to and from rehearsals and performances and see to it that the student is always punctual. Parents can help greatly by notifying the Band Director of any absences, in advance if possible, or tardiness which could affect the child's participation in the band. Parents should also show an interest in the Band program by attending performances and becoming active in the Band Booster Club.

## SCHOOL POLICIES

All band students shall be governed by all school policies and rules and regulations that are stated in the respective school's student handbook. Please read your handbook carefully and become familiar with its contents. Any infraction of school policy during a band function or event may result in the individual being removed from their position in the band for the remainder of the semester.

## ELIGIBILITY

Students must meet the eligibility requirements as established by the State Department of Education and the Arkansas Activities Association. Failure to meet eligibility requirements will result in the student not being able to participate in any competition as a part of the Russellville Bands during the semester(s) that they are ineligible.

Eligibility Requirements: A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets the academic eligibility (scholarship) requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth grade student and the first semester ninth grade student meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester as specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools. First semester ninth grade students must pass four academic classes to be eligible second semester of the ninth grade. Grades 10-12 must have a 2.0 grade average and pass four academic courses the previous semester. If a student passes (4) courses but does not have a 2.0 GPA, he/she can attend SIP classes. High School Directors and the Athletic Director can provide information regarding
the SIP Program. Further information concerning Eligibility or SIP can be found on page 45 under rule 12 of the current AAA handbook Rule 12 Scholarship (Academic Eligibility).

## GRADES

Students receive one academic credit per year for band. Grades are based on a student's performance at calendar events, rehearsals, playing tests, and written tests. Students are responsible for making up assignments missed due to an excused absence.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Membership in the Russellville Band Program automatically includes ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES. The only excuses which will be acceptable for missing a rehearsal or performance outlined on the YEARLY CALENDAR in August will be sickness or death in the family. Decisions to make rare exceptions for excused absences in unusual circumstances such as participation in another school event will be left to the discretion of the Band Director and the school Principal. (See hierarchy of events below.) An unexcused absence from a calendar rehearsal will result in the student not being allowed to participate at the next band performance. An unexcused absence from a calendar performance will result in the student being placed on band probation. Band probation means if the student again fails to adhere to any other band regulation or policy, he or she will not be allowed to perform with the band for the remainder of the semester. Students on band probation will be provided alternate assignments to fulfill their grade requirements.

Hierarchy of School District Events
Students may be involved in numerous organizations and find themselves with activities scheduled on top of each other. The following hierarchy of events is to help give order to conflicts that arise between organizations. The order is listed from highest priority to lowest priority.

- AAA Sanctioned State Events that have an assigned AAA calendar week
- AAA Sanctioned Conference/Region Tournaments/Region Assessments/Region Clinics that have an assigned AAA calendar week
- AAA Sanctioned Regularly Scheduled Conference/Region events (example - regular conference games)
- AAA Sanctioned Non-Conference/Invitational events that are on the school calendar
- Local Activities and Events that are on the School Calendar prior to the start of the school year
- Events that are not on the School Calendar at the start of the school year
- Performances/Competitions/Ballgames will take a higher priority over practice


## CALENDAR LINKS

To see the current calendar of performances or rehearsal, please follow the appropriate link.

## RMS Band Calendar

## RJHS Band Calendar

## RHS Band Calendar

## INSURANCE

All students participating in school sponsored activities, sanctioned by the Arkansas Activities Association, are covered by an Excess Coverage Plan purchased by the Russellville School District. This coverage is a supplemental plan which pays benefits after family plans have paid to their limits. However, since this insurance applies only while the student is actively involved in band, all students are encouraged to purchase the Individual Student Plan for coverage during the normal school day.

## EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to take proper care of their own personal equipment, as well as proper care of all school equipment used. Any equipment damaged or lost due to student negligence will be repaired and/or replaced at the expense of the student. Students are not permitted to use any instrument other than their own or the one to which they are assigned. For equipment to be in top condition, periodic checkups by a capable repairman are recommended. There is an instrument rental fee of $\$ 15.00$ per semester or $\$ 30.00$ per school year for students using school-owned instruments. For students in $8^{\text {th }}$ grade through $12^{\text {th }}$ grade there is a required uniform cleaning fee of $\$ 20$ due at the beginning of the year.

## TRAVEL

All band members will follow the district's policy concerning travel.

- All students will ride to school events (games, performances, etc.) on a RSD bus. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact your building principal and director.
- If parents/guardians would like their child to ride home with them from the event, they will sign them out at the actual event.
- If parents would like their child to ride home with someone other than the parent/guardian, parents need to write a note to the school principal, with their phone number on the note, asking for permission to do so, prior to students departing for the event.
o Parents need to write a separate note for each event.
o The building administrator or their designee will call parents to verify each note unless it is delivered in person by the parent.


## CONDUCT

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must, if necessary, be strict. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Because band members are constantly on display, each must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. The student should remember that he represents his organization, school, and community whenever he performs or appears publicly. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students. A good band is built on discipline. Discipline is order.

Excessive misconduct may result in a student being placed on probation in Band. If a student is suspended from school or is assigned to In School Suspension, they may not attend, play, or rehearse in any school extra-curricular activity and no school personnel will be allowed to include them in rehearsals from the moment of the infraction through the final day of the suspension at 11:59 p.m.

Band Members and Social Networking: As a band member, one is a representative of the school and community and always in the public eye. The Music Department advises musicians to exercise extreme caution in their use of social networking (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, etc.). Musicians should not post inappropriate information or pictures on social networking websites that damage or embarrass individuals, bands, the Music Department, or the school.
Musicians should keep the following information in mind before participating in social networking:
Always represent oneself and one's school respectfully.
Once any text, photo, tweets, or video is placed online, it is completely out of your control, regardless of whether you limit access to your page. Assume that everything posted is permanent.
Do not post information, photos, tweets, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your band, the Music Department or school. This includes information, photos, tweets, and items that may be posted by others on their page or on your webpage.
Do not post disrespectful comments or engage in inappropriate behavior such as the following:
Derogatory or defamatory language.
Derogatory or defamatory comments about bandmembers, officials, opponents, band or the school.
Musicians could face disciplinary action and even dismissal for violation of school, band, or Arkansas Activities Association policy or rules.

## AUXILIARY GROUPS

The front section groups of the Junior High School Marching Bands are made up of Drum Majors, Majorettes, and Color Guard. The front section groups of the High School Marching Bands are made up of Drum Majors, Majorettes, Feature Twirler, and Color Guard. Membership in these groups is limited to band students presently enrolled in Band. Selection for membership will be by competitive tryout. Judges for auxiliary tryouts will be qualified individuals that do not reside or teach within the Russellville School District. Rehearsals for members will be extra and in addition to regular band rehearsals and attendance will be required.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## RMS

BEGINNING BAND - Offered to $6^{\text {th }}$ and $7^{\text {th }}$ grade Prerequisite: Instrument Selection Process with RMS Director(s)
Course Content: Beginning band is for students who have never played an instrument or have been given permission from the RMS Directors to change to a different instrument as a $7^{\text {th }}$ grade student. Students will learn basic music theory and correct playing fundamentals to prepare them for the next level of band. Students will perform at concerts and impromptu events during the year. Students are required to provide their own instrument and supplies as needed for the class. There is an instrument rental fee of $\$ 15.00$ per semester or $\$ 30.00$ per school year for students who have been selected to play on a school-owned instrument (oboe, bassoon, horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba).

INTERMEDIATE or $7^{\text {th }}$ GRADE BAND - Offered to $7^{\text {th }}$ grade Prerequisite: Successfully completed Beginning Band on their instrument
Course Content: The $7^{\text {th }}$ Grade or Intermediate Band is a training band. Students will become more proficient on their instruments preparing them for junior high. Students will perform at some region events, concerts, and impromptu events during the year. Students are required to provide their own instrument and supplies as needed for the class. There is an instrument rental fee of $\$ 15.00$ per semester or $\$ 30.00$ per school year for students who have been selected to play on a school-owned instrument (oboe, bassoon, horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba).

## RJHS

8th BAND (INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC) - Offered to grade 8 Prerequisite: 7th Grade Band/Audition
Course Content: Eighth grade band is open to all students who have successfully completed previous band experience. Band students are placed by audition and grouped by ability into either the Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band at the end of their 7th grade school year. No student will be assigned to a band without an audition. All band students participate in both marching band and concert bands. The marching band performs at home football games, marching contests, and pep rallies. All band students are expected to attend pre-school marching band rehearsals, which begin in early August. The Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, and Concert band present multiple formal concerts each year and compete at individual and group region events. There will be additional practices outside the regular school day that students will be required to attend. A band events calendar is sent home during pre-school band that lists all required events for the entire school year.
The band strives to represent the school and community in a well-disciplined manner as the "Pride of Russellville Junior High School." Band is considered an academic course. Students participating in band receive letter grades. Eighth grade band members must pass four academic courses to remain academically eligible to participate during the second semester. Students are expected to participate for the full academic year. All band activities are governed by the Russellville School District Band Policy Handbook.

There is a required annual uniform cleaning fee of $\$ 20.00$ for all students at the beginning of the school year as well as an instrument rental fee of $\$ 15.00$ per semester or $\$ 30.00$ per school year for students using school-owned instruments.
9th BAND (INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC) - Offered to grade 9 Prerequisite: 8th Grade Band/Audition
Course Content: Band is a year-long academic course that is open to all students who have successfully completed previous band experience. Band students are placed by audition and grouped by ability into either the Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band at the end of their 8th Grade year. No student will be assigned to a band without an audition. All band students participate in both marching band and concert bands. The marching band performs at home football games, marching contests, and pep rallies. All band students are expected to attend pre-school marching band rehearsals, which begin in early August. The Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, and Concert band present multiple formal concerts each year and compete at individual and group region events. There will be additional practices outside the regular school day that students will be required to attend. A band events calendar is sent home during pre-school band that lists all required events for the entire school year.

The band strives to represent the school and community in a well-disciplined manner as the "Pride of Russellville Junior High School." Band is considered an academic course. Students participating in band receive letter grades. Students must have passed four academic classes their last semester of eighth grade to be eligible the first semester of ninth grade and must pass four academic courses the first semester of ninth grade to be eligible the second semester. Students are expected to participate for the full academic year. All band activities are governed by the Russellville School District Band Policy Handbook.
There is a required annual uniform cleaning fee of $\$ 20.00$ for all students at the beginning of the school year as well as an instrument rental fee of $\$ 15.00$ per semester or $\$ 30.00$ per school year for students using school-owned instruments.

## RHS

BAND (INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC) - Offered to grades 10, 11 and 12.
Course Content: Band (Instrumental Music) is a year-long academic course that is open to all students who have had at least one year of band experience. The State Guide for Curriculum is followed with a specific course of study for each instrument and a level for each person enrolled. During the first part of the year the emphasis is on marching and marching band. Beginning in November, the focus changes to a concert band setting. The class is divided by ability into two groups. Students audition to determine whether they will be in the advanced band (Symphonic Band) or the regular band (Concert Band). Band is a performing medium, and all students are expected to participate if they enroll.

Rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day are a part of the course. The marching band performs at all home football games, some away football games, plus related parades, marching assessments, and impromptu events. The concert bands participate in region and state music festivals, solo and ensemble contests, all-region and all-state events, and local performances. All band activities are governed by the Russellville School District Band Policy Handbook and each student must maintain a 2.0 GPA. Every three years the band takes a major trip and performs before a national or international audience. Band is a year-long course.

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## PLEASE DETACH THIS SHEET AND RETURN IT TO YOUR BAND DIRECTOR

I, the parent/guardian of a band student, have read this statement of policy as regards the Russellville Band Program. I will comply with all regulations and policies as stated and will encourage my child to do the same.

Signed
Parent/Guardian's Signature

Printed Name $\qquad$

I, as a student in the Russellville Band, have read this statement of policy as regards students in the band program. I do support this policy and will do all within my power to follow its guidelines.

Signed
Band Student's Signature

Printed Name $\qquad$

