

Rockdale County High School Band

Handbook

2009-10

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Conyers, Georgia*



Rockdale County High School Bands

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Rockdale County High School Band. We hope that you will find the enclosed information valuable and of use to you in your participation in the Rockdale County High School Band and Band Booster Association, Inc. It is intended to be a broad outline of the band organization along with general policies regarding the operation of the band.

Each year the bar of excellence is raised. Many goals and expectations for the 2009-10 season have been set and more will follow. It is our desire to reach as many of these goals as possible while building our members personally and musically. With individual dedication, group discipline, and a positive attitude, our band program will be a source of pride in our school and our community.

Please take a moment to read the information in this handbook to become more familiar with the expectations of each band member. Then, keep this handbook for future reference.

We look forward to teaching and working with each of you. The band is both a musical and social entity and one in which the students become members of another "family"... the band family. If at any time we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Stanton
Director of Bands

Mark A. Belfast, Jr.
Associate Director of Bands

Meet the Band Directors

Scott Stanton is the Director of Bands at Rockdale County High School. A native of Columbia, SC, Mr. Stanton is married to Holly Stanton and they have three children, Kayleigh, Carter, and Tyler. Mr. Stanton received his Bachelor of Music Degree with a Percussion Performance Certificate from the University of South Carolina (Columbia, SC) and the Master of Music Education Degree from VanderCook College of Music (Chicago, IL).

Mr. Stanton served as the Assistant Band Director at Rockdale County High School (94-97), as the Director of Bands at Jasper County (Monticello) Middle and High Schools (97-02), the Director of Bands at Conyers Middle School (02-06), and Assistant Band Director at Rockdale County High School (06-07). The Jasper County Middle/High and Conyers Middle School Bands improved from straight four (fair) ratings the year prior to his arrival to receiving consistent superior and excellent ratings at the GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation and at Marching and Concert Festivals under his direction. His bands have performed for the Governor of Georgia, in the Bahamas, and at Disney's Magic Kingdom.

In addition to being an educator, Mr. Stanton serves in a variety of ministries at First Baptist Church of Conyers. He currently serves as the Celebration Orchestra Director and as a percussionist for the Pre-Teen Worship services. He has also served as a deacon and a co-leader of the Joshua's Men I and II groups. He was the Youth Minister at Northminster Baptist Church in Conyers for two years. Mr. Stanton has also worked with several drum lines and teaches private percussion lessons in the Atlanta east metro area. He is active as a percussionist in the Metro Atlanta area having played in the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Convention (Tara Winds), the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, the South Carolina Band Director's Association In-Service Conference (guest soloist with Hand Middle School), and with several area churches and community groups.

Mark Belfast serves as the Associate Director of Bands at Rockdale County High School in Conyers, Georgia. A native of Auburn, Alabama, Mr. Belfast is married to Starla Belfast. He received his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Education in Music Education degrees from Auburn University (Auburn, Alabama). Mr. Belfast holds teaching certificates in both Alabama and Georgia and is TI:ME (Technology Institute for Music Educators) certified.

Prior to his arrival at RCHS, Mr. Belfast spent one year teaching in Muscogee County (Columbus, Georgia), where he served as Director of Bands at Spencer High School, and four years in Tallapoosa County (New Site, Alabama) as Director of Bands at Horseshoe Bend School. Under his direction, the Horseshoe Bend Band consistently received straight superior ratings at District and State Concert Band Assessments, as well as at marching and concert competitions around the Southeast. His bands have performed at the Southern Star Music Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, Festival of Champions in Panama City Beach, Florida, and Disney's Magic Kingdom, in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to his duties as music educator, Mr. Belfast served as President of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association from 2006-2008, serves as faculty advisor for the RCHS chapter of Tri-M, maintains a growing private studio of trumpet students, is a member of The Usual Suspects of Atlanta, and performs as a freelance jazz and classical trumpeter. His professional affiliations include MENC: National Organization for Music Education, Georgia Music Educators Association, the Alabama Bandmasters Association, the National Band Association, the International Association for Jazz Education, the Technology Institute for Music Educators, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Concert Ensembles

The foundation of the RCHS Band Program is the Concert Ensemble program consisting of three concert ensembles and a percussion class. These ensembles rehearse during the school day and during co-curricular after school rehearsals. Musical principles and fundamentals are taught and developed in these classes.

ALL students audition for placement into the proper concert ensemble. Auditions for band placement occur during the fourth quarter of the school year. Students may audition for a higher band placement at the end of the first semester provided there is a position open for that instrument in the higher band. Schedule conflicts may prevent students from being in the correct ensemble and will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Wind Ensemble—The Wind Ensemble is the premier performing ensemble at RCHS. This ensemble is made of the top instrumentalists at RCHS. This ensemble performs at all concerts, at concert festivals, and other events to which the band is invited. Music at levels 4, 5, and 6 is typically performed by this ensemble.

Symphonic Band—The Symphonic Band is our second ensemble at RCHS. This ensemble performs at all concerts and at one concert festival yearly. Music at levels 3, 4, and 5 is typically performed by this ensemble.

Concert Band—The Concert Band is our third ensemble at RCHS. Students in this class are building on the musical foundations previously established. This ensemble performs in at least one concert per semester. Levels 2, 3 and 4 music is typically performed by this ensemble.

Percussion Class—This first semester class is made up of all percussionists in the RCHS Band Program. The class focuses on the fundamentals of percussion techniques. Students audition for class placements in the spring at the same time as the winds and are placed into their assigned classes second semester.

Concert Uniform

The official Concert Uniform for the RCHS Band is provided for the students. Uniforms consist of long, black dresses for the ladies and tuxedos for the gentlemen. Students will be required to provide black dress shoes (tennis shoes or street shoes are NOT permitted) and black socks/hose. These uniforms are stored at RCHS with the exception of the student provided items.

Students who are not in marching band will have a \$20.00 uniform expense due on August 31st. This expense pays for uniform dry cleaning, uniform repair, and uniform replacement.

Class Syllabus

The class syllabus for each class will be distributed during the first week of the fall semester. Grading procedure, class requirements, semester band calendar, and other information will be included in the syllabus. The syllabus will be posted on the band website for your reference.

Marching Ensembles

The most visible group in the RCHS Band program is the RCHS Marching Band. The marching band begins rehearsals shortly after the previous school year ends with weekly rehearsals and an intense band camp just before school begins in which students learn the fundamentals of marching, learn the competition field show for the school year, and begin to bond as a unit. The band performs at RCHS football games, the Greater Atlanta Marching Festival, two competitions/festivals, and, when invited, parades and special performances.

Woodwinds and Brass—woodwind and brass members currently do not have to audition for placement into the marching band.

Percussion—percussionists must audition for placements into one of the sub-sections of the drum line. This process begins in the spring with position selections completed before summer rehearsals.

Color Guard—color guard, also known as the flag corps, is an audition-only group. Students audition in the spring for the fall guard. These students provide a variety of visual effects through flag, rifle, saber, body movement, or dance routines.

Academic Eligibility—Students who participate in marching band must be academically eligible for participation. Eligibility includes being on track for graduation and passing course work. Students in marching band must be passing all classes through a nine-week period to remain eligible for marching band. Progress reports come out every four and a half weeks. Students failing classes at the end of a four and a half week progress reports will be put on academic proba-

tion requiring a study hall with the teacher(s) in question *outside* of marching rehearsal time. Two consecutive progress reports with grades of F will result in the student being removed from the marching band.

Physicals—Students in marching band must have a current physical on file with the band office and/or athletic department no later than the first day of band camp in July. Students must have a physical dated January 1, 2009 or later to cover the marching season.

Additional Ensembles and Courses

Jazz Band—Jazz Band is an auditioned group of students interested in studying the artistry of jazz. Instrumentation consists of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass, drum set, aux. percussion). Participants in this ensemble should have mature performance and sight-reading skills, as well as a desire to learn the theory and technique for jazz performance, including jazz improvisation. All members of the jazz band must be enrolled in a band class. Exceptions to this may be made for piano, guitar, or bass players. Rehearsals will be held after school throughout the fall and spring semester in preparation for various performances.

Winter Guard and Drum Line—These units, primarily comprised of members from the marching band Color Guard and Drum Line, are auditioned groups that seek to strengthen their skills in an indoor performance environment. This small group presents a themed program that is performed on a basketball court. All aspects of uniform, equipment, and floor covering help to present the desired story. These groups are formed based on student interest. There is a fee involved with these groups.

Solo and Ensemble—Students have the opportunity to form smaller instrumental ensembles throughout the year. These ensembles are formed based on student interest and are open to any member of the RCHS band program. Students also have the option to perform instrumental solos. Solo and ensemble groups may perform at concerts or at the GMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival (held in April).

AP Music Theory— Junior and Senior musicians have the opportunity to earn college credit through the AP Music Theory course. Students must be enrolled in a performing ensemble and have approval from the AP Music Theory teacher to take this course. This course gives an in-depth study of music composition with an emphasis on 18th and 19th century music. Students take the AP exam in May. Students who receive a score of 3, 4, or 5 typically receive a semester's college credit in music theory.

Please see Mr. Stanton or Mr. Belfast for any information regarding the courses and/or ensembles available.

Marching Band Fees and Expenses

Participation in the RCHS Marching Band/Color Guard requires some out-of-pocket expense. The vast majority of our operational budget is generated through the RCHS Band Booster Association, Inc., but some items are personal and assessed on a per-pupil basis.

Marching Band Fees 2009-10:

Instrumentalists—\$350.00

Guard—\$800.00 (\$500 in fundraising)

Fees cover band camp expenses, additional instruction, music and drill purchases, uniform cleaning (marching and concert), band shirts, and other instructional costs. Guard fees also include the cost of the uniform, shoes, gloves, uniform accessories, and makeup.

For new instrumentalists, first year expenses of shoes, gloves, etc. are out of pocket expenses. For new guard members, the guard warm-up suit and bag is a separate cost. The above expenses are due by August 15th for instrumentalists and September 15th for guard members. Families with a second child in the Band/Color Guard will be assessed the full fee for the 1st child and half of the appropriate fee for the second child. A third child in the program is free with the exception of personal items (gloves, shoes, uniform parts). Please contact Mr. Stanton if a financial need exists as a limited number of assistantships are available.

Personal items which are purchased individually include:

Instrumentalists:

Black Socks	
Black cotton gloves*	\$4.00
Black band shoes*	\$27.00
Uniform Pants*	\$49.00

Color Guard:

Warm-up suit* \$77.00

Flag bag* \$26.00

*ordered through the band

Prices as of June 2009—prices subject to change.

RCHS Band Policies

The policies listed on the next several pages apply to ALL aspects of the band program including concert and marching programs. Please read through these policies carefully and note which sections pertain to your particular situation.

General Policies for ALL groups

1. All RCPS and RCHS rules are in effect in all classroom, rehearsal, performance, and trip settings.
2. The directors reserve the right to retain or remove any student for violation of rules and policies of RCPS, RCHS, and the RCHS Band.
3. Drinking alcoholic beverages and taking illegal drugs will not be tolerated and will cause immediate dismissal, and referral to a school administrator.
4. Smoking, chewing, and dipping will not be tolerated and will result in the same consequences as No. 3.
5. Fighting or posturing to fight will not be tolerated and will result in the same consequences as No. 3.
6. Sexual activities will not be tolerated and will result in the same consequences as No. 3.
7. Absolutely no hazing or initiating of rookies in any form will be tolerated. This includes running errands, getting equipment, etc. for older members.
8. Offensive language is prohibited at any time while representing the RCHS Band.

Attendance for all groups—applies to after-school concert rehearsals, marching rehearsals, and all performances

Members of the band are required to attend **all** functions as assigned for concert and/or marching band including, but not limited to, Band Camp, after-school rehearsals, summer practices, Saturday events, performances (football games, concerts, etc.), and any other published or announced rehearsal or performance.

Marching Band members

1. Students who miss two or more rehearsals in a week will not be permitted to march in the next performance.
2. In situations when more than one performance exists in a calendar week, the band directors reserve the right to pull aforementioned students from marching all of the week's performances.
3. Those pulled from marching are still required to attend and otherwise fully participate in the events.
4. Students who are tardy or leave early from rehearsals are subject to laps, loss of third quarter privileges, or other consequences as deemed necessary by the directors.
5. Students will only be excused from performances for the following reasons: personal illness (DOCTOR'S NOTE REQUIRED), death in family, pre-approved school activities, and religious holidays (as stated in the RCPS Handbook). All other reasons are considered unexcused. The directors reserve the right to remove students who miss a performance for unexcused reasons.
6. The directors reserve the right to remove students with excessive absences or tardies.

For Concert Events—Concerts are mandatory.

Rehearsal Expectations (all members)

1. Students are to be in their assigned seats or block band spots with all necessary equipment at the assigned time. You miss valuable information when you are late!
2. All music, pencils, tuners, coordinate sheets, flip folders, concert folders, etc. are to be at every rehearsal as appropriate.
3. Follow the instructions of your student leaders, staff members, guest clinicians, substitute teachers, and band directors.
4. Be courteous and respectful to all band members.
5. All assigned music should be prepared prior to class/rehearsal.
6. Foul language is prohibited at all rehearsals.
7. Severe disruptions to rehearsal (fighting, posturing to fight, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in immediate dismissal from the group as well as an office referral.
8. *Marchers*— *ALL* Percussionists and students with large instruments should arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of rehearsal to make sure all equipment is loaded onto the trailer for transport to the practice field. Students consistently failing to help load equipment will lose privileges or be dismissed from the band.
9. Please remember that band is an extra-curricular activity that is a *PRIVILEGE* and not a right. Students who are consistently disruptive to their sections and/or to the band or who exhibit behavior that severely interrupts the rehearsal process may be removed from the band program.

Consequences

Students who do not follow expectations can expect to be assigned one or more of the following consequences as each situation warrants:

- Push-ups
- Crunches
- Laps around Practice Field
- Detention
- Removal of 3rd Quarter Break privilege
- Removal from performance (stand on sideline)
- Suspension from game (results in loss of service award—see award section)
- Removal from the band.
- Other consequences as determined by directors

Rewards

Please see Awards section for the variety of awards given by the band. Other rewards through the season may be given dependent upon the situation.

Equipment Needs (all members)

The following materials are **REQUIRED** at each rehearsal:

1. A sharpened pencil
2. Instrument
3. All assigned music
4. Tuner
5. Music folder (concert) or lyre and flip folder (marching)
6. Other instrument specific equipment (cleaning rags, valve oil, reeds, mouthpieces, drum sticks/mallets, etc.).

7. Reed instruments should have at least three working Vandoren or similar quality reeds.
8. The following is a list of instrument specific materials that are needed. Where multiple mouthpieces are listed, only ONE is needed and will be recommended by the band directors specifically for your child. These items can be purchased through the band, at a local music store, or through an internet music store.

Flute:	Tuning/cleaning rod Polishing Cloth
Clarinet:	Vandoren B45 mouthpiece B & G ligature Vandoren reeds 3 or higher Cleaning swab
Saxophone:	Rascher or rousseau mouthpiece Vandoren reeds 3 or higher Cleaning swab w/out brush
Oboe/Bassoon:	Hand-made reeds (preferred) Cleaning swab
Trumpet:	Bach 3C or 1 1/2C mouthpiece Schilke 16 or 18 mouthpiece Dennis Wick or Jo-Ral Metal Straight Mute
Horn:	Schilke 29, 30, or 31C2 mouthpiece Holton MDC mouthpiece
Trombone/Euph.:	Bach 6 1/2 AL Mouthpiece
Tuba:	Helleberg, Conn, or Schilke mouthpiece Perantucci 48 or 50 mouthpiece.
Percussion:	General Snare Sticks (IP or Vic Firth) Hard Plastic Xylophone Mallets (IP) Yarn Marimba Mallets (IP)

General or Stacatto Timpani Mallets (IP or
Vic Firth)
Drum Key
Stick Bag

Football Game Procedures (marching band only)

Arrival

1. Color Guard members should arrive at least one hour before published call times to prepare for games (make-up, hair, uniforms, etc.).
2. Percussionists and sousaphone players should arrive at least one hour prior to call time to clean/polish their instruments and load the trailer for away games.
3. Departure time for away games is fifteen minutes after call time. Students who are excessively tardy will be left.
4. All band members should arrive to school prior to the announced call time in order to be ready for inspection. Inspection will occur immediately at the call for attention at call time.
5. Your uniform should be unwrinkled, clean, and properly worn at inspection time. This includes shined shoes, socks and clean gloves.
6. Brass instruments should be polished prior to call time/inspection.
7. Each individual student is responsible for getting all personal equipment to and from all games and events.

Inspection

Students will have a uniform and instrument inspection at call time of each game. The directors will inspect the band officers and the band officers will inspect all band members as assigned. To pass inspection, students must meet the following criteria:

Winds/Percussion:

1. Uniform is neat and clean (including hat, jacket, and pants)
2. Clean black shoes, black socks, and gloves
3. Current assigned band shirt only
4. Hair off of uniform collar
5. Clean and assembled instruments (all pieces)
6. Lyre and flip folder
7. No visible jewelry (watches and small stud earrings are acceptable)

Color Guard:

1. Clean costume
2. All necessary accessories
3. Make-up and hair as specified
4. Personal guard "gym" bag
5. No visible jewelry unless a part of the costume.

Students who do not pass inspection will be given the opportunity to fix the issue(s) prior to entering the stadium. Students who fail to fix uniform/instrument issues prior to entering the stadium will NOT be permitted to march in halftime/competition performance. Certain uniform parts are available for rental for \$5.00/part.

Entering the Stadium

1. Winds form a single file line, guard in a double file line, and percussion form a group based on instrumentation for the march-in.
2. Students will be called to attention by the drum major and should remain at attention until given the command to relax once in the stands. The command will be given after the percussion cadence is complete.
3. Instruments should be out of their cases and held in the proper position during the march-in.
4. Instrument cases are to be stored on the bus, in the band room, or on the trailer. If rain is in the forecast, the directors will allow cases to enter the stands.

In the Stands

1. Students are to stay in uniform at all times unless directed to do otherwise by a band director.
2. Stay in your assigned seat during the game.
3. Students are to play only when the entire band is playing or your small group has permission.
4. All band members are expected to play when the full group plays. Always be ready to play on a moment's notice and listen and look for instructions.
5. Band students and chaperones are the only people allowed in the band section at football games.
6. Students may not socialize with friends outside of the band set until 3rd quarter break.
7. Always listen for instructions from the band directors, student leaders, and drum major(s).
8. Food and drink (except water) is prohibited in the band section (the 3rd quarter is allocated for food).
9. Inappropriate cheers are not permitted. Cheering with the cheerleaders, or participating in organized,

appropriate cheers that inspire “bulldog spirit” are encouraged.

10. **All students are to own a lyre and a flip folder which MUST be used during all stands tunes.** They are available at local music stores.
11. Students are to stand when the band plays a song.

Third Quarter

1. Students are given the privilege of 3rd quarter as a break.
2. Students must be ready to play at the end of the third quarter. 3rd quarter privileges will be removed for one game for any student who returns to the band set late or is not participating in the quarter break song.
3. Winds and percussionists are to keep the straps on their bibber pants over their shoulders at all times.

End of the game

1. At the end of each game, the band will play several selections as the crowd leaves the stadium. Selections will be announced by the directors.
2. The band will march out as a group after all away games if appropriate.
3. Students will be dismissed by the directors after the end of game performance and announcements.

Travel/Overnight Events (all members)

1. All band students are to travel to and from each away game and off-campus performance with the band. See #2 for exception.
2. When times require departing with parents/guardians from the event, a written and signed note must be given to Mr. Stanton **PRIOR** to the event.

Students may not leave with other students or non-family members.

3. Band members will not be allowed in any room other than their own after curfew.
4. Students may visit students of the opposite sex in designated areas or in rooms with the door open.
5. Unauthorized people are not allowed to visit the band on overnight trips.
6. Students are to be respectful of chaperones, staff, and/or director at all times.
7. Students are expected to be well behaved at all times on buses, in restaurants, and in the hotel. All students are expected to participate in all activities.
8. Students will be held responsible for any property damage that they cause while on trips.
9. Rooms should remain locked at all times.
10. Courtesy is expected from band members to all people at all times.
11. All school rules and band policies will be enforced while on any trip.
12. Never leave the group at any time without express permission from a director.

The band directors reserve the right to dismiss and send home any students whose general conduct is dangerous, illegal, and/or reflects poorly on the group. All travel expenses as a result of this clause are the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians of the student involved.

Classroom Expectations

1. All students are to be in the band room when the tardy bell rings.
2. Students have their instruments ready and tuned, all materials ready for rehearsal, and be in their

assigned seats by the designated time after the tardy bell as stated in the class syllabus.

3. Percussionists are required to have personal snare drum sticks (concert pair), xylophone mallets, marimba mallets, and timpani mallets. Specialty mallets will be provided by the band.
4. All band members (including percussionists) should warm-up on their own before the director steps on the podium. A good warm-up, consists of:
 - Brass-** Mouthpiece buzzing, long tones in the middle of your range, lip slurs, scales
 - Woodwinds-** Long tones in the middle of your range, octave/register change exercises, scales
 - Percussion-** Warm-up on mallet instruments with scales, and drums with rudiments
6. Check the dry erase board for the day's rehearsal schedule. Pull up pieces that are listed, and have them ready. DO NOT WAIT FOR A DIRECTOR TO CALL OUT A PIECE, you should already know the order.
7. When the director steps on the podium all talking and playing should cease.
8. There should be no talking during a band rehearsal except at appropriate times as designated by the directors.
9. Students wishing to use the restroom once class has begun must get a pass from one of the directors. Students may NOT leave the classroom under any circumstance without a pass from a director. Passes will not be issued during the first and last 15 minutes of class per RCHS policy.
10. Students may not enter the back storage room, uniform room, or music library without permission.
11. If you need music, please submit a request to a band director or class librarian in writing.
12. The photocopy machine is for band use only. Students may not use this machine without permission

from a director.

13. The Field Storage Room is off limits to everyone except the Band Directors and the Property Officer.
14. Percussionists are the only students permitted to use and play percussion equipment.
15. Food and drink, except water, is prohibited in the band room except during designated times.
16. After class, pick up any trash, put away your folder, and properly store your instrument.

Performance Settings

1. Students are to refrain from talking and disturbing other audience members during the performance of any band or performing ensemble.
2. Students should remain seated throughout another group's performance.
3. Students are to behave in a professional manner on and off stage.
4. Grading for performances is based on quality of performances as compared to state and national standards, performance etiquette on stage, and audience etiquette while an audience member.

Uniforms

Uniforms are worn for all performances. The uniform for each performing group varies. Below is a description of the definition of full uniform for each performing group:

Marching Band (performance uniform):

Winds/Percussion—White jacket, black bibber pants, band show shirt from current year, black band shoes, band hat, black socks, black gloves (winds only)
Color Guard—Costume, guard shoes, guard gloves, make-up

Marching Band (casual uniform):

Band show shirt, jeans, white socks, tennis shoes.

Concert Uniform

Gentlemen—Tuxes (includes pants, jacket, shirt, tie, and cummerbund), black dress shoes, black socks.

Ladies—Concert Dresses, black shoes, black hose or socks (no bare feet/legs)

Tuxes and dresses are provided by the band. Students must provide shoes, socks, or black hose.

Jazz Uniform

The Jazz Band uniform will be announced at the beginning of the season. Students provide the uniform.

Spring Musical Orchestra

If there is a Spring Musical Orchestra, the uniform is all black and is provided by the students.

RCHS Band Student Officers and Descriptions

The RCHS Band could not function without its student leadership. Each spring, outstanding students are chosen to serve as officers in the band for the next year. These positions carry much of the responsibility of running a successful band, and so should only be entered into by the most dedicated, driven, and serious student musicians. Descriptions of the officer positions and the 2010 requirements for earning these positions are as follows:

1. **Captain**-The Band Captain is the highest-ranking officer of the band and should be an outstanding member of the group. He or She must be an above average musician, be a member of the wind ensemble (schedule permitting) and be a junior or a senior. He or she must have consistently good attendance and a positive attitude. He or she must have been a member of band for at least four consecutive semesters, and must have earned their 2nd or 3rd year service bar the previous year. The band captain *must* be able to work well with other students, officers, and directors.

DUTIES:

1. Presides at all band officer meetings.
2. Upholds the traditions and spirit of the band.
3. Is in charge of uniform inspection before all marching performances.
4. Is responsible for having all students prepared and on time for all elements of rehearsals.
5. Keeps all attendance records for the band.
6. Assists in getting information from the directors to the student members of the band, and helps voice student concerns to the directors.
7. Verifies that all other officers are fulfilling their responsibilities.

8. Assists the directors in organizational and administrative tasks.
9. Assists with concert set-ups

2. Property Officer- The property officer must be one of the first students to arrive at band functions, and one of the last students to leave. He or she is responsible for the transportation and maintenance of the band's equipment.

DUTIES:

1. Responsible for making sure that all necessary equipment is in order for all rehearsals and public appearances.
2. Assists the directors with distributing and collecting all school owned instruments.
3. Organizes and helps with the loading of equipment on the equipment trailers.
4. May be called upon to assist with uniform collection, or help students with uniform needs.
5. Assists with field maintenance as necessary.
6. Assists with setting up the field for rehearsals.
7. Assists with setting up the band room for rehearsals.
8. Assigns other officers to specific rehearsal/ performance duties as needed.

3. Class Librarian- The Class Librarian is responsible for the care and distribution of music and related materials for their assigned ensemble. Class Librarians may be selected by the directors or voted upon by the class in which the student participates.

DUTIES:

1. Helps issue all music.
2. Collects fines for lost music.
3. Helps handle record keeping related to the music library.

4. Collects and files all music upon completion of use.

4. Drum Major- The Drum Major is the field commander during the Marching Band season. Anyone wishing to be the RCHS Band Drum Major must go through an audition process every school year consisting of commands, tempo and meter exercises, and conducting an assigned song. Because of the musical demands of the position, the Drum Major must be a member of Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble.

DUTIES:

1. Serves as the field leader of the marching band.
2. Is in charge of the 'basics block' and fundamental marching instruction.
3. Assists in maintaining good discipline throughout the band
4. Is responsible for the band in the stands at football games; including conduct, performance, and school spirit.
5. Assists the directors in organizational and administrative tasks.
6. Assists with setting up the band room for rehearsals.

5. Section Leaders- Section Leaders are the top musicians in their section. These students lead their assigned section during marching and concert rehearsals. Section leaders must exhibit the behaviors of a top musician (regular practice habits, first to learn/memorize music, seeks to be the best musician in their section, etc.).

DUTIES:

1. Run sectional rehearsals for their section.
2. Helps teach drill to their section, and keeps a drill chart at all times.
3. Helps individuals learn their music.
4. Warms up their section prior to assembling at games, and before the halftime show.

5. Serves as a guide point in basics block, and assists students having difficulty.
6. Supports the Drum Major in maintaining discipline during marching rehearsals.
7. Responsible for the conduct and performance of those in their section in the stands.
8. Assists with setting up the band room and field for rehearsals.

6. Color Guard Captain– This is the primary leader of the Color Guard.

DUTIES:

1. Serves as the Color Guard Section Leader.
2. Runs Color Guard practices in the absence of the Color Guard sponsor.
3. Maintains all flag and weapons equipment and ensures that all equipment is at all performances.
4. Checks for uniform appearance of guard members while in uniform (make-up, correct wearing of outfit, etc.)
5. Responsible for developing and implementing fundraising efforts for the guard.

7. Color Guard Lieutenant–The secondary officers for the Color Guard.

DUTIES:

1. Assists captain and Color Guard staff with routine and drill instruction as needed.
2. Is responsible for checking Color Guard uniforms and make-up at public appearances, including casual uniforms.
3. Runs Color Guard rehearsals in the absence of the Color Guard sponsor and captain.
4. Keeps guard attendance records.
5. Keeps guard equipment records.
6. Assists the guard captain with fundraising ac-

tivities as needed.

8. Percussion/Front Ensemble Captain— The captain oversees all percussion activities for their subsection.

DUTIES:

1. Runs full percussion practices.
2. Keeps attendance records.
3. Keeps records of all equipment assigned to individuals (mallets, instruments, etc.)
4. Maintains all percussion equipment.
5. Inspects all percussion instruments prior to performances.
6. Is responsible for all marching mallets, sticks, etc.

2010 Officer Selection Process:

1. **Band Captain**—The band captain is selected by both class placement audition and student vote. The captain must have earned a position in the Wind Ensemble.
2. **Drum Major**—The drum major is selected by a panel of judges through an audition process. This audition process is published in the spring. The drum major must have earned a position in the Wind Ensemble.
3. **Librarians**—Librarians are chosen at the beginning of the school year in class. Students are selected by director appointment or class vote.
4. **Section Leaders**—Section Leaders are chosen through class placement auditions. The highest scoring marching band member is the section leader.
5. **Drum Line/Front Ensemble Captains**—The percussion captains are selected through class placement auditions and student vote.
6. **Guard Captain/Lieutenant**—Guard officers are chosen through an audition process and vote by the guard members only. Audition requirements are published in the spring.

Band Awards

Band awards are given to band members for their service and for personal musical accomplishments.

The awards listed below are given on a frequent basis as stated in their description:

Student of the Week—This award is given weekly to a marching band member who has shown excellence in marching skills, attitude, routine/music knowledge, and attendance. The band directors, marching band staff, and student leaders select this award. This award is announced at football games.

Section of the Week—This award is given weekly to a section in the marching band for good work ethic, positive attitude, knowledge of routine/music, and attendance. The band directors, marching band staff, and student leaders select this award. This award is announced at football games.

The awards listed below are given on a yearly basis at the end-of-year awards banquet:

Rookie-of-the-Year Award

The most outstanding new member of the band is selected by the band directors based on musical contributions to the RCHS Band and the community.

Outstanding Sophomore Award

The most outstanding 10th grade band member is selected by the band directors based on musical contributions to the RCHS Band and the community.

Outstanding Junior Award

The most outstanding 11th grade band member is selected by the band directors based on musical contributions to the RCHS Band and the community.

Colorguard/Winter Guard Rookie-of-the-Year Awards

The most outstanding 1st year Color Guard and Winter Guard member is chosen by the band directors and Color Guard sponsor.

Most Improved Colorguard/Winter Guard Awards

The band directors and Color Guard sponsor select which student demonstrates the most progress during the year for these awards.

Outstanding Winter Guard Member Award

This award recognizes the overall outstanding member of the winter guard. This is selected by the directors and staff.

Outstanding Colorguard Member Award

This award recognizes the best member of the Color Guard. It is selected by the band directors and Color Guard sponsor.

The Roger Wolfe Service and Leadership Award

This award is given in honor of Roger Wolfe, Director of Bands at Rockdale County High School from 1979-2007. Mr. Wolfe unselfishly gave of his time, talents,

and skills for 28 years and set an example of positive service and leadership throughout his tenure. This award is given to a student who has shown exceptional service and leadership to the RCHS Band program during their four years at RCHS. This award is selected by the band directors.

The Director's Award

This award is given in view of demonstrated virtuosity on the recipient's band instrument as well as outstanding musical accomplishment. The award is chosen by the band directors and may not necessarily be awarded each year. Only the most advanced musical achievement will be recognized by this award.

Patrick Gilmore Band Award

The Gilmore Band Award is awarded to a graduating Senior for outstanding contribution to the band. Musical accomplishment, leadership, positive attitude, and commitment are traits which are recognized by this award. The award is selected by the directors.

John Philip Sousa Band Award

This national award is given to a graduating Senior who has contributed the most to the band program in both musical and leadership qualities. It is the top award given to a band student and is chosen by the band directors.

Band Service Awards

This section is being revised to better reward the students. These items include performance certificates, band letters, band bars, senior plaques, and senior cords.

Home Practice Tips

The progress of the Rockdale County High School Band as a whole is dependant on the progress of its individual members. Below are some tips to develop a successful practice plan:

1. Pick a set time to practice every day (or every other day)
2. Have a quiet place to practice at home
3. Spend a few minutes warming up and working on tone.
No high notes, not too loud, focus on a good sound
4. Play scales at every session- not just the ones you know, work on perfecting all 12 major scales
5. Work on technique- tonguing, slurring, intervals, etc.
6. Practice sight reading- etudes from method books, scale studies, new music from class, etc.
7. Be aware of the details- work on musicianship: dynamics, style, etc.
8. Work to increase your dynamic range (soft and loud)
9. Work to increase endurance- take less breaks, try to play for 30 minutes non-stop
10. Work on increasing your range- hold high notes out for 8 or more counts, listen to make sure every note is in tune and beautiful. Be patient...
11. Set specific goals- "I will practice 2 hours every week" or "I will get into Honor Band"
12. Record your practice sessions, listen to them, or have a director listen to them (extra credit???)

RCHS Band Boosters Association, Inc.

The Rockdale County High School Band Boosters Association, Inc. is the support organization for the band. The group is comprised of band parents and others interested in helping provide positive outcomes for the students in their band experience. The organization is incorporated as a non-profit charitable foundation. All contributions to the band are tax deductible. Membership is open to anyone with no membership fee. **Regularly scheduled meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of the months of August, September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the band room.

Officers of the organization include: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Current officers and committee chairs are listed on the band website.

One of the major fundraising activities of the band and band boosters is the annual sponsorship of the **Greater Atlanta Marching Festival** held at Reid Stadium. ***This activity requires the help of everyone including parents of non-marching band members.*** The band also operates the concession stands at the RCHS home varsity football games which has proven to be of great benefit to the band. Sales type fundraisers are also made available for students.

The band is dependent upon the Band Booster organization for support. The kind of experience the students would receive without this group's financial backing would be minimal. All proceeds go directly to benefit your child. They are not shared with other activities or organizations. Each parent's participation is necessary for success of the band.

How Parents Can Help

The band booster club has a number of committees on which you may serve. The following is a basic list of committees from which to choose:

Chaperone	Hospitality	Telephone
Ways and Means	Concessions	
Uniform	Field Crew	Marching Festival

Parent Help At Home

1. Show an interest in the musical studies of your child
2. Arrange and monitor a regular and quiet time for your child to practice
3. Help your student keep a daily record of their practice
4. Keep your child's instrument in good repair including having enough reeds, valve oil, etc. (school-owned too)
5. Buy your child a metronome and tuner
6. Help your student be on time and prepared for all band rehearsals
7. Arrange for your child to take private lessons
8. Make faithful attendance at band activities important to you.
9. Keep a record of all of your student's musical activities
10. Notify the teacher if your student is going to be absent or tardy to any band activities
11. See that your student takes all required materials to school every day
12. Be sure your student has completed all of their classroom assignments
13. Visit rehearsals and/or private lessons occasionally
14. Attend concerts and other activities
15. Attend Band Booster Club meetings
16. Volunteer for parent committees and chaperoning whenever possible.

Important information

Mailing Address:

1174 Bulldog Circle
Conyers, GA 30012

Band Director Information:

Scott Stanton, Director of Bands
E-mail—sstanton@rockdale.k12.ga.us
Cell Phone—770-842-0699 (texting available)

Mark Belfast, Associate Director of Bands
E-mail—Belfast@rockdale.k12.ga.us
Cell Phone—334-332-6279 (texting available)

School Fax Number—770-483-8708
Main School Number—770-483-8754

Website:

www.rockdaleband.com

