



MIGHTY HAWK BAND

Incoming 9th Grade Important Information

Welcome to the RHHS Mighty Hawk Band! We are excited to have you as part of our organization. In the coming weeks, we will have several events that are taking place in order to help you prepare for your first year in the Mighty Hawk Band. Please take a minute to review the information provided. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the Mighty Hawk Band Staff.

Course Selection/Scheduling

Course selections for incoming 9th grade students will begin taking place the week of February 3rd. Course selection for band may be found under the Fine Arts Category. All band students are dual enrolled in an "A" day Concert Ensemble, and a "B" day Instrumental Ensemble class. The Mighty Hawk Band staff will work with your counselor to ensure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

Auditions for Band Placement

Auditions for high school band are for ensemble placement only (everyone has a place in the Mighty Hawk Band). Our goal is to select the correct band class for you to be successful as a 9th grade band member.

Brass & Woodwinds

Audition music will be passed out on Tuesday, April 22nd. Auditions will take place at the 2025 MHB Kick-Off Camp on **Saturday, May 17th**.

Percussion

Your audition will be conducted during the Percussion Spring Training Camps. Mr. Kosterman will provide you with more details.

MHB Registration/Supply Day

Registration for the Mighty Hawk Band and supply orders will be conducted on **Saturday, April 26th** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Registration is by appointment. The Mighty Hawk Band Staff will email a sign-up genius link 2 weeks prior to our registration event.

Spring Training Camps

Spring Training Camps will be your first days as a member of the Mighty Hawk Band! You will be given music, taught the basics of movement fundamentals, meet your section leaders, and more!

Brass & Woodwind Camps

Monday April 28th	5:30-7:30 PM
Monday May 5th	5:30-7:30 PM
Monday May 12th	5:30-7:30 PM
Saturday May 17th	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Percussion Camps (Monday: Front Ensemble, Tuesday: Batterie)

Monday April 28th/Tuesday April 29th	5:30-7:30
Monday May 5th/Tuesday May 6th	5:30-7:30
Monday May 12th/Tuesday May 13th	5:30-7:30
May 27th through May 30th	8:00-4:00

More Information on the Reverse Side

Summer Tuesday Rehearsals

Summer Tuesday rehearsals are an opportunity provided by the Mighty Hawk Band staff that allow our students to get ahead on our fall marching band activities. While we encourage our students to attend as many as they can, we do not expect anyone to arrange their summer schedule around them. If your student is on vacation during a Summer Tuesday, we will get them caught up later in the summer. Dates for Summer Tuesday Rehearsals are below. Exact rehearsal times will be provided before the end of the current academic year.

June 3rd June 10th June 17th June 24th July 15th

Summer Band Camp July 21st-August 11th

Summer Band Camp rehearsals are required for all members of the Mighty Hawk Band. Students must be present in order to be considered for a Varsity Marching position in our field production.

July 21st-July 31st

Morning Sessions: 7:30-11:30 AM

Afternoon Sessions: 1:00-5:00 PM

August 1st-August 11th

Afternoon Sessions: 2:00-5:00 PM

Evening Sessions: 5:30-8:30 PM

*Full Summer Band Schedule will be released upon completion of RISD Staff Development Calendar.

Contest Dates

(All Day Events)

September 13th (Drumline) September 27th

October 4th October 11th October 18th October 25th

**Required for all members.*

Mighty Hawk Band Staff

Christopher Loyd, Director of Bands

Mighty Hawk Marching Band
Wind Ensemble
Jazz Ensemble
christopher.loyd@rockwallisd.org

Trevor Kay, Associate Director of Bands

Wind Symphony
trevor.kay@rockwallisd.org

Kelley Powell, Assistant Director

Symphonic Band
kelley.powell@rockwallisd.org

Rod Kosterman, Percussion Director

Percussion Ensemble
Beginner Instruction
kenneth.kosterman@rockwallisd.org

Anissa Macias, 9th Grade Band Director

H9 Honors Band
H9 Symphonic Band
anissa.macias@rockwallisd.org

Bastian Wood, Assistant Percussion Director

Percussion Ensemble
Beginner Instruction
bastian.wood@rockwallisd.org

Maegan Benavidez, Color Guard Director

Color Guard
Winter Guard
maegan.benavidez@rockwallisd.org





MIGHTY HAWK BAND

Incoming 9th Grade Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between middle school and high school band?

A: The High School band experience is significantly more performance based. Your student will experience more frequent performances, and a greater variety of performance opportunities. Some examples would include:: Football Games, Marching Band Competitions, Pep Rallies, Concerts, Jazz band, community performance opportunities, and more!

Q: Are all band students in marching band? What if I don't know how to march?

A: Yes! All high school band students are in the marching band, and our fall calendar is driven by competitive marching band activities. All students join the Mighty Hawk Band with a solid foundation of instrumental music skills, and we will teach you everything you need to know about movement.

Q: Can I be in the marching band and other activities?

A: Yes! Students are able to be in multiple activities at Rockwall-Heath High School. The Mighty Hawk Band has students that participate in many other activities around campus such as:

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Swimming, Water Polo, Track/Cross Country, Theater Choir, and many other activities on campus.

Members of the band staff regularly work with students, parents, and sponsors of other activities to help create a schedule that works to allow you to pursue multiple interests.

Q: How much time does marching band take?

A: The University Interscholastic League rules allow high school marching bands to practice 8 hours per week outside of the school day. The Mighty Hawk Band typically practices 4 days a week before school, and one day after school. Marching Band rehearsals begin at 7:00 AM to allow students to attend tutorials/sports after school. Transportation is provided to H9 at the conclusion of morning rehearsals and prior to evening rehearsals.

Students must be available for all contest dates in order to be eligible for a varsity marching assignment with the Mighty Hawk Band. Students with conflicting activity schedules will be assigned to our JV marching positions. In addition to our contest dates, MHB members perform at all Varsity Football games.



MIGHTY HAWK BAND

Incoming 9th Grade Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What concert ensemble will I be in?

A: Students will be placed in one of our concert ensembles based on their current ability level. Audition information will be distributed in April. Students will attend class with their concert ensemble, and the full marching band will rehearse before or after school.

Q: What about Jazz Band?

A: Jazz Band will be available to students who play instruments that are included in a traditional jazz ensemble (Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Guitar, Bass, or Drumset). Incoming 9th grade students will have the opportunity to audition for the Varsity Jazz ensemble. (Placement in the Varsity jazz ensemble requires another elective period in addition to the elective periods reserved for concert ensembles.) Non-Varsity Jazz Ensemble will meet outside of the school day, and will not require an additional elective class.

Q: How do the percussion schedules work?

A: Percussionists will be assigned to a concert ensemble class based on their fall marching band instrument assignment. In the spring, percussionists will be placed in concert ensembles based on their current ability level. Percussionists at H9 will be double-blocked in the same period. Percussionists on the main campus will be assigned to a concert ensemble class for one period (3rd period, for example) and placed in the percussion class during 1st or 8th period.

Q: How many electives do I get?

A: Students get 4 “elective” periods each year along with their 4 core classes to be taken each semester (Math, Science, Social Studies, and English). Band students are “double blocked” in an A day class and a B day class, which still leaves two more elective classes to choose from. Note that band students received Physical Education credit for participation in marching band.

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: Select “Band-Concert” on your course selection form to reserve your place in the band program. (This does not mean that you will be in the “Concert Band.”) It is simply what the general band class is called on the Course selection sheet. Your actual band placement will be determined by auditions in May. Information about placement auditions will be provided in April.

Didn't see your question answered here? Any further questions may be directed to Mr. Loyd at christopher.loyd@rockwallisd.org. Percussion questions may be directed to Mr. Kosterman at kenneth.kosterman@rockwallisd.org.