

Riverdale Falcon Band Handbook



2017-2018

About the Riverdale Band

All efforts are directed towards the goal of providing a quality musical, educational, and cultural program for every student. The Riverdale Band operates upon the principle that everyone will strive to do his or her best to develop their skills. They will practice self-discipline and present a class act to the public and to their peers. This requires much cooperation, effort, and trust. Therefore, in this spirit of learning, the following information will assist students and parents in obtaining the best educational results possible.

All band members should view themselves as **EQUALS** regardless of their age or positions in the band. Students must motivate themselves in a positive manner. This means that self-improvement will be a necessary objective. Our goal should be to discover ways to experience success by working hard with positive attitudes both as individuals and as a band.

Membership

The students enrolled in the Riverdale Band Program are members of the Falcon Marching Band, Concert Band after marching season, and Pep Band during the basketball season. Students are expected to have the capacity to play a musical instrument and participate in all rehearsals and performances associated with these ensembles.

-Students must be enrolled as an attending student of Riverdale Local Schools and must be enrolled in the band program with the following exceptions:

-Student's schedule is too full and doesn't allow the student time to take the class for credit.

-Student attend Millstream over top of the band period.

**In either case, the student must attend all out-of-school rehearsals and the director reserves the right to bar them from performance if their effort is unsatisfactory or their skills are not performance ready.

-The majorettes are considered a part of the Falcon Marching Band and all membership requirements including participation in all band programs is required. Also, any student interested in participating as a majorette for the marching band season must complete one season of marching band as a playing performer. This ensures the student is familiar with the skills and expectations necessary to being a member of the marching band including marching ability, team work, and bandsmanship.

Course Objectives

The student will:

- Demonstrate constructive professional rehearsal and performance procedures in a total cooperative-learning process.
- Work closely with others in defining and achieving group goals.
- Utilize problem-solving techniques by applying learned concepts to new situations making value judgments (critical thinking).
- Demonstrate proper use of fundamentals to develop skills (playing approach to musical instrument, marching, etc.)
- Demonstrate knowledge about notation and musical style required for successful music reading.
- Demonstrate technical growth.
- Express creativity through active music-making.

Attendance

Performances - Attendance for all performances is mandatory. Performances include, but are not limited to the following: Parades, Fair Shows, Football Games, Pep Band Performances, Concerts, Memorial Day, Large Group Contest Performance.

An unexcused absence from a performance can drastically affect the outcome of the grading period. Work is never a legitimate excuse for missing a performance.

Outside of School Rehearsals - Loyalty and pride demand that attendance at all rehearsals and performances is **MANDATORY**. When someone is missing the whole band suffers; it is a total team effort. Performances are the outgrowth of the band rehearsals and are extremely important to the growth and successful measuring of each student's progress. Performances represent the examination and evaluation process which has resulted from the rehearsal (during and outside of the school day) preparation. It should be expected that outside rehearsals will always be worth 25 to 50 points unless otherwise noted.

Some examples of outside rehearsals are: Marching Band Evening Rehearsals, Large Group Adjudicated Events Preparation Rehearsals with or without Guest Conductors, etc.

Outside of School Rehearsal Attendance

The following are examples of reasons that **MAY BE** acceptable for missing a performance or rehearsal:

- Illness (if a student is in school, they are expected to attend after-school rehearsals and performances. During summer practices, a call should be made to the band office from a parent/guardian explaining the illness).

- Funeral or other

The following are examples of reasons that **MAY NOT** be acceptable for missing a performance or rehearsal:

- Work (including babysitting)

- Senior pictures/parties

- Birthdays

- Family Vacation

- Medical Appointments (should make every effort to plan around rehearsals/concerts)

- Transportation (plan ahead)

- Activities sponsored by a group or organization outside of the Riverdale Local Schools

Documentation of Attendance Absence

In order for an acceptable absence or tardy to be excused, it must be documented (as far in advance as possible) and signed by a parent or guardian. A student signature will not be accepted. A call may also be made to the band office (419-694-2211, x1708) by a parent/guardian. A call by a student will not be accepted. This includes summer rehearsals and performances. Band is a co-curricular activity which means grades will be given for both in and out of school activities during the academic school year.

An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in a lowering of the student's grade. Work is never a legitimate excuse for missing a rehearsal.

Tardiness - A student will be considered "on time" if they are in their assigned seat (or location on the field, bus, etc.) at the required time with instrument, music, charts, pencil, etc.

Band Camp

2016 Band Camp will be held from July 25 through July 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with an hour lunch break. All band students must attend in order to perform with the band during the football season. During Band Camp is when we will learn our Pregame and Halftime show(s), so it is imperative that all students are present.

Extra curriculars and Band

It is understood that athletics are an important part of the high school experience; therefore the director will always be willing to work with the athletic schedule. However, any band student who is involved in athletics should actively work with the band director and coach in keeping the lines of communication open so that the best solution can be arrived upon in each situation where sports and band schedules conflict.

Upon a situation where a student has any type of conflict between Band and another activity, the student involved should speak with the director and coach as far in advance as possible. The Band Director will be willing to work with the student and the coach(es) involved to arrive at the best solution with as much flexibility as possible.

If there is a conflict between a band rehearsal and an athletic practice or club meeting, the Board approved rules apply as stated in the Riverdale Schools Athletic Handbook. "In season sports, including post-season tournament play, takes precedence over all out of season sports, including conditioning, tryouts, practice or contests. **Only academic activities, those that academic credits are given as part of the curriculum and academic testing take precedence over athletics.** In the event of a conflict of competition with an OHSAA tournament and a non-state or national competition for academic activity, athletics will take precedence. If both have a competition that is state or national sponsored, the student-athlete must make a decision as to which competition they will attend. In either case, if the student-athlete attends the athletic competition, no points can be deducted from their grade nor may their grade be lowered, or if they attend the academic activity, the coach may not penalize them by non-participation."

Football Games

In the stands – Members must stay in uniform at all times. The band staff will determine any alteration. Members must keep their berets and coats in place after pre-game and half-time until they are given permission to alter them.

- All members must remain in the stands unless a staff member or chaperone has given permission to do otherwise.
- While in the stands, students should only play their instrument (and ONLY their instrument) when the entire unit is playing. When the full band is playing, all members must participate.
- Only water is allowed in the stands. No other drink or food is allowed in the stand unless otherwise directed by the staff.
- Only band members in uniform should sit within the ranks of the band in the stands. If non-members sitting next to the band section become a distraction, the member may be asked to move.
- Instruments and equipment should not be left unattended in the stands or left lying in the bleachers where they may fall. Students are responsible for their own instruments and equipment (See Care of Music and Instruments).

Third Quarter – Band members must not leave the bleachers until a member of the staff releases them. Students are to stay in the general vicinity of the band bleachers and be in your seat and ready to play at the end of the 3rd quarter. **STUDENTS MUST STAY IN THE VICINITY OF THE RIVERDALE BAND SEATING AREA (HOME OR AWAY) AT ANY TIME UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A CHAPERONE OR DIRECTOR.** If students arrive late and are unable to play on time their grade will be reduced by 5 points for each real time minute (not game clock minutes) they are late for that performance and they may have to spend a portion of the next 3rd quarter in the stands. Multiple late people will result in a penalty on the entire band by losing 3rd quarter privileges.

Uniforms

- Before each performance there will be a visual inspection of the student by the band staff and/or uniform committee. The inspection could have a bearing on the student's grade if there are repeated offenses on the uniform dress code.

- Remember these basics: **CLEAN SHOES, CLEAN GLOVES, CLEAN AND WRINKLE-FREE UNIFORM, BLACK SOCKS - NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Students must wear a white, grey, black, and/or blue Riverdale t-shirt underneath their uniform.
Sweatshirts or jeans may **NOT** be worn under the uniform.
- Shiny, distracting, inappropriate, or flamboyant jewelry or watches are not to be worn during a performance. Infractions will be considered a violation of uniform dress code and may affect the student's grade.
- You are financially responsible for loss of or malicious damage to any piece of uniform issued to you.

Without exception, the judgment of appearance of the students in uniform lies solely with the director. If, for any reason, the director finds fault with the appearance of the students, they reserve the right to bar them from performing.

Concert Band Season

Concert band season starts immediately after marching season in November and runs through the rest of the school year. To adequately prepare for concerts, the director may see fit to schedule out-of-school rehearsals. Otherwise, the band will rehearse only during the school day.

Uniforms

- For performances, students will be required to provide their concert uniform. This will consist of black and white colors only. A white, black, or mixed black/white top to be worn with black dress slacks or appropriate skirts. Dress shoes are also required. Dresses may be worn as long as their colors follow the black and white rule and are dress code appropriate.
- Shiny, distracting, inappropriate, or flamboyant jewelry or watches are not to be worn during a performance. Infractions will be considered a violation of uniform dress code and may affect the student's grade.
- Failure to wear proper uniform will result in the lowering of your grade and/or being barred from the performance.

Auditions - Every student enrolled in Band will play in concert band. To make certain the band achieves its full potential and educational goals, auditions are necessary. At the conclusion of the marching season each student receives a 10-minute audition to evaluate

their progress and to receive instruction for further improvement. Students are placed in sections of the band where their ability levels allow them to progress the most and where a balanced instrumentation for the band can best be achieved. The students will be given full details of the audition process when that time nears. All students will be required to audition; if they choose not to appear for their audition, they will be placed at the end of their section and receive a “0” for their first playing test.

Challenges - will be held at the discretion of the director based on student interest. Details on challenge procedure will be given upon student request.

DECISIONS CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP AND SEATING OF THE BAND LIES SOLELY WITH THE DIRECTOR.

Playing Tests - may occur in the ensemble and will be announced at least one week (seven days) prior to the test. During both marching and concert seasons, the student may be required to perform excerpts from their music. Exams could take the form of playing tests, rehearsal, or written examinations.

To ensure the proper progress, the director may give individual assignments to students who might be having difficulty.

Grading

The following criteria will be evaluated and contribute to the student’s grade:

- **Music performance:** Playing tests and/or exams (100 points unless otherwise noted) **Performance conduct:** Students may earn 100 points for each performance successfully completed. Points may be deducted for tardiness, if the student is not in proper uniform (marching or concert), or if they do not act as a proper representative of the Riverdale Band during a performance.

The testing material for marching and sit-down band will test the musical elements therein, i.e. notes, rhythms, articulations, intonation, dynamics, etc. Additional grading may be done in the following areas:

- **Outside-of-School Rehearsals** See previous section on this. (25 points unless otherwise noted)
- **School Day Rehearsal effort/behavior:** Students can earn 10 participation/practice points for each week of successful rehearsals. Points may be deducted for: chewing gum, poor playing posture, disrupting rehearsal in any way, lack of effort, not having proper equipment, tardiness, and not taking care

of school-owned equipment.

- **Attendance:** If a student is tardy to an in-school or outside-of-school rehearsal, they may have points deducted from their grade. If a student is tardy to a performance, they may have up to 10 points deducted from their 100 point total, depending on how late they arrive. If a student is unexcused from a rehearsal, they will receive a 0 for the rehearsal. If a student is unexcused from a performance, they will receive a 0 for the performance.

The criterion for the final grade is the judgment of the director and follows the **Student Handbook** and **Board** policies.

Care of Music and Instruments

School owned instruments and equipment issued to the band student are property of the Riverdale Bands and were purchased with money provided by the Board of Education and the Riverdale Music Boosters. Upon issuance, the instrument/equipment becomes the responsibility of the student and will be visually inspected by the director. A rental fee of \$6 will be charged to the student for every month they are using the instrument. Any existing “cosmetic” flaws will be noted and will not be the responsibility of the student. However, any repair needed on the instrument/equipment during the course of or at the conclusion of it’s use may be the responsibility of the student up to and including \$20. However, any repair needed on the instrument/equipment during the course of or at the conclusion of it’s use due to negligence or malicious intent may be paid for by the student at full cost.

Personal instruments/equipment owned by the student are solely the responsibility of the student. The Riverdale Band, the Riverdale Music Boosters and the Riverdale School Board of Education are not responsible for damage incurred.

Music - All music lost, stolen, or damaged is the financial responsibility of the student.

Travel

- Students are expected to travel with the band to and from all scheduled events, unless otherwise noted by the director and student follows the proper documentation procedures.
- Band Director, bus drivers and chaperones are in charge while traveling. All Riverdale Board of Education transportation policies are in full effect. Band members are to act as young ladies and gentlemen.

- Poor behavior in relationship to traveling may have a negative reflection on the performance grade given for that event.
- If, when absolutely necessary and all possibilities have been exhausted, a student cannot travel with the band, the appropriate band staff (directors, chaperones) must have an excuse in writing from a parent or guardian before the scheduled event. The excuse must state the nature of the conflict and must be signed by the parent or guardian. A signature is then required from the Athletic Director before it is given to the director before departure. The director and principal will have the final judgment if the need arises for alternate transportation.

Mr. Zack Voll, Director of Bands

Band Office: 419-694-2211, x1708

Email: zvoll@riverdale.k12.oh.us

www.riverdale.k12.oh.us/band1.aspx

(E-mail is my preferred method of communication)

2017-2018 Dates & Times

August

Mon, 14th

7:00 PM Open House Performance
(Café) & Fall Sport Kickoff

Wed, 16th

First Day of School

Thur, 17th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Thur, 24th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 25th

Football - Home vs. Waynefield-Goshen

Wed, 30th

TBA - Hancock Co. Fair Show

Thur, 31st

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

September

Fri, 1st

Football – Home vs. Hardin-Northern

Tue, 5th

TBA – Hardin Co. Fair Band Show

Thur, 7th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 8th

Football - Home vs. North Baltimore (JH Night)

Tue, 12th

TBA – Wyandot Co. Fair Show

Thur, 14th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 15th

Football- Away vs. Vanlue

Sat, 16th

TBA – Lima-Bath Band Spectacular (All-Day)

Thur, 21st

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 22nd

Football- Away vs. Liberty-Benton

Thur, 28th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 29th

Football- Away vs. Cory-Rawson

October

Thurs, 5th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 6th

Football- Home vs. McComb

Thur, 12th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 13th

Football – Home vs. Arcadia (Homecoming)

Fri, 20th

Football- Away vs. Van Buren

Thur, 26th

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Fri, 27th

Football- Home vs. Hopewell-Loudon

Senior Night

November

Pep Band Schedule will be handed out and concert band auditions will held at the beginning of the month.

Sat, 18th

District 3 OMEA Honors Festival Auditions (Optional)

December

Sat, 2nd

8:00 AM-Noon - All County Band Auditions at
Liberty Benton, Not Required

3:00 PM – Christmas in the Village Parade

Mon. 18th

7:00 PM Middle School Band & Choir Concerts

Tue. 19th

7:00 PM High School Band & Choir Concerts

January

Sat, 14th

District III Band & Choir Performance, Not Required

Sat, 20th

Solo & Ensemble at Lima Senior High, Not Required

February

Thurs-Sat, 8th-10th

OMEA Convention/All-State Honors Band,
Mr. Voll and Miss Freshman Attending

Tue, 13th

All-County Honors Band Practice, Not Required

Sat, 17th

All-County Honors Band Practice, Not Required

Sun, 18th

3:00 PM County Honors Band Performance, Not Req.

March

Fri & Sat, 9th & 10th

Band and Choir Large Group Contest

Fri-Sat, 23rd & 24th

High School musical

May

Mon. 7th

7:00 PM Middle School Band & Choir Concerts

Tue. 8th

7:00 PM High School Band & Choir Concerts

Mon, 20th

2:00 PM Graduation Performance

Mon, 28th

Memorial Day Performance