

## **RHS Bands Syllabus and Policies**

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### **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:**

<b>Participation:</b>	<b>50%</b> (Students are expected to fully participate in all rehearsals, sectionals, etc.)
<b>Class Assignments:</b>	<b>10%</b> (All class assignments: theory assignments, etc)
<b>Playing Tests/Quiz:</b>	<b>10%</b> (Assessments conducted in Person or through Google Classroom Videos)
<b>Performances:</b>	<b>30%</b> (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**

**Grading Scale:**

<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.**