

# Redwood Ranger Bands



## Hand Book

Ranger Marching Band and Color Guard

Wind Ensemble

Ranger Concert Band

Jazz Band

Winter Percussion/Guard

[www.rangerbands.org](http://www.rangerbands.org)

## RHS Bands Syllabus and Policies

### Attitude and Cooperation, All Programs:

Musicians who have a wholesome attitude and a strong sense of responsibility and cooperation are a great asset to a musical organization. Students need to possess a strong desire to perform at their best, a positive spirit and an enthusiasm to learn, work and contribute. Students will demonstrate maturity, dependability, honesty, friendliness, dedication and commitment to excellence. These students will have a spirit of interest in, and responsibility and loyalty toward, the Redwood High School Bands along with their student and faculty administration.

Students are expected to:

- Adhere to the **Band Contract**.
- Develop a “*servant’s heart*”: I’m here to learn and to help. Assist Mr. Ray and staff members on a volunteer basis to ensure that all ensembles operate smoothly.
- Do their Job and do it well. This includes learning ***all aspects*** of their instrument and playing their best at the highest-level possible.
- Doing their part with fundraising. It is impossible to travel and function without the money you raise.

### The Grading System

Grades are recorded for all students taking Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Percussion and Color Guard. Mr. Ray will use the following criteria that will determine final grades:

**Musical Improvement/ Playing Tests/Assessments**

**Attendance/Participation/Concerts/Competitions**

Each criterion is equal in value. Strength in one area cannot make up for weakness in another area. A student must be outstanding in all areas to receive the grade of A. Since our music ensembles are always expected to perform in a superior manner, each member is expected to earn an A or, at the lowest, a B.

### Musical Improvement/ Playing Tests/Assessment:

Each ensemble member will be expected to show evidence of a satisfactory rate of musical progress and to play his or her assigned part acceptably.

*In addition, students must demonstrate the following to receive a musical grade of A:*

- Individual practice on a regular basis.
- Individual study/individual playing assessments.
- Participation at section rehearsals.
- Participation at instrumental workshops.
- Participation at required performances.

### Grading Scale:

**Participation: 50%** (Students are expected to fully participate in all rehearsals, sectionals, etc.)

**Class Assignments: 10%** (All class assignments: theory assignments, etc)

**Playing Tests/Quiz: 10%** (Assessments conducted in Person or through Google Classroom Videos)

**Performances: 30%** (Please check the calendar for all scheduled events)

### Attendance:

The attendance system is maintained in fairness to every student participating. Any absence, tardiness, or early-dismissal without a valid excuse mars the efficiency of the entire ensemble thereby affecting the genuine musical experience and enjoyment of the individual participant and success of the ensemble. The attendance system applies with equal force to all students who are ensemble members and directly affects your ability to participate in ensemble functions and activities.

It is extremely important for a musician to arrive at a rehearsal or performance early in order to

make all of the necessary preparations for performance. **“If you are early, you are on time; if you are on time, you are late!”** is a phrase that will serve students well throughout their musical career. Musicians who arrive late to a rehearsal do a certain amount of damage to themselves and to the entire ensemble causing delays, disorganization and noise. Ensemble members are expected to be in attendance at **all rehearsals and performances**. An absence from a rehearsal or performance is a very serious matter and should not occur without a valid reason.

**An unexcused absence from a performance *will adversely affect a student’s grade.***  
**Special Note: Any unexcused tardy from a Sound Check may result in the inability to fully participate during the sound check and may lead to the lowering of a grade.**

**Procedures to Follow PRIOR to being Tardy or Absent:**

At the beginning of each trimester, and periodically throughout the year, ***ensemble members and their parents***, should determine if there are any conflicts with band activities. If conflicts develop, it will be the responsibility of the **PARENT** to inform Mr. RAY (**by Phone, E-Mail or in writing**) as soon as possible, stating the reason for the proposed tardy or absence. The reasons for being tardy or absent are private matters between Mr. RAY and the STUDENT/PARENT. Mr. RAY will determine if the reason for being tardy or absent is valid. Therefore, PARENTS should explain, in detail, the reason for being tardy or absent thus providing MR. RAY with as much justification as possible. Please pay special attention to dress rehearsals, mandatory rehearsals, sound checks, performances/competitions, festivals, and concerts.

***Failure to notify MR. RAY in advance of a tardy or absence may become the reason for not excusing an otherwise excusable request.***

**Use the E-mail system; it’s easier:**  
**jray@vusd.org**  
**(559) 730-7735**

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	
<b>90% — 100%</b>	<b>= A</b>
<b>80% — 89%</b>	<b>= B</b>
<b>70% — 79%</b>	<b>= C</b>
<b>60% — 69%</b>	<b>= D</b>
<b>0% — 59%</b>	<b>= F</b>

**Make Up for an Unexcused Absence:**

While nothing can replace or “make up” for an absence, work will be made available. Make up work for an ***unexcused*** absence will replace ***50%*** of the grade missed. Unexcused absences are identified/but not limited to the following: Any absence not cleared in advance with Mr. Ray, personal vacations/family trips, transportation problems (if a transportation issue exists please see Mr. Ray for alternative modes of transportation!), Sports events not cleared in advance with Mr. Ray (If a student chooses a sporting event over a band concert or performance it is generally considered unexcused, however, sporting event are handled on a case-by-case basis with Mr. Ray in advance)

**Make Up for an Excused Absence:**

Work will be made available for excused absences. Make up work for an ***excused*** absence will replace ***100%*** of the grade missed. Excused absences include but are not limited to: illness, honor band performance conflict, a death in the family, any excused absences discussed ***in advance*** with Mr. Ray.

**Make Up assignment:**

A playing test with Mr. Ray on material missed at the event. Arrangements need to be made in advance so students have the correct material to prepare for the playing test. Playing Tests need to be submitted through Google Classroom and received by the agreed upon date-late assignments will not be accepted.

### **Extra Credit:**

Throughout the year extra credit opportunities will arise. Extra Credit includes: Going to a concert and writing a reflective review. Taking Private Lessons, Trying Out for honors groups like CDBA or TKMEA, etc. Extra credit will be applied toward the overall grade of the student.

### **Calendar:**

You can always access our most current calendar by visiting our website, where there is a Google calendar that you can subscribe to. Please note that although a hard copy of the calendar will be passed out at the beginning of each semester, that calendar is *subject to change* and the most accurate version of the calendar will always be the online calendar.

### **Facebook:**

The Redwood Ranger Band Program has its very own Facebook group page. It is for current students and their parents/guardians and we invite you to join our page. You can find our group by searching “Redwood Ranger Bands.” Request to be added to the group and Mr. Ray will add you. You can also follow our public page, the “RHS Ranger Marching Band and Color Guard.”

**Please note:** Mr. Ray *will not* add students as “friends” on social media until they have graduated. Please do not send a friend request. You should not request staff members as “friends” on social media either.

### **Remind:**

Remind is a group text message service that parents and students can sign up for. Your number remains private and you cannot reply to messages. Mr. Ray is the only person who can send messages out. It is *highly recommended* that you and your student sign up for this service. You may do so by following the directions below:

**Text or use the Remind App:**

@ranger1234

**to: 81010**

### **Please Note:**

We do not send home paper correspondence other than permission slips and contracts. It is *your responsibility* to stay informed via as many of the methods listed above as possible. Every effort will be made to communicate with you, but you must also understand that there are a lot of events, many students to supervise, and you must do your part.

### **NOTICE!**

As the director, Mr. Ray reserves the right to dismiss someone from a group or prevent them from performing. Reasons for dismissal or keeping a student from performing include: excessive absences, excessive tardiness, poor attitude, etc. This decision will be made at Mr. Ray’s discretion and will be communicated to student, parent, and RHS administration when appropriate.

### **Audition Policy:**

Several of our ensembles require an audition in order for the student to enroll in the class. Auditions will also take place for position and/or seating within any of our ensembles. The Directors and Staff go to great lengths to fairly evaluate all students impartially. In order for a student to participate in any RHS Band or Color Guard Audition or be considered for placement in one of our auditioned ensembles, the following must be agreed to:

- All results are final once posted.
- While the directors and staff will be happy to discuss with a student or parent what the student may do to further improve for future auditions, the directors and/or staff will not reconsider the audition results.

**Please keep in mind that we always have your students’ as well as the group’s best interests at heart. Should questions or concerns arise contact Mr. Ray—All contact is handled on a case-by-case basis and is considered a private matter between teacher and student.**

# Redwood High School Bands Program Overview:

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## **Marching Band**

### **Periods 1 and 3**

#### **After School—Fall Only**

#### **(Commitment Level 1)**

Marching Band is one of the most exciting performing experiences in our program. The fall is spent preparing the competition show for several competitions throughout October and November. All Marching Band students also participate in performances at football games, where we support the football team from the stands.

## **Wind Ensemble**

### **Period 3, November-June**

#### **(Commitment Level 3)**

A premier concert band experience, (labeled Wind Ensemble on your schedule) the Wind Ensemble performs exciting concert band music throughout the year. They perform on Winter and Spring Concerts and the CMEA Band Festival. This is an auditioned ensemble, auditions will be held in order to determine who can enroll in the class.

## **Symphonic Band (Ranger Band)**

### **Period 1, November-June**

#### **(Commitment Level 3)**

A concert band experience for students still honing their musicianship skills, (labeled Advanced Band on your schedule,) the Concert Band also performs exciting concert band music throughout the year. They perform on Winter and Spring Concerts and at the CMEA Band Festival.

## **Color Guard**

### **Period 2 All Year**

#### **(Commitment Level 1)**

Color Guard combines dance, drama, performance, and the manipulation of flags, sabers, and rifles into the artistry and visual representation of music and pageantry. Color Guard is an intricate and important part of the Marching Band in the fall. Students enrolled in Color Guard continue honing their skills throughout the year as part of Winter Guard.

## **Winter Guard**

### **After School/Period 2- November to April**

#### **(Commitment Level 1)**

Winter Guard is an indoor Color Guard activity performed in gyms and arenas. All members of the Color Guard are members of the Winter Guard. This group competes locally on the weekends throughout January to April.

## **Jazz Band**

### **Pre-First- All Year**

#### **(Commitment Level 2)**

Jazz Band plays exciting big band music and has several performances throughout the year on campus and throughout the community, as well as at CMEA festivals. Students who play saxophone, trombone, trumpet, guitar, bass guitar, piano and drum set can be considered for enrollment. This is an auditioned ensemble, auditions will be held in order to determine who can enroll in the class.

## **Percussion/Winter Percussion**

### **Period 2**

#### **(Commitment Level 1)**

Percussion class meets to rehearse marching band music and concert band music. Winter Percussion is an indoor marching percussion activity performed in gyms and arenas. All percussionists participate in Winter Percussion at RHS as part of a well-rounded experience in percussion.

### **Time Commitment for Music Ensembles**

**Commitment Level 1-** Extensive outside-of-school commitments including regular weekly rehearsals, several performances, festivals, and trips occur during the season or the year. Participation in sports or other activities concurrently can be challenging, but not impossible as long as students plan ahead and communicate extensively with both the coach/group leader and the band director and music staff.

**Commitment Level 2-** Significant outside-of-school commitments including some rehearsals, several performances, festivals, and possible trips during the year. Participation in sports and other activities may present occasional conflicts. Forward planning and communication usually resolve any conflicts that may arise.

**Commitment Level 3-** Minimal outside-of-school commitments, usually limited to concerts and festivals. Participation in sports and other activities are usually not an issue when participating in level 3 ensembles.

## Seasonal Breakdown & What to expect:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Fall (August to November)</u></b></p> <p>The school year begins with regular Marching Band rehearsals as we prepare for an exciting and rewarding competitive season. The Marching Band and Color Guard performs at football games, competitions, and local community events. Auditions for Winter Guard and Winter Percussion are also held in November.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Winter (January-March)</u></b></p> <p>Winter Guard and Winter Percussion are in full swing as they begin competing locally. All of the concert groups and jazz groups prepare for several upcoming concert and festival performances.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>December</u></b></p> <p>We will conclude our fall marching season with a wonderful Winter Concert with our Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. Winter groups begin rehearsing and are preparing for their competitive season. Jazz Band begins to plan for major Winter festivals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Spring (April to June)</u></b></p> <p>The end of the year Spring concert and graduation performance cap off our incredible year. We end the year with our Band Banquet and Awards Night. Auditions and applications for the next year's leadership are accepted.</p>

### **Audition Policy:**

Many of our ensembles require an audition in order for the student to enroll in the class. Auditions will also take place for position and/or seating within any of our ensembles. The Directors and Staff go to great lengths to fairly evaluate all students impartially. In order for a student to be considered for placement in one of our auditioned ensembles, the following must be agreed to:

- All results are final once posted.
- While the directors and staff will be happy to discuss with a student or parent what the student may do to further improve for future auditions, the directors and/or staff will not reconsider the audition results.

### **Fundraising:**

There will be many fundraisers held throughout the year, which are vital to offsetting the district's cost of running a successful band program. It is expected that each student will actively participate. Parent help in planning and running these fundraisers is vital, needed, and very much appreciated!

### **Tardy Policy:**

**Class:** You are expected to be inside the band room by the time the bell rings. Students have 2 minutes from the time the bell rings to get all necessary items in order and be prepared to rehearse. If you are not inside the band room by the bell or not set up to rehearse by two minutes after the bell, you will be marked tardy.

**Color Guard:** You have 5 minutes from the time the bell rings to get changed into appropriate rehearsal attire and be ready to rehearse.

**Evening Rehearsal:** Rehearsals begin promptly at 6:00PM. Make sure you have all of the necessary materials (instrument, pencil, dot book, drill sheets, etc.) with you. <sup>SEP</sup>

### **Parent Help:**

Parent help is vital, highly encouraged and greatly appreciated. The best way to get involved is to work cooperatively with the band booster executive board and attend monthly band booster general meetings. We need parents to help specifically with fundraising, chaperoning, fitting and hemming uniforms, driving the band truck/pulling the trailer to competitions, assisting the pit and prop crew, etc. Parents will need to be fingerprinted and TB tested and will also need to fill out volunteer paperwork, which is available for download on our website. Contact Mr. Ray for further details.

### **Equipment:**

Over the course of the year, it is quite likely that students will be issued equipment that belongs to the school. (Uniform parts, instruments, etc.) You are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of these items. We will instruct all students on how to care for them. If any piece of school equipment is returned damaged or not returned at all, the student will be charged for the cost of the item or the repair. Please keep in mind that band equipment is very costly and should be treated carefully and with respect. Please look at

the calendar for the return dates of school equipment. Equipment must be turned in on time or students will be issued a bill for the missing items. Do not leave instruments or uniforms in vehicles *or the band trailer*, as possible theft could occur. Instruments should be taken home for practicing purposes, however, they may not be taken home until the director has received a signed VUSD instrument contract.

### **General Policies:**

- No profanity
- No PDA (Public Display of Affection)
- No playing any instrument other than instruments you own or that are assigned to you. This includes color guard and percussion equipment.
- Show respect for all instruments, equipment, and music facilities, as well as other people's property.
- Show respect to directors, staff, parent helpers/volunteers, and fellow students.
- Common sense should rule all of the time. If you wouldn't do something in the presence of a director, then don't do it!

### **Internet Etiquette:**

Please remember that you represent our program when posting on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. NEVER say anything negative about another music program, each other, or members or our own program or School!

We encourage all students, staff, and parents to participate in our RHS Band Facebook group. DO NOT send Facebook (or other social media) friend requests/private messages to any director or staff member. If you need to contact a director or staff member, please use the e- mail addresses or phone numbers provided on our web- site/handbook.

### **Rehearsal Etiquette:**

Come prepared to every rehearsal with your own music, instrument, pencil, dot sheet, and Find Mi Dot Bag. Cases, backpacks, etc. should not be brought into the rehearsal space. Please keep these items in your locker or designated area. Do not leave these items on the floor.

- Always warm up properly with good tone and technique.
- Talking and side discussions are not permitted during rehearsal.
- Please raise your hand if you have a question and wait to be called upon.
- You are responsible for putting your own chair and stand away after every rehearsal.

### **Instrument Lockers:**

Lockers will be assigned as needed during band camp. You may only use a lock checked out to you from the music department. All other locks will be removed.

- It is strongly suggested that your locker remain locked when you are not using it.
- Lockers are to be kept clean and free of clutter, trash, and non-program related items.
- No drinks should be stored in your locker, except for water in a spill-proof container.
- Do not hang on the lockers.
- Do not write or decorate your locker in any permanent fashion. Do not put anything on the outside of the locker.
- You will be charged for any damage to your lock or locker.

### **Copyrighted Video/Internet/YouTube:**

Due to copyright laws, do not record (audio or video) of RHS competitions, festival or concert performances. Performances for marching band/color guard/winter guard/winter percussion may not be recorded and shared on YouTube.

### **Parent/Guardian Code of Ethical Conduct and Expectations:**

The purpose of this Parent Code is to develop parental support and positive role models in all RHS co-curricular activities. In the tradition of excellence, the purpose of all co- curricular activities at RHS is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of each student. Parents/guardians are an integral part of this process.

### **Parent Expectations:**

As a Redwood Band and Color Guard parent/guardian, I agree to:

- Be a positive role model for my student, the school and community.
- Display positive attitude and behavior. Adult behavior affects student behavior.
- Show respect for all participants, parent volunteers, judges, directors, and staff.
- Assist in providing for student safety and welfare at all times.
- Encourage my student to attend school regularly and excel academically and practice at home.
- Help my student consider the time and commitment that will be required of them <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>when joining the band program. This commitment should not be compromised once a student joins the program.

### **Performer Pledge and Contract**

*(Every student must agree to the following):*

- Attitude: Always bring a positive attitude to every rehearsal, no matter how the day has gone.
- Effort: Give 100% effort for the duration of every rehearsal and performance.
- Attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- Character: Always act in a way that brings honor and pride to our instrumental music program, our school and our community.
- Respect all of your fellow performers, student leadership, parent chaperones, staff and directors.
- Serve your section, your ensemble, the instrumental music program, and strive to ensure that *everyone* involved has the best experience possible.

The success of each ensemble within the program is dependent on the outstanding and many times exceptional performance of every individual. As an individual member, please commit yourself to the highest levels of excellence possible for the duration of your time in the program.

### **Audition Policy:**

Many of our ensembles require an audition in order for the student to enroll in the class. Auditions will also take place for position and/or seating within any of our ensembles. The Directors and Staff go to great lengths to fairly evaluate all students impartially. In order for a student to be considered for placement in one of our auditioned ensembles, the following must be agreed to:

- All results are final once posted.
- While the directors and staff will be happy to discuss with a student or parent what the student may do to further improve for future auditions, the directors and/or staff will not reconsider the audition results.

### **Permission to Text Message:**

We request permission for your son or daughter to receive and send text messages to and from the RHS Band Program. Text messages are a valuable communication tool, especially when we travel out of town.

**THANK YOU** for joining the Redwood High School Band Program. We are very passionate about our students and the positive impact music education can have in their life. We hope that all of our students have an incredible experience this school year. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.



# Redwood High School Bands

## Contract Page



2023-2024

Please Print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print:

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read the sections in the Handbook that pertain to band policies, grading system, practicing, rehearsals, ensemble deportment, care of equipment, and rehearsal etiquette. In return for the educational and artistic experience that I am to receive through rehearsals and public performances, I do agree to abide by the rules and regulations contained therein. I will adhere to the rehearsal and performance schedule, and will, to the best of my ability, be a strong, loyal, dedicated member of the Redwood High School Band Program. I will do my part with fundraising and any activities that may be involved with the raising of needed monies. In addition, I will practice my instrument(s) on a regular basis as much as my schedule and commitment to other classes will allow.

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

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

# Music Parents

Take an active part in our outstanding Music Program. As a parent/guardian of a Redwood Music Student, you are already a member in the organization. As in all music programs, volunteer help is always needed. These times at Redwood High School will go by faster than you can imagine. Be a part of your student's school life. If you have a special talent, or would just like to be as active and supportive as you can, please fill out the information below and send it with your student to the Band Office. The time you spend with your student will last a lifetime. Become an active part of the RHS Band Program Today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Students Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## **Please check the areas you are interested in:**

Fund Raising

Construction and Repairs

Sewing

Trailer Towing

Field Help (equipment moving on/off field)

Uniforms

Chaperones

Anything! Just call me!!!!