
Richland Middle School Band



2018-2019 Handbook

Anthony D Rivera, Richland Middle School Director of Bands

Karl Krause, Richland Middle School Associate Director of Bands

James Figueredo, Birdville High School Cluster Percussion Director

Mark McCanlies, Richland Middle School Principal

Ross Nelson, Richland Middle School Assistant Principal

Lisa Johnson, Richland Middle School Assistant Principal

Welcome!

Welcome to the Richland Middle School Band of the Birdville High School Bands! We are very excited about having your student in our band program. Band is a great thing to be a part of and is an investment on your student's ability to: succeed academically, become a leader, develop pride in their work, be a role model for other students, sharpen their abilities to problem solve, and above all - become *great people!!*

We have great things in store for you and your child throughout the year. In order to achieve this, we have a few guidelines we ask that your student follow which will be outlined in great detail in this book. Careful planning and research goes into the band program to see that your student is given the best instruction possible while in the best learning environment possible. We encourage you to have as much communication possible with the directors. Feel free to contact us at any time.

Contact Information

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Conduct Expectations

The band member will follow all rules pertaining to both Birdville ISD and Richland MS. Including these rules associated with the Richland Ram Band:

- Students will follow director's instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time
- Students will keep hands and feet to themselves
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission of the director
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's uniform, instrument, or personal belongings.
- Student should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that rehearsal can be as efficient as possible.
- When in the band hall with other rehearsals in progress, students will not disturb the rehearsals.
- Students will respect the property of others and return equipment to its appropriate place.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry erase board.
- Students will not bring cases to the rehearsal. Only exceptions: Flute, Clarinet, and Oboe.
- Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship as perceived by any of the band directors will result in disciplinary action and may result in the dismissal from an event or removal from the Richland MS Band Program.

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when specified by the directors.
- All trash must be disposed of properly.
- The office is off limits to students unless permission is granted.
- Students must ask permission to use the phone and other school equipment.
- Students should never sit at a director's desk.

Concerts & Performances

Concerts and performances are considered an extension of the band class and is the culmination of the work in class. The concert ensembles will perform many times throughout the year and are mandatory. Performances will be considered to be in three parts: warm up, performance, and listening. The concert will end when the last performing group is done.

Performances throughout the year will include:

- Fall Band Rally
- Birdville District Band Auditions
- Region Band Auditions
- Winter Concert
- Recording Sessions
- Pre UIL Contest
- UIL Contest
- Spring Band Festivals
- Spring Concert
- Solo and Ensemble Contest (February)
- Other events as scheduled

6th Grade Beginning Band will have these performances:

- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Solo and Ensemble Contest (May)
- Other events as scheduled

Section Rehearsals/After School Rehearsals

All members of the Richland MS Honor Winds are required to attend weekly section rehearsals and after/before school rehearsals in the spring semester. In sectional rehearsals, students will get individual instruction to see that each student is improving and is successful. Section rehearsals are **crucial** to the band's success.

Morning sectionals will begin promptly at 7 am and end at 8 am and afternoon sectionals will begin at 4 pm and end at 5 pm.

It is imperative that sectional rehearsals begin on time with all students in attendance. Students who miss their sectionals will have their grade in band lowered and is considered to be 30% of their grade. Please ensure that the

student is on time and that no doctor or dentist appointments are made during this time. Absences due to these reasons will NOT BE EXCUSED.

Should a student be unable to attend a rehearsal due to reasons out of their control, please contact a director. The director will then consider giving an excused or unexcused absence.

An excused absence may be made up by individual practice in the band hall or a lesson with Mr. Rivera.

An unexcused absence will be made up with two hours of individual practice in the band hall.

Unexcused absences will result in both student and parent notification. Excessive absences will result in the removal of the student from the band program.

Students will be on task and focused during rehearsals. Students will be expected to be prepared to the best of their ability.

Hearings

In addition to section rehearsals, students *may* be required to have individual hearing times. This allows the director to hear the student's development individually. Times will be scheduled and the student can select the date and time.

Daily Supplies

Each student must plan to have the following items in their rehearsals and performances. Other items may be added.

- Band Binders with all music and handouts
- Foundations For Superior Performance (Blue Book)
- Instrument (with name tag)
- Personal Tuner
- All supplies related with their instrument
- Pencil

District-Owned Instruments

BISD is very generous in its support of the Richland Band and therefore, every student is expected to handle their instrument with care. The instrument rental fee is \$100 for the school year or \$50 a semester. Should the student neglect the care of their instrument or misuse the instrument, proper action will be taken and may result in the student losing the privilege of using the instrument. Students should be aware of the storage location of their instruments. These locations should be in an air-conditioned and weatherproof location. *Instruments should not be left in a car.* Many of our instruments are over \$7,000 in value; please ensure students are careful with the instruments.

Students must also use nametags to identify their instruments with addresses on the label.

Grading Guidelines

BISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) appropriate for the student's grade level. Assignments, tests, projects, and classroom activities and other instructional activities are designed to meet these guidelines and indicate the student's ability and mastery of the concept.

Students are expected to meet the responsibilities of their respective band class as determined by the director. Because band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extra-curricular activities.

General Grading Guidelines – Honor Winds

- Playing Tests/Pass Offs/Daily Grades 50%
 - Based on preparation of music, concert and clinic attendance, contests, and materials

- Extensions of class 50%
 - Based on attendance at sectionals, hearings, performances and other required activities

General Grading Guidelines – Beginning Band and Concert Band

- Daily Work/Participation Grades/Practice Records 50%
 - Instrument, Music Supplies, Class Work, Attitude and Participation

- Written Tests/Playing Tests 50%
 - Based on punctuality, accuracy, completion, and preparation

UIL Eligibility

It is expected that band students pass each and every one of their classes to participate in UIL events. Should a student fail a class before a UIL/TMEA event, the student may not participate.

Braces and Dental Work

Due to the nature of band instruments, braces may interfere with the student's performance ability. The student can have dental work done, but we ask that you inform us when the student will have work done. Also, consult the calendar for performances. Dental work six or less weeks before a performance is highly discouraged! After the performance or during Christmas break is encouraged and we will work with your student to ensure they are successful with braces, it is possible to be successful with braces in band!!

Weekly Practice Expectations

The rewards of playing a music instrument are directly related to the amount of outside work on the instrument. Therefore, it is important that the student is practicing at home. Please work with the student to ensure they set aside time every day to practice.

There are multiple opportunities to practice: before and after school in the band hall and at home!

Financial Obligations

It is the belief of the Richland Band and the Birdville Band that no student should be denied the opportunity to participate in the band program due to financial hardship. For options in meeting the financial obligations, please contact the director.

Student Leadership

The Richland MS Band will provide opportunities for student leadership. These positions will instill qualities needed for success in today's society. Students will have the opportunity to serve their band program and lead their section to success. At all times, these leaders will be expected to act as role models for the entire band program and the student body of Richland MS.

All-Region Band/Solo and Ensemble

- All Symphonic Band students will audition for the All-Region Band. Concert Band students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to audition as well.
- *All band students* will be encouraged perform at solo and ensemble contest – February for Symphonic and Concert Bands.

Parent/Director Communication

Direct communication is crucial to the success of any band program. Should one need to contact Mr. Rivera, Mr. Krause, or Mr. Figueredo for any reason, please contact them via email, phone, or a scheduled conference. Please be aware that the directors have obligations before and after school. Therefore, it is important to schedule meetings with the directors.

Band Volunteers

Band parents are encouraged to help their student by chaperoning trips to and from performances and other obligations. If you are interested please contact Mr. Rivera.