

# Rockdale School District 84



## 2021-2022 MUSIC HANDBOOK

**Dr. Paul Schrik, *Superintendent of Schools***

**Mr. Jeffrey Peterson, *Principal***

**Mrs. Elizabeth Kelch, *Music Director***

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Welcome to all new music members and parents. We are glad to have you as part of the Rockdale School District 84 music family and we hope that you will find your musical experience both educational and fun. To returning members and parents, we know you are very proud of how much you have accomplished and how much you have learned so far. Just imagine what the future holds.

With a new school year come new opportunities for the continued growth of our music program at Rockdale School. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, it is imperative that everyone be made aware of the goals, expectations, and procedures for our music classes, band classes and choir classes. This handbook has been prepared to apprise all families of the various components of our program, and to assist you in planning your calendar for the year. Please note carefully the enclosed Performance Calendar dates! Notify us immediately if there are any potential conflicts for your son or daughter. It is vital that every member of the ensemble is present for all performances; you are all important to our success!

Music instruction provides training for students that benefits them in everything they do socially, educationally, and psychologically. We currently have so much research about the positive effects of music; here are a few items that might interest you:

- “Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.” –Plato
- “The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic...music, dance, painting, and theater are keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.” –former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett.
- More facts are available online from [www.nafme.org](http://www.nafme.org)

We are looking forward to your child participating in the Rockdale Music Program. We are excited about the growth, progress, and maturity your child will experience. Of course, this cannot be possible without your parental support and involvement. We appreciate you taking the time to read this handbook. We hope it will be of help to you this school year. If we work hard together at being good musicians and citizens, we will be an outstanding group this year. After reading the handbook, please sign the acknowledgement form found at the end of this handbook, and have your child return it to Mrs. Kelch, by Friday, August 18th, 2021. Please do not hesitate to telephone or email us at any time during the school year, if you have any questions or concerns.

With warm regards and best wishes for a great year,

The Rockdale School District Music Staff

Dr. Paul Schrik, Superintendent  
Mr. Jeffrey Peterson, Principal  
Mrs. Elizabeth Kelch, Music Director

## **Rockdale School Vision Statement**

Raising Achievement Mastering Success – RAMS

## **Rockdale School Mission Statement**

The primary mission of Rockdale Public School is to stimulate the intellectual growth of its students, accelerate appropriate peer interaction, and create and maintain an education environment conducive to learning while involving parents and maximizing their positive influence on the climate for learning and its outcome.

## **The Mission of the Rockdale Grade School Music Program**

*Our mission is to provide a quality instrumental and vocal education for the students. The music program is dedicated to fostering aesthetic growth as an essential part of the student's total education. The goal of this program is to develop the highest possible level of musical achievement through comprehensive curriculum, in keeping with the student's interest, needs, and abilities.*

## **Beginning Band**

The Beginning Band is for our first-year band members. Instrument selection is based from listening tests and physical shape of your student. Instrument selection is also based on what instruments are needed at time of registration. Students who are registered in our beginning band program will learn how to care for their instrument, understand basic music theory concepts, and play the basic notes on their instrument.

## **Beginning Choir**

The Beginning Choir is for our third through fifth grade students. Choir members will be placed into sections based from their vocal range. Students who are registered in our beginning choir program will learn how to care for their instrument (voice), understand basic music theory concepts, and sing the basic notes.

## **Concert Band**

The Concert Band is the premier band of Rockdale School District 84. Concert Band is for those students who are in their second, third, fourth, or fifth year of band. All members of this band are strongly encouraged to take private lessons! The Concert Band follows traditional instrumentation. Repertoire from standard writings for wind ensemble to contemporary works will be studied. Concerts are performed throughout the year. The ensemble also participates in area festivals and contests. Concert Band members are highly motivated to audition for the I.L.M.E.A. Concert Band Festival and the Middle Level Concert Band Festival.

## **Concert Choir**

Concert Choir is open to our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. All members of this choir are strongly encouraged to take private lessons! Concerts and contests are performed throughout the year. This ensemble is also encouraged to audition for the I.L.M.E.A. Concert Choir Festival and the Middle Level Concert Choir Festival.

## **Organization Membership Requirements**

### **Band and Choir**

To be a member of our Band and Choir Program, the student must be enrolled in the proper ensemble and must meet all financial obligations. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations within this handbook. The student agrees to attend all before and after school rehearsals and all performances.

### **NOTE:**

Any student who drops out of any of these organizations during the school year will not be allowed to rejoin at any time and must drop that specific class immediately or as soon as the administration deems possible. Any student who drops out at the end of the year will not be allowed to rejoin unless approved by the director. The director must approve any exceptions to the above requirements.

## Band and Choir Individual Accounts

The financial support of the music program provides a challenge as well as a considerable opportunity for band and choir members and their families. Each music member, who has an outstanding balance, will receive a monthly statement showing their individual account payments and balance.

## Tentative Band and Choir Rehearsals

These class days and times are tentative pending state and local guidelines for participating in band and/or choir.

<b>Mondays:</b>	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Concert Band
	8:00-8:45 a.m.	Concert Choir
<b>Tuesdays:</b>	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Beginning Band
	8:00-8:45 a.m.	Beginning Choir
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Concert Band
	8:00-8:45 a.m.	Concert Choir
<b>Thursdays:</b>	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Beginning Band
	8:00-8:45 a.m.	Beginning Choir
<b>Fridays:</b>	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Concert Band
	8:00-8:45 a.m.	Concert Choir

### NOTE:

We cannot allow chronic tardiness. Students who are not in their seat, with their instrument, music, pencil, notebook, assignments, and ready to perform by the start of their rehearsal will be marked late. We suggest that you arrive fifteen minutes prior to the start of the rehearsal to ensure that you are prepared. **Two tardies in a quarter will be treated as one unexcused absence. Three absences in a quarter will result in dismissal from the music program.**

Individualized instruction is an important element in the growth and development of young musicians. Material to be studied will originate from the instruction book that has been selected by the director. Students should be on time and prepared for all rehearsals. Students are encouraged to notify the instructor, as a common courtesy, any time they are aware that they will not be able to attend the class at his/her regularly scheduled time. Non-attendance is the equivalent of failure to turn in or complete homework assignments. Students are responsible to schedule make-up time with their director. Classes are also graded, based on practice and improvement of skills.

# Rehearsal Procedures

The director is responsible for molding a group of individual musicians into an ensemble. Our rehearsal time is too short and valuable, so we must take advantage of every minute available for rehearsal purposes. Below are some guidelines that, if followed closely, will help you be the best musician you can be for yourself, your school, and your community.

## Teacher Expectations (What we expect from you)

**BE NEAT** – This begins with having your music marked correctly in pencil, keeping the music room and storage areas clean, keeping your instrument in the proper working order, and looking nice, especially during performance times. No food, drinks, or gum is allowed in the rehearsal room or performances. There is no running or “horseplay” allowed in the music room or performance site. Do not touch other people’s instruments or equipment at any time. Do not touch or play any percussion equipment at any time. Only percussionists may do so, and only during rehearsals.

**BE ON TIME** – Be in your seat by the start of rehearsal, with a pencil, music, notebook, assignments, instrument, and extra instrument supplies, ready to begin rehearsal. Be early to rehearsals and performances.

**BE ORGANIZED** – Check your schedule to see your rehearsals day and time. Be prepared to perform – not just play or sing the notes!

**BE WILLING TO WORK** – If you want to have the great concert or successful performance, everyone must give that extra effort. **When the director steps on the podium or behind the piano, all talking must stop immediately.** Rehearsal begins at this point and your full attention is expected. Demonstrate a positive attitude and behavior at all times.

**USE YOUR TIME WISELY** – While the director is rehearsing another section of the band or choir, use that time to check a fingering, a rhythm, or just listen. Don’t waste time! If everyone follows these simple, but important guidelines, we will create a safe and caring environment where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## Student Expectations (What you can expect from the music director)

- I will provide clear and detailed instruction, examples and other aids to learning.
- I will respect individual abilities; help each person succeed and will consistently and fairly apply school and classroom rules.
- I will be available by special arrangement to help you work on your music or instrument.

# Class and Instrument Needs

## All students should bring the following to class every day:

- 1) Instrument in good working condition
- 2) Instrument Materials (see below)
- 3) Assigned Music
- 4) Sharpened Pencils
- 5) Paper
- 6) Notebook
- 7) Good Attitude

## Instrument Materials (Refer only to the instrument that your child is playing)

**Flute:** Tuning rod, cleaning swab, cleaning cloth

**Oboe and Bassoon:** Three reeds and cases, case for water, pipe cleaners, cork grease, cleaning swab, and cleaning cloth

**B-flat Clarinet, Bass Clarinet and all Saxophones:** Four reeds and a reed guard, cork grease, cleaning swab, cleaning cloth, and saxophones must also have a neck strap

**Trumpet:** Al Cass Valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, and cleaning cloth

**French Horn:** Rotary oil, mouthpiece brush, slide grease, and cleaning cloth

**Trombones:** Trombotine grease, small spray bottle, tuning slide grease, and cleaning cloth

**Euphonium (Baritone) and Tuba:** Al Cass valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth

**Percussion:** Snare/Bell kit: practice pad, snare stand, bells, carrying case, concert snare sticks (Vic Firth—Bolero), bell mallets (black phenolic), yarn mallets (Musser—M6), general timpani mallets (Vic Firth—T3), timpani tuner, and mallet bag.

**All band students should have a wire music stand and carrying case that is to be kept at home.**

## Ensemble Music

Each student will be issued a folder with parts to be played. ***Music folders should not be kept in the instrument case, because it will damage your instrument.*** The music issued is each student's responsibility and should be kept in their locker after rehearsal is over. Music is expensive and replacement is even more so. Each musician is to take care of the music issued to him/her. Marking on music should be done in pencil only. Students should have a pencil in their folder at all times. Students are responsible for taking their instrument and folder home every day after school. Any lost, damaged, or stolen music must be replaced at the student's expense.

## Assignments

Students will be given performance quizzes and tests as well as written work. All assignments are due during class time. Failure to complete assignments may disqualify a student from performing with the ensemble at the concert or contest, and will affect your child's grade. Students are graded on execution and on effort. Only students who have demonstrated satisfactory work will be allowed to perform with the ensemble.

## Band Equipment and Instruments

1. Each band member is required to keep his or her instrument in its assigned storage location where it may be picked up after school for home practice. No privately owned or school owned instruments are to be left at the school. Rockdale Grade School District 84 is not responsible for lost or damaged instruments. Students are expected to store their instruments in the proper storage area in the morning. **Please Have A Name Tag On Each Instrument Case and Music Stand.**
2. Extra books and homework should be left in your locker/classroom.  
It is a major no-no to touch another instrument or instrument case without permission. Please help us keep the area safe and secure; if you see someone handling equipment that isn't his or hers, tell someone (yours could be the next "victim"). If you notice that someone has been in your case/folder, tell your teacher immediately.
3. You are responsible to make sure that your instrument is in good playing condition, and that you have all needed accessories, including reeds, grease and oils.
4. If your instrument is not working, PLEASE fill out a repair tag immediately. I will try to repair it and if we can't we will let you know what needs to be fixed. Quinlan and Fabish Music Company will visit our school to deliver/pick up repairs. If your horn needs repairs, we can send it in for you, or you may take it to a repairman yourself. If it's a school instrument we will take care of it for you. Should you need to have your instrument repaired, ask the music store if they have a "loaner instrument" for you to use while yours is being repaired. We strongly recommend that parents do not attempt repairs on personal instruments at home. **Students and/or parents may not attempt any repairs whatsoever on a school instrument.**
5. It is not a good idea to store extra items inside your case UNLESS you have a special storage section under your instrument. Bent keys are VERY expensive to repair. Even cleaning rods and oils can cause damage if not stored in the proper space.
6. Having the right equipment can make a big difference in the success or failure of a band student! Without a good instrument, reeds, oil, or mallets a student cannot play up to his/her potential. In some cases, having the necessary supplies (lubricants and cleaning supplies) can affect the life or death of a musical instrument. Please be sure to purchase exactly the brands and specifications as requested by the band director. Don't let a salesperson talk you into a different brand of instrument or a different brand of reeds or reed strength without asking your director first!



7. Disrespect for the music room or any school property will have a direct reprimand by the director and/or principal.
8. Only percussion students are allowed in the percussion section (this also means that they are the only ones to be playing percussion equipment unless otherwise directed by the instructor).

## Instrument Inspection

Instruments will be inspected periodically. Please keep your instrument and reeds in good shape. Remember, care and maintenance of your instrument is very important. Inspections will be graded, as I feel care and maintenance is very important to the life of any instrument.

## School Owned Instruments

School owned instruments are defined as instruments that belong to Rockdale Grade School District 84. Students will be held financially responsible for the repair of any excessive damage occurring from student negligence in the care of a school owned instrument. A copy of the Rockdale Grade School District 84 Instrument Agreement must be signed **before** a student will be issued an instrument.

## Practice

Practicing is a very important part of being in band or choir. All students are expected to practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day at home. Rehearsal is not for working on individual parts or problems. Nothing is more counter-productive (or more boring for other students) than having to waste rehearsal time on individual problems caused by lack of practice. The key to avoiding this problem is adequate at-home practice. Place music at eye level, on a music stand, and be sure to use good posture while you practice. Avoid sitting on the bed, since this will encourage poor posture and bad habits.

### Guidelines for Individual Practice:

**Regular Schedule:** Set up a regular time and then stick to it. Let practice become a routine.

**Practice Daily:** 30 minutes per day, five days each week, is better than a one-hour session twice a week. The national recommended time is 45 minutes per day. Some students practice as much as two hours. WOW!

**Quiet Location:** Practice where others will not disturb you and where you will not disturb others if possible.

**Be Sure Your Instrument is in Working Condition:** Check slides, corks, pads, reeds, valves, etc. You can only play well on an instrument that works.

**Warm Up:** You must warm up like an athlete does. Begin by playing music in a comfortable range at a comfortable dynamic level. Play scales (or rudiments) to warm up hand and finger muscles. Lip slurs are excellent for brass players. Long tones are good for everybody. Make sure to breathe properly!

**Set Goals:** Work on improving five things in your assignment every time you practice.

## **What to Practice:**

- Assigned music
- Book exercises (to build technique)
- Sight reading
- FUN THINGS! (solo books, hymns, etc.)

## **Difficult Passages:**

- Play slowly to establish the correct fingerings.
- Count and clap out rhythms to make sure that they are correct.
- Gradually speed up until playing the correct tempo without a mistake. It would be wise to invest in a metronome.
- **Rest:** Do not over practice. More harm will be done than good. Take a break and finger through a passage or study your rhythms or theory.
- **Make Music:** Music is more than playing notes. You should always be striving for a good sound with proper dynamics and articulation.
- **BAND AND CHOIR MEMBERS ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING TO PRACTICE**

## **Attendance Policy**

**Attendance at all rehearsals, classes, and performances is required.** The success of any organization depends on the commitment of each of its members and the absence of any member adversely affects the entire group. Therefore, excellent attendance is mandatory for all members. Two tardies in a quarter will be treated as one unexcused absence. Three absences in one quarter will result in dismissal from the band or choir program. Students should be in their seat and ready to play by the designated start time of any rehearsal. Practice time is limited and therefore is at a premium.

If a child misses a class, sectional, or morning rehearsal, it is the music member's (parents) responsibility to write the director a note, email or call and leave a message in the office. The absence will be counted as unexcused if the director does not receive notification **prior** to the music member's absence.

The director will allow the child to make up all missed class assignments that are the result of excused absences. The child should see the director to arrange a time for the make-up time, or to get any missed assignments. Missing one performance or event will be cause for removal from the program. **The director must approve all absences from a performance IN ADVANCE.**

Excused absences from rehearsal, class, or sectional include the following:

- Illness
- Family Emergency
- Rockdale Grade School District 84 athletic event participation is excused only if event time directly conflicts with an after-school practice. Please note that our rehearsal times are before school, so that conflicts are minimal.
- **Non-school related activities will not be considered excused absences!**

**\*\*\*Excused absences from performances or music events includes illness or family emergency only!\*\*\***

Any unexcused absence from any performance or music event will result in strict action being taken against the child, whether that action be dismissal from the program or declaring the child ineligible for any extra events.

(trips, rewards, etc.) Performances are the backbone of the music program and are the only chance the ensembles have to show the fruits of its labor. Therefore, the director will proceed with any discipline action deemed necessary, including dismissal from the music program, if the director feels that such action is in the best interest of the ensemble as a whole.

Band Members, Choir Members and parents alike must remember that participation in band and choir is a privilege. Many individual student hours are spent in preparation for events, and the inappropriate actions of one will not be allowed to spoil the efforts of the group. It is for this reason that repeated discipline or attendance problems can not and will not be tolerated.

Failure to adhere to attendance requirements discussed in this handbook will result in disciplinary steps taken, as outlined in the section entitled “Discipline Policy.”

## **Discipline Policy**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The music staff will follow Rockdale Grade School District 84’s “Rules for Student Behavior and School Discipline” policy.

Repeated behavior problems cannot, and will not, be tolerated. When appropriate, the music staff will first work with the student to help solve problems. If everything has been done to help a student be a positive member of the ensemble and he or she is still unwilling to follow the expectations outlined, the student will be removed from the music program temporarily or permanently.

## **Grading Policy**

Band and Choir is a unique course at Rockdale Grade School District 84. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class time requirements. The strength of the music program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program.

Music is a learning activity. Rehearsals, whether during, before, or after school, are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore, it is imperative that students be present unless the absence is absolutely unavoidable. Rehearsal absences and tardies will undoubtedly affect a student’s performance and grade. Although I frequently function as a conductor, I am primarily a teacher responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the program. This is the reason I am absolutely insistent upon each student’s daily participation. Rehearsals are not optional, and reflected in the student’s grade. Performances are viewed as major tests. A performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student to develop an insight into their own level of performance. A performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student’s performance in relation to classroom objectives presented.

Band and Choir Members are evaluated on attendance at all rehearsals, performances, and music events. Band and Choir Members are also evaluated on the ability to complete all assignments satisfactorily, performing quizzes, and written work. Students will receive a progress report each quarter. Students may receive extra credit for participating in private lessons, solo and ensemble contest, auditioning for the IMEA Concert Band and/or Concert Choir Festival, auditioning for the Middle Level Band Festival, and writing a report from a classical performance seen outside of the school day.

Finally, I take my job as a band and choir director very seriously. The music department as an organization provides a medium through which student’s progress academically, musically, and socially. Musicianship,

attitude, attendance, punctuality, conduct, and a desire for excellence are absolutely expected from each member of the Rockdale Grade School District 84 Music Program. Therefore, individual practice and preparation are essential. No other discipline in education requires the high level of achievement from all participants, as a musical performance. Through the level of commitment required I hope to better prepare our students for the responsibilities encountered throughout their lives.

## Contests and Festivals

Contests and Festivals are tentative pending state and local guidelines for participating in band and/or choir.

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the Rockdale School District 84 music program. It is through these activities that we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never “live or die” by any one judge’s or any panel’s opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the amount of time, work, and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, chilling cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success and joy.

Along with these emotions goes a high level of tension, which often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and to channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

Our Rockdale Band and Choir will stand with silent pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results regardless of outcome. We show our appreciation and respect for those who have earned the right to score ahead of us and gracefully accept our own successes. Many of our competitors will not understand that we are able to congratulate those who are ahead of us and appreciate their performance. Those are the people that will not ever know the true reason for participating in competition, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We will come in first when we deserve to based on our performance. Until then, we know “winning” is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, taken the chance of competing, and done their personal best in the pursuit of excellence.

The band and choir’s image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride for our organization. It is the responsibility of each member to insure that we present the best possible image at all times.

## Performance Guidelines and Standards

By participating in band or choir, every student has made a commitment to always do his or her BEST for the good of the team. Each ensemble is a TEAM! The entire ensemble relies on ALL its members to accomplish its goals. It is through performance and preparation for performance that a great deal of learning occurs. As such, several concerts, clinics and contests are scheduled throughout the year that will be required and will serve as a major test grade. The music staff will post these dates (memos, newsletter, and calendar in back of this handbook) way in advance to allow for scheduling. **Attendance is required for all performances and rehearsals, including any evening or weekend performances.**

Rockdale School District 84 Music Department has a reputation of excellent performances. To maintain and raise the standard even higher, it is imperative that every student masters his or her assigned part. The director will assign and grade sections of the music each week at the student’s class.

If a student does not satisfactorily complete the assigned sections three weeks prior to the performance, the director will take steps to correct the problem for the good of the organization. These steps may include eliminating the student from playing or singing a given part or song, or may result in the child being prohibited from participating in the performance.

The following are performance guidelines to help ensure a successful performance:

1. Be sure your instrument is clean and in good working condition. If it is not, make sure you arrive at the school early to have your director correct the problem.
2. Make sure you have your music, pencil, assignments, metronome/tuner, and instrument with you before you leave your house.
3. Always arrive by the designated time. This will allow sufficient time to load busses, take attendance, warm-up, tune, etc.

Every student is required to ride the bus to a performance, please note that the departure time is the departure time. Arrive as little as one minute late will result in the student missing the bus. If the student does miss the bus and the performance, it will be counted as an unexcused absence! All students are also required to return on the bus unless they have written approval from the parent two days prior to the event.

Students must be in complete uniform in order to perform with the group. Absolutely no exceptions will be made. Failure to perform due to improper uniform will be counted as an unexcused absence.

## Uniforms

Band and Choir Members are responsible for attaining the following:

- Music Polo T-Shirt
- Solid black Tuxedo Pants (provided by the school)
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes (no gym shoes!)

The full uniform should be worn from drop off at the school until the director tells the group it is o.k. to change clothes. Also, please note that all necklaces should be worn under the clothing, earrings, should be discreet (no large hoops, etc.), and hair apparel should be limited to a black, blue or gold headband, ponytail holder, “scrunchy,” etc. We need everyone to dress the same (i.e. uniform). The music member should not wear any accessory that attracts undue attention to himself/herself.

Any student not adhering to these uniform guidelines will not be allowed to perform with the ensemble; this will be counted as an unexcused absence, and could result in dismissal from the music program.

## Private Lessons

All students are encouraged to take private lessons. Private instructions (“lessons”) are not a part of the required music program, but are strongly recommended by the director.

While the music teacher is concerned with the overall sound of the group, the private instructor is concerned only with the progress of one student, your child. In a one-on-one setting, an instructor can afford to spend as much time on any one area of weakness as is necessary to correct the problem, without worrying about performance deadlines or the progress of other students present. Likewise, while a band or choir director

teaches music based on the ability level of the group, the private lesson instructor has the luxury of teaching to your child's level of competency alone. There are music studios close by that have very capable instructors.

## **Awards Night**

During the course of every school year, certain students perform at a level which exceeds all standards. Because of the fine example set by these students, the director feels it is only appropriate that they be recognized for their efforts. All awards will be presented at our Spring Concert.

### **Awards**

- **Most Improved** One student from Concert Band and Concert Choir will receive a certificate for the most improved student for their respective ensemble.
- **Outstanding Musician** This award is given to one Beginning Band, Beginning Choir, Concert Band, and Concert Choir student deserving special recognition based on excellent musicianship, attendance, and behavior.
- **First Chair Awards** Section Leaders from each section of the Concert Band and Concert Choir will receive a special certificate.
- **Director's Award** This award is given to the Concert Band and Concert Choir Member who has developed the highest level of consistently superior work throughout their years of band or choir membership. It is based on musicianship, attitude, attendance, behavior, and leadership ability.

## **Fund Raising**

Every year, Rockdale School will sponsor several fund-raisers. In order for our ensembles to continue to progress to a higher level, we will ask that each student be responsible for a minimal amount of fundraising during the course of the school year.

The funds collected through fundraising will go to the general expenses incurred in the normal operation of our band and choir programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, purchasing instruments, uniform replacement, contest fees, instrument maintenance, music supplies, incentives, awards, and music.

When turning in your money for fund-raisers, please send your money in the form of cash, money order, or check. If you are writing a check, please only turn in one check for the total amount and put your child's name in the memo line on the check. If your check is returned, because of Non-Sufficient Funds, there will be a \$25.00 NSF fee. You will no longer be able to write a check, only cash or money order will be accepted. You will have to turn in your total amount due within one week in the form of cash or money order.

## **Trip Procedures and Rules**

Field Trips are tentative pending state and local guidelines for participating in band and/or choir.

Band and Choir will take a yearly trip. These trips are both educational and fun. Because students are traveling with the band or choir, special instructions are necessary to ensure the enjoyment and security of all music members.



All Rockdale Grade School District 84 Rules are in effect for the duration of the trip. Parents will be asked to fill out a medical and permission form in order to go on the trip.

Parents have the opportunity to attend the trip as a chaperone, but all expenses of the trip are the parent's responsibility. Trip Chaperones have to follow and enforce all Rockdale Grade School District 84 Rules, Rockdale Grade School District 84 Music Handbook, and trip rules. Chaperones are there for the purpose of security and safety for all music members. Chaperones must follow all instructions given by the director and may not change any information or instructions given. Chaperones will also be asked to fill out appropriate forms and commitments.

All trips are optional. We do ask, however, that if you know that your child will not be attending, you will let us know as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly.

## **Individual Opportunities**

Throughout the year, band and choir members will have the opportunity to participate in several special events. These will include the following:

### **Middle Level Honor Festival**

Outstanding Concert Band and Concert Choir Students will be asked to participate in the Middle Level Honor Festival at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Illinois. Participation in this festival is limited and the music staff will select the students based on participation and attitude over the past years. Commitment Forms will be distributed in August.

### **IL.M.E.A. Concert Band and Concert Choir Festivals**

Concert Band and Concert Choir members have the opportunity to audition for placement within the Illinois Music Educators Association's District 1 Band and Choir Festivals. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the audition and performance locations. Commitment Forms will be distributed in August.

### **Rockdale School Solo & Ensemble Contest**

Rockdale School will be hosting a Solo & Ensemble Contest. Solos must have the required piano accompaniment. The music department will help as many students as possible in selecting an accompanist. Any student who would like to find his or her own piano accompanist is welcome to do so.

The Solo and Ensemble Contest is held in February, but we will be selecting music in early November. The student will need an original copy of their music and piano accompaniment. Students who wish to work with other band or choir students in an ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, etc.) are welcome to do so. Ensembles may or may not need to have a piano player, but must have one if there is music for one. The director can work with ensembles on a limited basis. It is suggested that students check with their private instructor or director before selecting music for the contest. Additional information will be given to all students in October.

### **Extra Band and Choir Camp Opportunities**

During the months of June, July, and August, Universities and private organizations throughout the state and country hold band and choir camps from anywhere between one week to two months. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a period of time concentrating on your instrument and playing with a different group of people. It is also a time to meet new friends from many different places who share the same interests as you. Information about these camps will be available in the spring.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How do the directors determine an absence to be excused or unexcused?**

The directors abide by what Rockdale Grade School District 84 would have determined (excused/unexcused) if the absence were to have occurred during the school day. If they are in any doubt, the written note from the parent is taken directly to the principal for a ruling. It is very important that all notes detail the reasons for the absence (or anticipated absence). The directors may contact the parents and request further information if the note does not provide the needed information.

## **What are some examples of inappropriate behavior (this list is not inclusive)?**

- Arriving late to a music event or activity.
- Missing a required music event without prior permission from a director (unless it is an emergency – still must contact the director ASAP).
- Talking unnecessarily or at inappropriate times.
- Playing your instrument out of turn.
- Touching, moving, using, or damaging any property that does not belong to you.
- Arguing with a director or chaperone.
- Using any school-owned instrument without permission of a director or staff member.
- Eating food or drinks in the music room or performance site.

## **What happens if I don't live up to the expectation set forth in this handbook?**

Some expectations weigh more than others. You may be counseled by a director to try to solve a troubling situation. Parent-Teacher conference may be scheduled in order to avoid future problems or determine consequences for a specific action. Violation of Rockdale Grade School District 84 rules must result in referral to administration. It is in your best interest as a member of the Rockdale Music Program, to attempt to fulfill the expectations to avoid the need for consequences.



# Rockdale School District #84 Music Department

## 2021-2022 Performance Schedule

These dates are tentative pending state and local guidelines for participating in band and/or choir.

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>
August 2 <sup>nd</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning Band Camp	9:00-10:15 a.m.	Rockdale School
August 2 <sup>nd</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Returning Members Band Camp	11:30-12:45 p.m.	Rockdale School
August 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Camp	10:30-11:15 a.m.	Rockdale School
August 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning Band (Missed Camp)	7:30-8:15 a.m.	Rockdale School
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	First Day of Band & Choir		
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	ILMEA Junior High Festival Online Video Auditions		
TBA	Middle Level Honor Band Festival	All Day	VanderCook College of Music
TBA	ILMEA Elementary Festival	All Day	VanderCook College of Music
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	ILMEA District Concert Band & Choir Festival	All Day	Lincoln-way Central High School
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans Day Performance	2:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	School Board Appreciation Performance	5:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
TBA	Family Reading Night Performance	TBA	TBA
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Band & Choir Concert	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Holiday Musical	2:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Holiday Musical	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	ILMEA All-State Elementary Festival	All Day	Peoria Civic Center
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rockdale Solo & Ensemble Recital	4:00-8:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
March	Music in our Schools Month		
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Musical	2:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Musical	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
TBA	Talent Show	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Band & Choir Concert & Awards Night	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Spring Musical	2:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Spring Musical	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	K-1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Spring Musical	2:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	K-1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Spring Musical	6:30 p.m.	Rockdale School
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Graduation Performance	7:00 p.m.	Rockdale School
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Uniform Check-In Deadline		Rockdale School
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day Ceremony	10:00 a.m.	Village of Rockdale
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Instrument Check-In After Memorial Day Parade		

# ROCKDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT 84 MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## Handbook Agreement Form

Band and Choir members are responsible for reviewing the handbook on a regular basis. Please make sure that your child(ren) fully understands the Rockdale School District 84 Music Handbook and their portion of this handbook that relates to their individual music program (i.e. Beginning Band, Concert Choir, Concert Band, Marching Band). Please note that we will follow all district rules as stated in the “Rules for Student Behavior and School Discipline Handbook.” After your review of the handbook, please sign and return this last page to your child’s band director by Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Thank you very much!

I hereby acknowledge my receipt and review of the Rockdale School District 84 Music Handbook with my child(ren) and we understand the rules and regulations that were set forth for this program.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument/Voice \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### **IMPORTANT!**

**Please return this form to your child’s director before Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 .  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**