Student Hand Book

2019-2020



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Rosemont Middle School, Ft Worth ISD

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WELCOME TO THE RMS BRONCO BAND AND THE SOUTH HILLS HIGH SCORPION BAND FAMILY!!!

Congratulations! You have just joined the upcoming premier band program in the Fort Worth ISD. We are excited that you have become a part of our band family.

The South Hills Pyramid, consisting of Rosemont 6th, Rosemont Middle, and South Hills High School, is a vibrant, growing pyramid which aims to create a top performing band program. The goal of the pyramid is to create a culture of excellent student musicians, character and leaders. To do this, the RMS staff will set the standard that success in musicianship is our main objective which will encourage growth in character and excellence. We hope to encourage all students to become confident, self-sufficient musicians through a supportive, happy & healthy learning environment.

In an effort to accomplish this goal, we must establish clear goals and strategies. The purpose of this handbook is to provide clarity in procedure and student expectations for the Rosemont Middle School Band Program.

We, here in the South Hills pyramid cannot wait to help each of you grow into amazing young people and musicians. Let’s make some music together!

**Rules, Guidelines & Expectations**

**Band Room**

1. Food or drink is not allowed in the band hall AT ANY TIME.
2. Disruptive behavior is not allowed AT ANY TIME.
3. Do not touch any instruments other than your own. Instruments should never be left unattended.
4. Never interrupt a sectional or rehearsal.

**Instrument Room**

1. The Instrument Room is a place for you to store your instrument and binder only.
2. No backpacks, schoolwork or other items should be in the instrument room at any time.
3. There should be no food or drink in the instrument room AT ANY TIME!
4. Instruments and Binders should be put in the slot assigned to each band and student at all times.
5. Keep the instrument room clean. Loose papers will be thrown away. There will be daily checks by student leaders that the instrument room is clean and organized.
6. The instrument room is not a place to hang out.

**Morning Procedures**

1. The band room will open every morning at 8:15 am for students practicing only.
2. Band students will be allowed to enter through the ***Orchestra Room*** door until 8:30am. The doors will close and will not reopen until 9:15am.
3. Between the times of 8:30am and 9:15am, only students who have an orange sticker on their ID or an instrument in hand will be able to enter through the ***Band Room*** door. Students without either of these will not be permitted in the band room in the mornings or passed the monitors throughout the school.
4. There will be no food or drink in the band room during this time.

**Afternoon Procedures**

1. All students should enter through the ***Band Room*** door to pick up instruments to take home. No students will be allowed to enter through the Orchestra Room Door to pick up instruments.
2. All students will exit through the ***Orchestra Room*** door after picking up instruments.
3. Sectionals will commence at 4:40pm. After picking up their instrument, students must leave the building so that band directors can began teaching sectionals.

**Discipline Procedures**

Violation of the rules and expectations outlined in this handbook may result in one or more of the following actions:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student/Teacher Conference
3. Parent Contact
4. 2 Hours of After School Band Room Detention

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell Phones are not allowed in the band room during rehearsals, sectionals, or open practice time. When a cell phone is visible, the student musician is less likely to focus on his/her goals. If a cell phone is out during instruction time, the cell phone will be taken up for the remainder of the instruction period. On the third incident, and thereafter, the device will be given to the front office. The cost to have the phone returned is $15.00.

**Grading Policies**

**30% Performance Assessments/Chair Tests**

Each 6 weeks, students will receive a performance-tracking chart.  Students will be graded at the end of the 6 weeks based on how many objectives in the assessment worksheet are completed.  These assessments will contain scales, exercises and in class music.

**25% Weekly Participation**

Students will be graded on having supplies, instrument, music and general preparation during class. Supply checks will be given at random. It is important that students have all materials daily in class, in order to fully participate.

**25% Mandatory Extra Rehearsals & Sectionals**

This subcategory applies mostly to Wind Symphony and Symphonic Bands, but other bands may have a clinic or two that takes place outside of the school day during the spring semester. Expect these to occur around concert and competition dates. Also, see Before/After School Rehearsal/Sectional Grading Policy.  Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band students will have a 1-hour sectional per week. Students will pass-off objectives (see below) and perform chair tests during these sectionals, so it is mandatory that students attend.

**20% Performances**

All performances are marked on the calendar as mandatory events. These events cannot be made up. See Attendance Policy.

**Recordings**

During the year, students will be required to submit recordings via Google Classroom (1st Semester) or a program called MusicFirst (2nd semester). These recordings are required for the band classroom. ***If a student is not able to record or practice at home, the Band Room will be open every morning from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.***

**Make-Up Work Procedures**

The Great thing about the RMS Band program is that students have the entire 6 weeks to submit recordings to improve their grade. Grades are updated weekly on Focus, and immediately on the electronic form the band directors use to keep up with grades.

**Band Eligibility**

All students will start in the band they earned and auditioned for in April/May of the previous school year. It is important to note, that any student who does not meet the minimum requirements for their band is at risk of moving to another band, opening a spot for a student who has met standards.

**Private Lessons**

Private Lessons are one of the most important parts of growing as a young musician. While the band directors have 250 students to teach each day, a student that takes private lessons students are focused on as the individual. We recommend that students take private lessons. This year, private lessons will be available in class during the year for $8.00 a week for Oboes and Bassoons.

**Cost**

**Field Trips & Events Fee - $40.00**

The band fee covers field trips and activities that the band will participate in throughout the year. Each student is required to play a solo in February and go to a Festival at the end of the year. Any student can be in band and participate in learning to play an instrument without payment, however without the band fee being paid, he or she will not participate in any out of school activities with the band. No student will be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact Mr. Story.

**Instrument Fee - $80.00 ($40 each semester)**

Any student who uses a school owned instrument is required to fill out an instrument usage agreement form. Students using a school-owned instrument will be charged a fee of $40.00 per semester for the use of the instrument. This fee is charged to cover instrument repair and cleaning costs. Use of school owned instrument is a privilege. Instruments are assigned first come first serve. Please know that all instruments are in working order regardless of how they look. All instruments have the same fee. There are ways for students to have half of the band fee waived, but this incentive must be **earned**, and is on a **case-by-case basis**. See Mr. Story or Mr. Ball for details.

**Renting/Buying Instruments for Ownership**

Although not required, it is **HIGHLY** recommended that students own their own instruments. Students and families are more likely to invest in themselves as musicians and the band program when students own or rent their instruments from a music store. However, it is imperative that when looking to buy/rent from a store that parents communicate with their band directors to ensure that the instrument being bought/rented is of good quality. There are many instrument brands that are cheap but are made poorly and can hinder the growth of the young musician. Brands that are well known and make good quality instruments are Yamaha, Jupiter, Selmer, Bach, and Conn. Please stick to these brands and contact your band director for questions. Please see music stores below to see where to buy or rent instruments.

**Required Instruction and Supplies**

Band families are required to purchase equipment that will help maintain the life of the instrument that is being played. The more care that is put into an instrument, the less repairs the instrument will have to go through.

1. Instrument in good working condition
2. Pencil
3. Binder
4. Tuner/Metronome OR Tuner/Metronome App

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| **Flute:**  Tuning Rod  Swab | **Oboe/Bassoon**  Reeds (2)  Swab  Reed Case  Canister | **Saxophone/Clarinet**  Reeds (4)  Swab  Cork Grease  Reed Case |
| **High Brass**  Valve Oil (Trumpet Only)  Rotor Oil (Horn Only)  Polishing Cloth  Tuning Slide Grease | **Low Brass:**  Valve Oil (Euph/Tuba)  Rotor Oil (T-Bones)  Polishing Cloth  Tuning Slide Grease | **Percussion:**  Snare Sticks  Yarn Mallets |

**Attendance**

The band is dependent on all its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success, band students’ success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all those who have made the commitment to be a part. For all school activities, the faculty and administration work together to make sure that students have the opportunities to participate in multiple activities. However, non-school activities, appointments and other conflicts must not interfere with a student’s commitment to band, to the other band members, and to the rehearsal and performance schedule given to you at the beginning of each semester. Please adhere to the following guidelines for attendance:

* **Calendar:** There is a calendar for the entire year attached to this Handbook and on our website. You can add this calendar to your devices by clicking on the “+ Google Calendar”. Please keep this handy for the entire school year.
* **Concerts and Prescheduled Rehearsals are Required:** There will be three concerts this year, one in October, one in December and one in May. ***Students are expected to have an adult in attendance for the winter and spring concerts. Students should not be dropped off alone for a concert. Students are expected to leave with their parent/guardian after the performances.***
* **To Be Early is to be on Time:** Students need to be 10-15 minutes early for any event or rehearsal. Remember to include instrument set up time in your arrival.
* **Find a Ride:** The majority of students who miss events have missed due to the lack of planning or communication. Most all absences can be avoided or excused by planning. Many times a parent’s schedule does not allow time to transport their student to these events. Please work out a carpooling system with other band families you trust from your neighborhood. The success of our program is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. We cannot teach an empty chair, and unlike most sports we do not have a bench. If you cannot find a ride, please contact Mr. Story as soon as possible. “I did not have a ride is not an excusable reason to miss.” There are 60+ students in each band and ride sharing may be needed to make sure all students are present.
* **Appointments:** Please make appointments outside of assigned calendar times.
* **Grade:** An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a “0” as a performance grade.
* **Emergency:** In the case of illness (doctor’s note) or a major family emergency, the parents should call the directors and send a written note as soon as they are aware the situation exists.
* **Other Activities:** Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups. The band directors have made a significant effort to have all events on the calendar months in advance. It is our hope that this will eliminate surprise or last minute conflicts. Follow the guidelines below for which activity to attend when there are calendar conflicts:

DAILY PRACTICES/REHEARSALS

MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITY EVENTS

WEEKLY PRACTICES/REHEARSALS

SCRIMMAGES

SINGLE OPPORTUNITY EVENTS

GAMES

CONCERTS

CONTESTS

ACADEMIC TUTORIALS

**Concert Dress**

At performances, the quality of your appearance is just as important as the quality of your playing. It is important that you keep your uniform in excellent condition. The uniform requirements are as follows:

**Casual Dress (Field Trips)**

1. Band T-Shirt
2. Jeans
3. Tennis Shoes

**Sunday’s Best (Symphonic/Concert Band)**

1. Men: Button up Shirt and Tie, Black Pants, Black Shoes & Black Socks
2. Women: Dresses or Blouses that adhere to the school dress code. Shoulders must be fully covered, and dress/skirt length must be below the knees.

**Concert Attire (Honor Band I & II)**

1. Men: Button up White Shirt, Bow Tie, Black Pants, Black Shoes and Black Socks
2. Women: Black Dress or Blouse. Shoulders must be fully covered, and dress/skirt length must be below the knees.

**Band Schedule**

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| Period 0 | 8:15 am–9:00 am | Open Practice |
| Period 1 | 9:15 am–10:00 am | Concert Band |
| Period 2 | 10:05 am–10:50 am | Symphonic Band |
| Period 3 | 10:55 am–11:40 am | Honor Band II |
| Period 4 | 11:45 am–12:30 pm | Honor Band I |

**Sectionals**

Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band members are required to attend a 60-minute sectional rehearsal once per week. It is during sectional time that playing tests and initial objective pass-offs are administered. Students will receive more individualized instruction on material covered in band and will be given specific information on how to improve their skills on their specific instrument. Sectional rehearsals are the single most critical factor to the success of the bands, and attendance is very important. Please do not schedule appointments (i.e. orthodontia etc.) during section rehearsal time. The schedule will be posted during the first week of each semester or sooner. This schedule may change to help facilitate athletics and unexpected conflicts. The online google calendar will be updated with any changes to this schedule.

**Sectional Schedule**

Monday: Flutes

Tuesday: Clarinets

Wednesday: French Horn/Saxophones

Thursday: Trumpets

Friday: Low Brass

Bassoons, Oboes & Percussion will have in class sectionals during the year.

**Fundraising**

The band will be doing one/two fundraisers this year. Each student is urged to carry his or her load as everyone benefits. Money collected will be deposited in the 6th grade band activity account. The money we raise will go toward contest, trips, parties, clinicians, new instruments as needed and general supplies and equipment. The End of the Year Reward Party is paid for by the fundraiser. Students will need to have participated in the fundraisers or made a donation to the activity fund to participate in events outside of the band fee and Instrument Fee.

**RMS Band Online & Communication**

**Band Website:** Visit [www.rmsbroncoband.com](http://www.rmsbroncoband.com) for answers to many questions. The RMS band staff will be redirecting students and parents to this website first for a lot of information. It is our hope that this website will be used answer many of your questions before you get to us. On the website you can join our Remind101 classes, view the calendar and add it to your device for alerts, see the band handbook, download forms and music and much much more.

**Social Media:** Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter @rmsbroncoband . We will post pictures from events and announcements consistently throughout the year.

**Hashtags:** Hashtags are ways for us to collect pictures and media from social media online in one place. When taking pictures and videos of RMS Band events, it is our hope that you will hashtag us with both of the following hashtags:

#rmsbroncoband & #scorpionbandfam

**Remind101:** Join our Remind101classes to get updates and announcements directly to your phone. You can find an easy link on our website or you can follow the instructions below:

You can register one of three ways

1. Download the App from the App store and use the class code to join.
2. Sending a Text (@+ the class code) to 81010
3. Sending an E-Mail to (Class code)@mail.remind.com

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| **RMS BAND CODES** | | | | |
| **Honor Band I** | **Honor Band II** | **Symphonic** | **Concert** | **Percussion** |
| @rms2019hb1 | @rms2019hb2 | @rms2019sb | @rms2019cb | @rms2019per |

**Music Stores**

**Rivard Brothers**  
(817) 459-2263  
2425 Arkansas Ln  
​Panted, Tx 76013  
  
**Brook Mays**  
3801 S Cooper St #117  
Arlington  
(817) 468-1500

**​**

**Music and Arts**  
Arlington Highlands Shopping Center  
(817)466-8696  
4000 Five Points Boulevard, Suite 129  
Arlington, TX 76018-6042

[**Music and Arts**](https://www.musicarts.com/)

NorthEast Mall  
(817)595-1511  
1428 West Pipeline Road  
Hurst, TX 76053-4629