

# REDWOOD RANGER BANDS

## Student & Parent/Guardian Handbook • Syllabus & Policies

Ranger Marching Band & Color Guard • Wind Ensemble • Ranger Concert Band • Jazz Band • Winter Percussion/Guard

### Our Expectations

Musicians with a positive attitude, strong responsibility, cooperation, dedication, and commitment to excellence are essential to a successful organization. Students are expected to learn, contribute, help staff when appropriate, do their job well, and take responsibility for fundraising and the success of the ensemble.

### Grading System

Grades are based on four equally weighted areas. Strength in one area does not replace weakness in another.

- Participation — 50%: Full participation in rehearsals, sectionals, etc.
- Class Assignments — 10%: Permission slips, theory work, and other assignments.
- Playing Tests/Quizzes — 10%: In-person assessments or Google Classroom videos.
- Performances — 30%: Concerts, competitions, festivals, and other scheduled performances.

Musical progress: Students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory musical growth and perform assigned parts acceptably. Regular individual practice, study, assessments, section rehearsals, workshops, and required performances support this expectation.

**Grading scale: 90–100% A • 80–89% B • 70–79% C • 60–69% D • 0–59% F**

### Auditions

Some ensembles require auditions for enrollment; auditions may also determine positions, parts, or seating. Directors and staff evaluate students fairly and impartially. Results are final once posted or communicated, except for a clear administrative/procedural error. Directors will provide feedback to help students prepare for future auditions.

### Commitment

Our ensembles require preparation, responsibility, and teamwork. Students should understand the time commitment before joining and communicate conflicts early.

### Attendance

Attendance policies exist to ensure fairness and protect rehearsal efficiency and the musical experience of the entire ensemble. All members are expected at every scheduled rehearsal and performance. Absences, tardiness, or early dismissal affect the entire group and may affect participation and grades.

Arrive early enough to prepare. “If you are early, you are on time; if you are on time, you are late.” Late arrivals cause delays, distractions, disorganization, and lost rehearsal time.

### Reporting an Absence or Tardy

- Families should identify conflicts early and notify Mr. Ray by email as soon as possible.
- Attendance matters are private between Mr. Ray and the student/parent/guardian.
- Advance notice is important for mandatory rehearsals, sound checks, performances, competitions, festivals, and concerts.
- Failure to notify Mr. Ray in advance may result in an otherwise excusable request not being excused.
- Email: jray@vusd.org • Phone: (559) 730-7735

An unexcused performance absence adversely affects a student’s grade. An unexcused tardy to sound check may prevent full participation in sound check and may lower a grade.

### Excused Absences & Make-Up

Make-up work for an excused absence may replace 100% of the missed grade. Examples include illness, a previously approved honor-band/school music conflict, death in the family, or another circumstance approved in advance by Mr. Ray.

### Unexcused Absences & Make-Up

Make-up work for an unexcused absence may replace up to 50% of the missed grade. Examples include uncleared absences, personal vacations/family trips, transportation problems when alternatives were not pursued, and sports/extracurricular conflicts not cleared in advance.

### Major Rehearsals & Performances

**Saturday/major rehearsals and Performances** cannot be fully replicated because their hours, ensemble experience, and scope cannot be replaced by an assignment. Emergency situations will be considered individually.

- Demonstration of missed material: the grade reflects what the student can successfully perform as they regain missed material.
- Playing test: students may test with Mr. Ray on missed material. Arrangements must be made in advance; submissions go through Google Drive and must be received by the agreed deadline. Late submissions are not accepted.

# PROGRAMS, COMMITMENT & CALENDAR

## Time Commitment Levels

- Level 1 — **Extensive:** Regular weekly rehearsals, multiple performances/festivals, and possible trips. Other activities can be challenging but may be possible with advance planning and communication.
- Level 2 — **Significant:** Some rehearsals, several performances/festivals, and possible trips. Conflicts can usually be resolved with planning and communication.
- Level 3 — **Minimal:** Primarily concerts and festivals; outside-activity conflicts are usually limited.

## Program Overview

**Marching Band** — Periods 1,2,3 & 4; after school in fall • Level 1. Competitive show preparation, football games, competitions, and community performances.

**Wind Ensemble** — Period 2, October–June • Level 3. Auditioned premier concert band; winter/spring concerts and festivals.

**Symphonic/Concert Band (Ranger Band)** — Period 1, October–June • Level 3. Concert band experience focused on developing musicianship; winter/spring concerts and festivals.

**Color Guard** — Period 4, all year • Level 1. Dance, major visual component of fall marching band.

**Winter Guard** — After school/Period 4, November–April • Level 1. Indoor color guard activity; all Color Guard members participate and compete locally January–April.

**Jazz Band** — Pre-First, all year • Level 2. Big-band literature, campus/community performances, CMEA festivals; auditioned.

**Percussion/Winter Percussion** — Period 2 • Level 1. Marching and concert percussion; Winter Percussion competes indoors and includes all RHS percussionists.

## Seasonal Calendar

- Fall (August–November): Marching Band/Color Guard rehearsals, football games, competitions, community events; Winter Guard and Winter Percussion auditions in November.
- December: Winter Concert; winter groups begin preparation for their competitive season; Jazz prepares for winter festivals.
- Winter (January–March): Winter Guard and Winter Percussion competitions; concert and jazz groups prepare for concerts/festivals.
- Spring (April–June): Spring concert, graduation performance, Band Banquet/Awards Night, and next-year leadership applications/auditions.

## Calendar & Communication

The online Google Calendar on the Redwood Ranger Band website is the most current calendar. Printed calendars/itineraries are subject to change. Students and families are responsible for checking the calendar, website, and designated communication channels.

Facebook/Instagram group: “Redwood Ranger Bands.” Public page: “RHS Ranger Marching Band and Color Guard.” Paper correspondence is generally limited to permission slips, contracts, and documents requiring signatures.

## Tardy Policy

- **Class:** Be inside the band room when the bell rings. You have two minutes to gather materials and be ready to rehearse. If you are not inside by the bell or ready by two minutes after, you are tardy.
- **Color Guard:** Five minutes after the bell are provided to change into rehearsal attire, gather equipment, and be ready.
- **Evening Rehearsal:** Rehearsals begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. Arrive early enough to be ready with instrument, music, pencil, dot book, drill sheets, water, and required equipment.

## Rehearsal Etiquette

- Bring your instrument, music, pencil, dot book/drill sheets, required attire/equipment, water, and other assigned materials.
- Keep cases, backpacks, and personal items in lockers/designated areas—not on the rehearsal floor or in walkways.
- Warm up properly and use good tone and technique.
- Give full attention to the director, staff, or student leader. No talking or side conversations during instruction.
- Raise your hand and wait to be recognized for questions.
- Remain in your assigned location unless given permission to move.
- Return your chair and stand after rehearsal.

## General Conduct

- No profanity during program activities.
- No public displays of affection (PDA).
- Do not use instruments, percussion, Color Guard, or other program equipment unless it is assigned to you.
- Respect people, property, music, facilities, instruments, and equipment.
- Follow directions from directors, staff, and student leadership.
- Use good judgment and common sense. If you are unsure, ask before acting.

## Social Media & Internet

You represent yourself, your family, Redwood High School, VUSD, and the band program online. Use respectful judgment on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, YouTube, and other platforms.

- Do not harass, threaten, bully, or demean others.
- Do not post disrespectful content about students, programs, schools, directors, staff, or organizations.
- Do not create or contribute to online conflicts involving the program or school.
- Do not share private/confidential student or program information.
- Students should not send friend requests or private/direct messages to directors or staff through personal social media. Use school/program email or phone instead.

## School-Owned Equipment

Students may be issued school/program instruments, uniforms, percussion equipment, Color Guard equipment, and other materials. Students are responsible for proper care, maintenance, and safekeeping.

- Use equipment only for its intended purpose and treat it with care.
- Return equipment on time and in its issued condition, allowing for normal wear and tear.
- Lost, damaged, or unreturned equipment may result in repair/replacement charges in accordance with district policy.
- Check the calendar for equipment return dates.
- Do not leave instruments, uniforms, or valuables unattended in vehicles or the band trailer.
- Instruments may be taken home for practice only after the signed VUSD instrument contract is received.

## Instrument Lockers

- Use only a music-department-issued/approved lock; unauthorized locks may be removed.
- Keep lockers locked when not in use and clean/free of trash, food, clutter, and unrelated items.
- Only water in a spill-proof container may be stored in a locker.
- Do not hang, sit, or climb on lockers.
- Do not permanently write on, decorate, or alter lockers or place unauthorized items outside.
- Report damage/problems to the director. Students may be responsible for damage beyond normal wear and tear.

## Recording & Copyright

Unless specifically authorized, students may not record or distribute audio/video of RHS Band & Color Guard competitions, festivals, concerts, rehearsals, or other performances, including uploads to YouTube or social media. Official recordings may be created/distributed when appropriate permissions are obtained.

## Fundraising

Fundraising supports equipment, uniforms, transportation, activities, and other program needs. All students are expected to participate actively. Parent/guardian help is essential and appreciated.

## Parent/Guardian Involvement

Parents/guardians are encouraged to work with the Band Booster Executive Board and attend monthly general meetings. Volunteer needs include fundraising, chaperoning, uniform fitting/hemming, driving trucks/trailers, front ensemble/equipment, props, event setup/breakdown, and other program needs.

Depending on the role, VUSD may require volunteer paperwork, fingerprinting, TB clearance, or other requirements. Forms and information are available through the program website; contact Mr. Ray with questions.

## Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

- Be a positive role model for your student, school, and community.
- Demonstrate a supportive attitude; adult behavior affects student behavior.
- Treat students, directors, staff, judges, volunteers, and families with respect.
- Support student safety, welfare, academic responsibilities, practice, attendance, and program commitments.
- Help your student understand and honor the time and commitment required once they join.
- Address questions/concerns through appropriate channels and communicate respectfully.

# PERFORMER PLEDGE & PROGRAM COMMITMENT

## Keep This Page

### Every Redwood Ranger Performer Commits To:

**ATTITUDE** — Bring a positive, productive attitude to every rehearsal, performance, and program activity.

**EFFORT** — Give your best effort for the duration of every rehearsal and performance and continually work to improve.

**COMMITMENT** — Attend all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and required activities; communicate appropriately when circumstances prevent attendance.

**CHARACTER** — Act in a way that brings honor and pride to yourself, your family, your ensemble, Redwood High School, VUSD, and our community.

**RESPECT** — Respect fellow performers, student leadership, directors, staff, parent/guardian volunteers, facilities, equipment, and every member of the program.

**RESPONSIBILITY** — Take responsibility for preparation, attendance, equipment, academics, and behavior.

**SERVICE** — Contribute to the success of your section and ensemble and help make the experience positive and meaningful for those around you.

### Director's Discretion & Participation

Mr. Ray reserves the right to limit participation, remove a student from an ensemble/activity, or prevent a student from performing when circumstances warrant. Reasons may include excessive absences/tardiness, inadequate preparation, poor attitude or conduct, failure to meet program expectations, or behavior that negatively affects safety, the learning environment, or ensemble success. When appropriate, decisions will be communicated to the student, parent/guardian, and school administration.

### Our Commitment to Excellence

The success of every ensemble depends on the commitment and performance of each individual member. Your preparation, attitude, effort, attendance, and character affect everyone around you.

Membership in the Redwood Band & Color Guard Program is an opportunity to be part of something larger than yourself. Commit to excellence. Support those around you. Take pride in what you do. Leave the program better than you found it.

Together, we can create an experience that is challenging, rewarding, and memorable for every student who chooses to be a Redwood Ranger.

### Questions & Individual Circumstances

Questions regarding attendance, grades, make-up work, participation, or other policies should be directed to Mr. Ray. Individual circumstances will be considered case-by-case, and student-specific matters will be handled privately and professionally whenever possible.

**Director: Jordan Ray • jray@vusd.org • (559) 730-7735**

### Student/Parent Acknowledgment

By signing the program acknowledgment, the student and parent/guardian confirm that they have read, understand, and agree to follow the expectations and policies contained in this handbook.

# PERFORMER PLEDGE & PROGRAM COMMITMENT

## Sign and Return This Page

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_