

REID ROSS CLASSICAL SCHOOL
3200 RAMSEY STREET
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28301

2016-17 BAND HANDBOOK



Mr. Edwin W Carter II, Director of Bands

Email: edwincarter@ccs.k12.nc.us

School Phone: (910) 488-8415

Edmodo Link

https://edmodo.com/public/racs-band/group_id/21077097

Edmodo Group Code: eckjm4

Remind101

High School Band Classes: Text @7h89a to 81010

Middle School Band Classes: Text @hed89 to 81010

1. **BAND MOTTO AND PURPOSE**

Qualities to live by; to guide our thoughts, actions and lives:

The utmost RESPECT

The pinnacle of MUSICIANSHIP

The sharpest PRECISION

The Reid Ross Classical School Band—a Role Model of Excellence!

The purpose of the Reid Ross Classical School Band program is to offer students in middle and high school an opportunity to learn about instrumental music in a positive, fun environment. It is our desire to give each and every student the experience of producing music and expressing creativity through music. We believe that every child has the right to develop a lifelong love of music. Our band program exists to help facilitate that development and to prepare them to meet the requirements as stated through the Common Core Standards. Students will learn basic-advanced music reading skills along with proper playing posture, breathing technique, characteristic tone production and expressive playing. The ultimate goal is that a life-long appreciation of the arts will be attained. It is so important to provide our students with a plethora of opportunities to experience music in many different ways and under many different circumstances. Success breeds success, and nothing is more powerful in a child’s life, or leads to more success, than self-motivation. There is no doubt that the world needs more self-aware, self-motivated, confident people and quality music programs have the privileged opportunity to assist in developing such individuals.

2. **GRADING POLICY**

Nine week grades will be determined from the following:

Participation.....	10%
Practice Records (Middle School Only)/Pass Offs (HS)....	20%
Playing Test	70%

In this class, you will rarely receive homework assignments. Therefore, your grade is based upon your participation in class. Participation includes being present for class, taking notes when asked and showing your willingness to play. There will be no written exam in class; however there is an exam grade. You must participate in ALL band performances and dress rehearsals in order to receive a passing exam grade. Performance dates will be given in plenty of time for you and your family to plan ahead. You must be present for class in order to receive a grade for that day.

Students will be given frequent playing assignments (Pass Offs) which will need to be performed as a part of the student’s grade. Most of the time, these assignments will be played by each student individually during class time. All students will be given many opportunities to make-up any low scores before the nine weeks end. Students should practice at least 2 hours (120 minutes) per week.

Participation— Each student starts the nine weeks with three 100%’s: *Behavior, On-Time* and *Daily Participation*. Expected Behavior is outlined below, underneath *Conduct*. Being “on time” to class means students are SEATED by the time the bell rings. If the students are tardy without a pass or are in the classroom and not in their seats by the time the bell rings, points will be deducted. The “daily participation” grade consists of playing assignments/ daily preparation, and bringing required materials to class. Required materials are an instrument (including mouthpiece, sticks/mallets, reeds), white binder

with assigned music, method book, pencil, and a positive attitude. Students should also bring bottled water to class to avoid going in and out of the classroom. At any given time 10 points will be deducted for infringements upon these three categories. Students that consistently come to class on time, behave well and participate in class activities with a good spirit have nothing to worry about!

Practice Records (Middle School only) — Students should practice at least 2 hours (120 minutes) per week. Students will submit their Practice Records on the first day of every week. They will be stamped off and handed right back to the student. These cannot be turned in late; if a student is absent he/she needs to turn this record in the first they are back. **A sample will be provided for the first practice record only! After the first record students are to create their own or make copies of the one I provided for them.**

Playing Test— *All* musical requirements, including performance attendance make up this grade. This section includes but is not limited to vocabulary quizzes, projects, chair tests, trios, dress rehearsals, concerts, recruitment tours, and other performances. See attendance policy with regard to absence from a performance. This is a performance-based ensemble; students must practice, produce and progress musically in order to succeed in this class and to earn this portion of the grade.

3. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Calendars are provided at the beginning of the school year. Any changes to the calendar will be made as far in advance as possible. Unless otherwise stated, all performances are mandatory (especially concerts). The students put a lot of time and effort into preparing for performance and should not have to worry about their peers letting them down by not showing up.

Mr. Carter must be notified in advance should there be a scheduling conflict. In case of an emergency please leave a message for Mr. Carter at the school (910) 488-8415 as soon as possible and follow up with a written note or email. Emergencies will be considered for excusal on an individual basis and must be presented in writing. **Unexcused absences from performances will negatively influence a student's grade, may result in a student not being allowed to attend band field trips, and possibly the promotional status to the next level band.** Band is a year-long course. A student who enrolls in band will remain in band for the entire school year, unless otherwise noted. Please contact Mr. Carter with any questions or problems you encounter with regard to the band program.

4. CONDUCT

All students in the RRCS band program are expected to follow the official Student Code of Conduct of RRCS School and the Cumberland County School District at all times. Major or consistent infractions of this policy could result in removal from the program. In addition, the following conduct standards have been designed to create a positive learning environment. They are favorable and expected of all RRCS band members:

- Students will strive to maintain positive words and attitudes while participating in band activities and classes
- No student may say anything negative, insulting, or demeaning to others
- **Cell phones** will remain on SILENT and underneath the student's chair or in their band locker during the locker! They may be used when tuning only!
- Use of electronics is permissible when told
- There will be no unnecessary talking or disruptive noises during the rehearsal
- Students will not use profanity. Small-minded people express themselves with profanity.
- There will be no food, drinks, candy or gum allowed in the band room! Bottled water is allowed.
- Gentlemen DO NOT wear hats in buildings

- No spraying of perfumes, body sprays, hairspray

Zero Tolerance Violations

- Students may not touch materials or equipment that does not belong to them without permission from the owner or band director
- Theft will not be tolerated

Non-adherence to these standards could result in one of the following disciplinary actions: written assignment, official referral, loss of privileges (including field trip attendance), and/or removal from the band program.

5. UNIFORM & FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

During concerts/performances, all band members will be required to wear an assigned uniform. *Uniformity* and *band* are synonymous for a reason. Mr. Carter will be contacting all parents/guardians of the apparel to be worn. Students must wear black, closed toe shoes (dress shoes) and black socks or stockings/hose. All families will have adequate time to obtain the necessary items well prior to the day of the concert. Students out of uniform will **not** be allowed to perform and will be given an unexcused absence for the performance (see Attendance Policy).

T-Shirt—The Spirit T-shirt is new to the program and is worn for a variety of occasions, particularly for less formal events. The shirt is to be worn neatly and with dignity. When in uniform, we will adhere to the school dress code. The shirt will be tucked in. Please fill out the Uniform Order sheet as soon as possible. Blue jeans (with no holes) and khaki pants may also be needed.

Concert Attire—

Ladies

- Black Slacks
- Solid Black Dress Shoes
- No Necklaces, Bracelets, or colorful headbands
- Stud Earrings only (optional)
- One ring per finger (opt.)

Gentlemen

- Black Dress Pants
- Black Belt, (NO gaudy buckles)
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Dress Socks
- No Chains, Bracelets, or headgear
- One Watch (opt.)

To our Students and Families with Financial Difficulties:

Every effort will be made by the director and the school to ensure that every student with a desire to learn can participate in the band program regardless of financial capabilities. This is only possible if we are made aware of any difficulties. Students must be up to date on all payments to participate in any field trip or special event.

6. INSTRUMENTS / EQUIPMENT

Most students will be required to rent or purchase their own instruments by the start of the third week of school. You will be provided with this information and the opportunity to do so during the first few week of school. There are a limited number of school-owned instruments. Students who are issued a school instrument will sign an instrument rental contract. Students will be responsible for any damages beyond normal wear and tear.

7. FUNDRAISING

In order for our program to grow, it is incumbent upon the parent boosters and band members to raise funds. All fundraisers must be approved by administration at Reid Ross Classical. Students will always be

given a receipt for monies turned in. Throughout the year, the band will need to have fundraisers for the purpose of purchasing new sheet music, books, instruments, equipment, and NCBA (North Carolina Bandmasters Association) participation events. Students in the band will be expected to participate in these fundraisers to the best of their ability. Students will not be penalized for not participating, but those who do will often be eligible for prizes, parties, and/or other rewards. Students may also be able to earn credit through fundraisers that can help pay for band trips.

8. STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are not only breeding musicians in this program, we are building tomorrow's leaders. At the beginning of every year, elections will be held. Students interested in these officer positions should submit a typed, 1-page paper on why they are the best person for the job. There are several perks to being a student leader in the band program. If students are voted in and do not measure up to the expectations, they can be impeached. The duties for each position are listed below, but are not limited to the following:

President—1) right-hand man/woman of the director 2) oversees all officers and leaders 3) RRCS ambassador and representative of the entire band 4) motivates students to do their absolute best 5) may serve as, or delegate someone to host concerts

Secretary—1) presents class announcements 2) takes notes at meetings 3) keeps track of seating chart 4) corresponds with the public (flyers, letters of invitation)

Fundraising Committee Chair—1) corresponds with Parent Boosters for upcoming fundraisers 2) presents awards for top sellers

Sergeant at Arms—1) attire inspection on performance days 2) keeps order in rehearsals/meetings

Librarian—1) organizes music library and oversees upkeep of music binders

Appointed Positions

Section Leaders—1) distribution of black music binders and song books 2) leads sectional rehearsals

9. TRAVEL & EVENTS

Occasionally it will be necessary for the band to travel to performance sites, festivals, field trips, etc. The Cumberland County School District field trip policy requires student to travel to field trip locations on school provided transportation. Students are permitted to travel home from an event with a custodial parent as long as Mr. Carter has received a written notice signed by the principal/assistant principal stating that the transportation arrangements have been approved. In the days leading up to a field trip, students may bring these notes to Mr. Carter and he will take them to the administration for approval or the student/parent may get the note signed on their own and then turn it in to Mr. Carter. These notes need to be received by Mr. Carter at least 48 hours prior to the start of travel.

When traveling with the band, students should remember that they are representing Reid Ross Classical School and the entire RRCS Band Program. All band rules, school rules and dress code will be in effect. Always behave in a manner which you would be proud for others to observe. Unacceptable behavior will be dealt with respectfully.

In addition to the rules set forth by the school and the band handbook (see "CONDUCT") each trip will have specific rules and guidelines. These rules and a complete itinerary will be distributed by the director prior to travel.

Performance Adjudication— This is where legacies begin! Bands that participate and excel in Performance Adjudication year after year develop notoriety among band departments across the nation. This is different from the previous listed items because the RRCS band competes as a unit, as opposed to

individually. Large ensembles come to one location to perform 3 prepared selections before a panel of adjudicators. Ensembles are also expected to participate in a sight-reading session. Ratings (from highest to lowest) are as follows: *Superior, Excellent Good, Fair, Poor, and Below Average*.

10. CONCERT ETIQUETTE

The term concert etiquette describes how we are expected to behave in formal musical performances.

For Students

- a. Before the concert begins, students will warm up individually,
- b. No sweaters, coats, jackets, hoodies, hats, gloves, scarves, purses, backpacks, books, cell phones, cameras, video games, MP3s, iPods, keys, money stuffed animals will be permitted in the performance area.
- c. Students need to take care of water and restroom needs before entering the performance area.
- d. Any student that does not pass attire inspection, as outlined underneath *Uniform & Equipment*, will not be allowed to perform.
- e. There is no talking permitted in the performance area.
- f. Do not wave at or holler out to members of the audience, school faculty members, or students in other performing groups.
- g. Students must be attentive and follow all signals given by the director during the concert.
- h. It is considered very **RUDE** to leave before the concert has ended and any student that leaves early will not receive full credit for their Music Performance grade.

For Parents/Guardians

- a. Please make every effort to come and see your child perform. If you cannot make it to the concert, make arrangements ahead of time with someone you trust to take your child to the concert.
- b. Arrive on time. If you arrive after the performance has begun, wait outside the auditorium until a break in the music to enter the hall.
- c. Make sure your child arrives at least 30 minutes prior to the start time of the concert.
- d. Only enter & exit in between pieces. Refrain from walking while a piece is being performed.
- e. Turn all Cell Phones to the off position.
- f. If you are bringing young children to the concert with you, please try to keep them quiet and seated with you. If they do get restless, find the nearest exit and the most opportune time to take them out of the concert area. Please don't let them run loose.
- g. Make sure that you have arranged prompt transportation home for your child if he/she was dropped off for the concert.
- h. Applause is encouraged at the end of each piece that is performed, but shouting, whistling or dancing are inappropriate.

11. AWARDS

The following awards will be presented at the final concert to deserving students *in good standing*. Consideration will be taken for students who are consistently striving to uphold the motto. For the hard work, time, patience and effort of our student musicians, the following awards will be given:

- ❖ All participating band members grades 6—12
- ❖ Students who participate in NCBDA Solo & Ensemble and receive an Excellent or a Superior rating
- ❖ Students who audition and participate in All-County, All-District, and/or All-State Honors Band
- ❖ Students who participate in Music Performance Adjudication (MPA) Festival
- ❖ MOST IMPROVED MUSICIAN—awarded to the band member at each grade level (6—12) who has made the most improvements over the course of the school year.
- ❖ MOST OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN—awarded to the band member at each grade level (6—12) who demonstrates the highest musical standards.
- ❖ MOTTO AWARDS—Highest Quality of Character, Achievement in Academics, Attainment in

Leadership, Perfection in Musicianship, Precision in Showmanship, Dedication to Service—awarded to 6 students who embody a particular characteristic set forth in the motto; all students are eligible.

- ❖ JOHN PHILIP SOUSA AWARD—restricted to one phenomenal student per year (or two in the rare event of a tie); the award recognizes superior musicianship, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation.

Reid Ross Classical School Handbook Agreement Form

Please read, sign and Return this form by Tuesday July 19, 2016

Student Name: _____ **Grade Level:** 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

1. Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Home Phone: _____ **Work** _____ **Cell** _____


Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

2. Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Home Phone: _____ **Work** _____ **Cell** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

<p>Student's Birthday: _____</p> <p>Student's Shirt Size: _____</p> <p>Student's Pants Size: _____</p>	<p><u>I can help with:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uniforms/Orders</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fundraisers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip Chaperone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Concert Chaperone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Music Library</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	
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Handbook Agreement:
 My son/daughter and I have both read the Reid Ross Classical Band Handbook and fully understand the contents therein. We agree to mark all of the performance dates on our family calendar of important events **and will make every possible provision** to make sure our musician is present for any and all scheduled performances. In the event of a conflict, we will notify the director as soon as we are aware of the issue. We are also aware of the policies regarding excused absences from rehearsals and performances as stated in the handbook.
 My student promises to adhere to the classroom rules and expectations and will conduct him/herself in a dignified manner during school and at any scheduled events sponsored by the band department.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES
IMPORTANT: THIS FORM IS DUE ON OR BEFORE
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date** _____

Student: _____ **Date** _____

Date Form Received: ___/___/___

