

Dear Riverside Parents and Guardians,

We would like to take a moment to welcome you to the Riverside Band Family. Your child beginning an amazing journey into the world of music. Your child has been paired or will be paired with a musical instrument that will open up many opportunities and memories to last a lifetime. Band is a lot of fun as well as a lot of work. Being in Band helps to increase academic success as well as teaches responsibility and teamwork. Starting and continuing in Band also provides scholarship opportunities for college.

Here at Riverside, we provide opportunities for students in grades 6-12 to learn instruments like flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, French horns, baritones, tubas, and percussion. The beginning 6th grade band will usually perform at holiday and spring concerts while 7th-12th grade band students will perform at football games, parades, pep rallies, concerts, as well as marching and concert evaluations.

7th-12th grade band members will come to after-school rehearsals as well as Summer Band Camp to prepare for performances throughout the school year.

Physicals

All Band students in grades 7-12 must have a current physical to participate.

Eligibility

Please review Section 2 of the most current version of the MHSAA Handbook.

Visit <https://www.misshsaa.com/2022/07/13/2022-23-mhsaa-handbook/>

Band Camps

We are hosting three different camps for band students at Riverside to prepare for the 2023-2024 Marching band Season. We have provided QR code links to register for each camp. The dates and QR links are as follows:

Jump Starter Camp is for current 6th grade Band students who will be in 7th grade for the 2023-2024 school term as well as new Band recruits who are currently in Jr. high and High School.

The dates and times are June 5-8, 2023 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm at the RHS Band Hall. Please eat breakfast BEFORE arriving to the school.

Visit to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmAsOZ0lr4ZG9as2hKtYsktdpAJsFvtI3_tvsToovNwXe63A/viewform?usp=share_link

RHS "K-9 Unit" Drum Camp is for RHS Band students who have been assigned percussion (drums) as their primary instrument.

Dates and times are July 13-14, 2023 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm at the RHS Band Hall. Please eat breakfast BEFORE arriving to the school.

Click here to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8QD98tj4RC1hgwmUGTlc3jRkStiZOvoOHCff_kT2QUqakgA/viewform?usp=share_link

Marching Bulldogs Band Camp is for **all** 7th-12th grade RHS Band Members. This is **two-week** camp is for everyone to learn the halftime show as well as stand tunes for the 2023-2024 marching, football, and parade season.

Dates and times are July 17-21 and July 24-28, 2023 from 8:00 am-12 pm at the RHS Band Hall. Please eat breakfast BEFORE arriving to the school.

Visit to register:

<https://qrcc.me/rsakhwc74gmk?s=url>

Expectations

The Band Director:

The band director is expected to organize, teach, lead, and direct an instrumental program at the 6th-12th grade level which provides for the development of individual musicians and various performing groups representing the school at a high level of excellence. These expectations include:

1. scheduling and conducting rehearsals
2. teaching 6th-12th grade students using the MS frameworks
3. planning and implementing instructional programs for students
4. teaching individual and group sessions to students as appropriate
5. planning and executing marching band shows
6. maintaining a music library
7. determining the bands needs according to a budget by preparing requisitions for equipment, materials, transportation, and supplies.
8. working closely with band parents in a leadership role in the promotion of the band program consistent with school policy
9. preparing bands and ensembles, and soloists for all performances
10. promoting good public relations within the school and community
11. participating in professional activities and associations
12. maintaining and inventorying district-owned equipment and uniforms
13. performing other tasks and assuming other responsibilities as the principal may assign from time to time

Band students:

The responsibilities of each Band student can mostly be summed up by the **Riverside B.A.N.D. Protocol**:

1. **Be Alert Never Distracted:** This means paying attention and being aware of instructions because things can move very quickly in the Band world so we must be ready at a moment's notice so **STAY READY.**
2. **Be Alert Never Disrespectful:** We represent the Riverside Band Program, the Western Line School Community, our home communities and, our families wherever we go whether we are performing or not. **Always respect others (parents, teachers, school personnel, and peers) as well as yourself.**
3. **Balance All Necessary Duties (MANDATORY):** All students are busy that goes double or even triple for band and other athletic students. Time management must be a priority. All students make sure that all work in core classes is done with excellence. Band students are notorious for being among the top students in school and Riverside Band Members will not be an exception. It is mandatory to maintain a letter grade of "C" or above in ALL classes. It is also mandatory that **ALL** Riverside Band Students receive ZERO disciplinary referrals that lead to suspensions or expulsions.

Rehearsals (MANDATORY)

While general rehearsals will take place during the school day additional after school rehearsals will take place at designated times after school and possibly on some Saturdays. Schedules for these performances will be provided at a later date.

Performances (MANDATORY)

The band will perform at all scheduled football games, pep rallies, and concerts. From time to time, these performances will also include parades, band evaluations, and performance opportunities.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE (MANDATORY)

95% of a young musician's progress happens in their INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE TIME. 15-20 minutes a day is the **minimum** requirement. Practicing is not only playing a favorite tune. Practicing is all about improving on material and techniques that present challenges. SLOWLY take one note and on measure at a time and gradually build from there. Remember **ACCURACY FIRST SPEED LATER.**

Instruments

The Western Line School District provides a limited supply of band instruments but not nearly enough to accommodate every student. It is standard for students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone to own or rent a reliable instrument. Percussion students should own their sticks and practice pad. Students who play instruments such as baritone, mellophone, French horn, Sousaphone or tuba should own their mouthpieces. All of the above are not only standard but have become even more necessary due to Covid-19 safety requirements.

Parents

1. Riverside Band Parents will bring their young musician to ALL scheduled rehearsals and performance events in a timely fashion. EARLY IS ON TIME-ON TIME IS LATE.
2. Parents will ensure that the student's instrument is kept in pristine working condition with all necessary repairs and equipment.
3. Parents will ensure that all student band forms are completed as required on time.
4. Parents will support student achievement in the Riverside band program by observing and enforcing individual home practice.
5. Parents will support student achievement in Band through attendance at performance events.
6. Parents will communicate with the Director of Bands early on to relay pertinent information regarding the student absences due to appointments or illnesses. (Please try to schedule appointments around the band's schedule if at all possible. Try to schedule major dentist appointments after a major band event. i.e. braces. The student's embouchure will be negatively affected until student gets used to wearing them.)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT=A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM.

Your child may not say it out loud but they will appreciate your involvement and thank you in the future.

Suggestions for future meetings...

Please visit www.westernline.org/rhsband for updates.