

RMS Band 2009-10 Handbook

Please return this top page to Mrs. Boelte by August 28, 2009

- Yes! We have read the band handbook and are aware of its contents. We are also aware of the band events for the 2009-10 school year and understand the grading policies and performance attendance policies for band class.

Student name: _____ *Grade:* _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

VERY IMPORTANT: Please provide your email address to receive important band updates and information. If you do not wish to receive information by email, please check the box instead.

Email address: _____

Please continue to mail all information home

Please feel free to write any additional comments . Thank you!



Roscoe Middle School Band Handbook 2009-2010

8/12/2009

BRAVES BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS:

6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Roscoe Middle School Band Room

August 26, 2009

September 16, 2009

October 14, 2009

November 11, 2009

December 2, 2009

January 14, 2010

February 11, 2010

March 11, 2010

April 16, 2010

May 13, 2010

Performance Opportunities for Students

Band

There are three performing concert bands at Roscoe Middle School: the Cadet Band, which consists of 6th grade students, the Symphonic Band, which consists of 7th grade students, and the Concert Band, which consists of 8th grade students. Each band rehearses during the school day. Individual music lessons are not available to the band students during the school day, but are highly recommended. Please see Mrs. Boelte for more information about private music teachers in the area. If students need individual help, they can see Mrs. Boelte before or after school on an as needed basis.

Marching Band

The 7th and 8th grade bands both march together for the Fall Festival Parade, Memorial Day Parade, and the Hononegah Homecoming show. Sixth grade students will only march in one parade during the year and that will be in the Memorial Day Parade. Students are expected to wear the RMS band uniform to all parades. The uniform is as follows: the RMS green polo shirt (tucked in, please!), khaki pants (no shorts, skirts, or crop pants, please!), and white tennis shoes. Sleeves on the shirts should not be rolled up and collars should be down with only the top button unbuttoned. Shirts will be available for order at school for a fee of \$15.00 per shirt (checks can be made out to RMS).

Pep Band/Jazz Band

Seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to perform at selected Roscoe Middle School girls and boys basketball games. The band students will perform before the games start and during timeouts. Rehearsals will be held once a week in the band room before school from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. Regular attendance is important if students plan to participate in this group. Auditions and rehearsals will begin in the fall.

IMEA Honors Band

Each year the Illinois Music Educator's Association sponsors a regional honors band and jazz band for talented 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students. Students from all over Northern Illinois audition for the privilege of performing in one of these outstanding groups. The time commitment is minimal, but the rewards are many. The auditions are held at Sterling High School. After the auditions, students are notified if they have been chosen to perform at the Honors Band concert at Northern Illinois University, or the Honors Jazz Band concert at Hononegah High School. Any students that are selected to perform in the Honors Band or Jazz Band will be recognized in our concert program and will receive a music trophy at the end of the year. Students should sign up in the band room at the beginning of the school year if they wish to participate. Before and after school rehearsals will be available if needed.

Trills and Thrills Festival/Great America

Each year the 8th grade band participates in the Trills and Thrills Festival at Johnsbury High School. This is a large group festival where each band performing is recorded and adjudicated by collegiate judges. The group is then presented with a plaque and ribbon with its earned rating. After the morning festival is completed, students then travel to Great America for the rest of the day. The festival will occur sometime in May, pending notification from the Trills and Thrills Festival.

McKelvey Scholarships for Summer Band Camps

Each year, the Band Boosters award RMS and Kinnikinnick band students with scholarship money to attend a summer band camp of their choice. Some students choose to attend the local Hononegah Middle School Camp, while others attend camps at UW Madison, UW Whitewater, and ISU. Students are strongly encouraged to apply. In the past, all students that have applied for a scholarship have received one. **Please check the Band Boosters website or Mrs. Boelte's website in the spring for application forms and further instructions.**

Rehearsal Attendance Policy

When students are at school, they are expected to play their instrument with the band unless the student has a written medical excuse from a doctor. If a student is not feeling well, he/she should report directly to the school nurse. If the student has had his/her braces tightened, or just had braces put on, he/she should still be in a seat with the music, following along and fingering through the music with the other students.

Study halls will only be given in extreme circumstances or when the director calls a sectional rehearsal. Students who are not involved in a sectional rehearsal must bring something to work on and use the study time wisely.

Private Music Study

Individual or group lessons are not provided for band students at school, but are a very important part of a student's musical growth and understanding. I would like to encourage parents and students to seek private music study because students have the opportunity to get individual help and encouragement with these lessons. Private lessons also allow students to study with an instructor who specializes on a particular instrument and can share a high level of expertise with the student. Parents are encouraged to seek out teachers who have an accredited music degree from a university and should ask prospective teachers for their credentials and teaching experience. These professionals usually charge between \$8 and \$20 for a half hour music lesson. Lessons can be set up on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on the instructor. Some teachers even have a recital once or twice a year for students to perform and share what they have learned with their families and friends.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined by some or all of the following criteria:

1. **Playing Tests and Written Tests/Assignments:** Students may receive points for performing assigned music accurately with good posture, tone production, and interpretation. Written tests and assignments may be given on material that has been covered in class.
2. **Conduct:** Students will receive daily points based on behavior and preparation for class.
3. **Practice Charts:** Students may be asked to keep a record of their weekly practice times.
4. **Attendance at performances:** See "Concert Attendance Policy"
5. **Demerits** will be given to students who: are tardy to class; talk excessively or are off-task during class time; forget to bring their instrument, *music, and pencil to class; do not have the proper reeds, valve oil, etc.; or do not take proper care of the instrument and music.
6. **Extra credit** will be given to students who attend outside concerts or participate in additional performances beyond those that are required for band.

***EACH STUDENT MUST HAVE A ONE INCH 3 RING BINDER WITH PAGE PROTECTORS.**

(6TH GRADE - BLACK; 7TH GRADE - BLUE; 8TH GRADE - GREEN)

Concert Attendance Policy

Students who are members of a performing group are **required to attend all band concerts and functions**. Please see the performance dates later in this handbook. Performances are a large part of the band student's grade. They are equivalent to major exam. Through these performances, students demonstrate what they have learned. Each student is an important part of the success of the band. **If a student is absent from any one of these functions, he/she will receive 0 points (or an "F") for that event and this will be averaged into the student's quarter grade.** Students **may** have the option to make up the points missed by attending an approved concert and writing a two page critique of that performance. Make up points will only be given for excused absences. **Excused absences need to be communicated to Mrs. Boelte no later than 3 weeks before the performance date.** The Kinnikinnick School District makes every effort to avoid conflicts with the many school activities that are offered. If a conflict should arise **within** the district, it will be the director's responsibility to work out a fair solution for the student(s) involved. **It should be noted that non-school activities and club sports should not take precedence over a school band concert or performance.**

How to make up the missed performance

1. Attend a complete concert at the high school or other approved concerts. Students should get a copy of the program and return it to Mrs. Boelte. The program must be signed by the director of the band that performed and should also include the student's name on the front cover.
2. In addition to the signed program, the student will write a two page critique of the performance stating what they liked about it and what things could have been improved.

Or

1. Perform a solo at an event such as a concert, church, or community function. Students should get a copy of the program with their name in it and it should be signed by the director of the event.
2. In addition to the performance, the student will write a one page review of their experience, stating the strengths and things that could be improved.

Conduct in the Band Room

- ☺ The equipment in the room is for students to use not abuse.
- ☺ Students should never handle any equipment that does not belong to them.
- ☺ Students should only play their own instruments.
- ☺ No food, drink, gum, or candy allowed in the band room.
- ☺ All music and instruments should be taken care of properly. Both should be kept in their assigned spots and all cases should be properly latched.
- ☺ The band room telephone is not to be used during class time. It needs to remain free for emergencies only!
- ☺ Students should demonstrate respect to all people and all things at all times.

Sectional Rehearsals and "Band Buddies"

All sixth grade students are encouraged to attend one sectional rehearsal each week. These sectionals are held in the band room before and after school.

Seventh and eighth grade band members are also encouraged to sign up to be a "band buddy" to a younger student!

Practice

Practicing is an integral part of the success of the band student. Without practice the student basically will see only a minimal amount of improvement in his/her musical accomplishments. I consider practice time to be the student's daily homework assignment for band class. With this in mind, 20-30 minutes each night would allow for the students to learn their music for band and work on their particular problem spots. All band students are highly encouraged to take their instruments home on a daily basis, but I do understand that this may not always be possible. However, I will expect that students will take their instruments and music home for the weekend when they generally have more time to practice. Please refer to the sample practice chart at the end of the handbook.

Helpful Practice Hints

- ↪ A minimum of 20 minutes per day of home practice should be a realistic goal for students. This does not include band time during school.
- ↪ Encourage your child to take his/her instrument and music home on a daily basis.
- ↪ Try to establish a routine practice time for your child. It is much easier to find time to practice if it is at the same time each day.
- ↪ Establish a place in the home that practice can occur without disturbing others and where the students will not have distractions or interruptions.
- ↪ Make sure that the practice area includes a hard-backed chair and a music stand. Both promote good posture.
- ↪ The students should warm up on their scales, then work on the assignment. Keep in mind that we practice to be better musicians, not just to keep playing music that we already know. Use that music as a reward at the end of the practice session.
- ↪ Parents encourage your child by listening to their practice and offering praise!
- ↪ Tape-record the lesson. Sometimes it helps the students to tape themselves and listen to it carefully. Another option is for students to record themselves playing one part of a duet and then play the second part with the tape!
- ↪ Practice with a buddy or with the accompaniment CD.

Braves Band Boosters Parent Organization

The Band Boosters is a parent organization that supports the Kinnikinnick Band Program. Last year the group organized a fruit sale, held a winter dance at RMS, and held various successful fundraisers. With the money raised, the group was able to purchase new instruments and band music for all grade levels, build shelving and storage racks for the band room, provide scholarships for all of the band students to go to summer music camps, provide rewards for student achievements, and send the entire 8th grade band to Great America for the Trills and Thrills Music Festival! Any parent of a student enrolled in the Kinnikinnick School District's Band Program is welcome to attend. We would appreciate your input and suggestions. **Meeting dates are listed on the last page of the handbook. Please check the Band Booster link on the district website at www.kinn131.org for further information and listings of all board members.**

Repairs

Privately owned instruments:

If a student's instrument needs a repair, I will notify the student and/or send a note home letting the parents know that the instrument is not in working order. The best place to take repairs is to:

Jerry Disney
Stateline Instrument Repair
5351 Stateline Road, South Beloit
www.statelineinstrumentrepair.com
(815) 389-4380

Jerry asks that you call first for an appointment so that he can give you an estimate before he begins work on the instrument.

Rental instruments from Voigt Music:

If the student is renting an instrument from Voigt Music, all repairs are covered in the rental price. A representative from the music store will visit the school during the week to pick up any instruments in need of repair. The student will be given a loaner instrument to use until his/her instrument is returned. These repairs are usually done in a day or two. If a student does not have an instrument in class because it is being repaired, he/she will NOT be penalized.

School Rental Instruments:

If a student damages a school instrument, he/she is responsible for paying for repairs to the instrument. Parents will be notified of the cost of the repair. All of the repairs will be handled through Stateline Instrument Repair as mentioned above. **There is a \$15.00 monthly fee for use of school instruments.**

Resale Items

Reeds, valve oil, flip folders, lyres, reed cases, and method books can be purchased from the school as a courtesy to parents and students. Please note that students must pay for these items when they order them. **No IOU's will be given for any reason.**

Reeds will be sold in boxes or individually. Beginners (most 5th graders) should buy Rico brand reeds - size 2 ½. Intermediate players (most 6th and 7th graders) should use Rico - size 2 ½ or 3. Advanced players (some 7th and all 8th graders) should use Vandoren reeds - size 3 or 3 ½. Order forms are available in the band room.

I hope that your child's band experience will be challenging, exciting, fulfilling, and fun! If there is anything that I can do to help your child succeed, please feel free to contact me anytime!

Please return the top page of this packet with your signature so that I know you have received and read this information.

Thank you for your continued support of the Kinnikinnick School District Band Program!

Diana L. Boelte

Roscoe Middle School
(815) 623-1884 ext. 546
(815) 494-5107 cell

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE BRAVES BAND BOOSTERS! WE ARE IN NEED OF NEW MEMBERS, NEW IDEAS, AND OFFICERS.

RMS Band Events Calendar 2009-2010			
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September 9	Mum sale pick up	RMS parking lot	3:00 - 6:00
September 13	Fall Festival Parade 7-8 Grade Bands	Macktown Bank (Bridge St.)	1 0:00 a.m.
October 2	Hononegah Homecoming Pre-game Show, 7-8 Band	H.H.S.	TBA
October 17	IMEA Auditions 7-8 Grade Band Members	Sterling H.S.	TBA
October 28 November 12	Fruit Sale Kick-off Fruit Sale money due		
November 21	IMEA District Festival Audition winners (grades 7-8)	NIU, DeKalb	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
December 9	RMS Christmas Concert 6-8 Bands	RMS Gym	7:00 p.m.
December 10	Fruit Sale Pick Up	Kinnikinnick	3-6:00 p.m.
January 8	Band Sponsored Dance	RMS	6-8:00
February 6	5-8 Grade Band Concert	Hononegah PAC	7:00 p.m.
February 20	Solo & Ensemble Contest (optional attendance)	TBA	TBA
April 8	Hononegah Area Music Festival (8 th grade students only)	Hononegah PAC	12:15-7:30
April 28	Fine Arts Festival 6-8 Band Members	RMS Gym	7:00 p.m.
May 19	Demonstration Concert 8 th Grade Band Members	Kinnikinnick	9:00 a.m.
May 21	Trills and Thrills Band Festival 8th grade band members	Johnsburg/Gurnee	TBA
May 31	Memorial Day Parade 6-8 Grade Band Members	Macktown Bank	10:00 a.m.
May/June?? TBA	8th Grade Graduation 7 th Grade Band Members	Hononegah PAC	7:00 p.m.