

Rockdale County High School Band Information Sheet 2010-11

Courses Offered

Wind Ensemble – The Wind Ensemble is comprised of the top performing band students in the school. Students gain membership into the Wind Ensemble through yearly class placement auditions and semester auditions (as openings occur). This ensemble will be considered the premier performance group and will represent the band at special performances, special concert festivals, and other notable concerts as requested. This band will perform level 4, 5, and 6 literature.

Symphonic Band – The Symphonic Band is comprised of students who are above average on their instrument, but are continuing to develop their skills on their instruments before gaining membership in the Wind Ensemble. Students gain membership into the Symphonic Band through yearly class placement auditions and semester auditions (as openings occur). This band will perform level 3, 4, and 5 literature.

Concert Band – The Concert Band is comprised of students who are continuing to develop their fundamental musical skills to ultimately attain membership in the Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band. Students gain membership into the Concert Band through yearly class placement auditions. This band will perform level 2, 3, and 4 literature.

Auditions for the 2010-11 school year are complete at this time. Class placements will be announced following the RCHS registration and scheduling process is complete.

Percussion Class – The percussion class is comprised of all percussionists who have earned placements on the RCHS Drum Line and Front Ensemble. This class is offered only during the first semester of school. Students must successfully complete the audition process in April and May to be selected for this class. Students will receive instruction in marching percussion technique, ensemble performance, and musical skills. Upon completion of the marching season, the focus of the class will shift to concert season. Students will improve on fundamental skills through concert music, percussion ensembles, and exercises. Students will join their respective concert class during the second semester.

AP Music Theory – This class is available to Juniors and Seniors interested in earning college credit in music. Course topics include fundamental music theory concepts, chord construction and inversions, sight-singing, rhythmic and melodic dictation, scale construction, and many other topics. Students interested in this course should speak directly with Mr. Stanton for additional course information.

Extra-curricular Activities

Marching Band – The RCHS Marching Band is the most visible performing ensemble at RCHS. Membership in the band requires membership in a band class (excluding Color Guard members who do not play instruments). **Wind** players do not audition to be members, but the class placement auditions will assist in assigning parts to each member. **Drum Line** members audition for membership and drum line/front ensemble position placements. The **Color Guard** is also an auditioned group of students. The audition process begins in late April for the Drum Line and May for the Color Guard. The auditions for Drum Line will be held April 15, 19, 22, 26, 29, May 3-7 with times to be announced. Auditions for Color Guard will be held in May and will be announced following spring break. Further information on the Drum Line and Color Guard auditions is available from Mr. Stanton or Mr. Belfast.

The marching band performs at all RCHS varsity football games, two marching competitions, and our own Greater Atlanta Marching Festival. The band also performs in the homecoming parade, football pep rallies, and at community events upon invitation. This group does a major performance trip every other year.

Due to the intense physical nature of the marching band, all students planning to march must have a school athletic physical form on file with Mr. Stanton. This form is due by the first day of band camp. Forms are available on our

website. All physicals should be dated no earlier than January 1, 2010 for participation in marching band. If your child plans to participate in further athletic activities for the school year, the physical should be dated April 1, 2010 or later to cover the entire school year. If you have questions about this requirement, please contact Mr. Stanton or Mr. Belfast.

Please see the attached information regarding summer camp dates, football game schedule, competition schedule, and other upcoming events. Rehearsal schedule is also provided for your information. Attendance at all events, including band camp, is mandatory. A written notice signed by a parent or guardian is required documenting any absences. Unavoidable absences that are known in advanced should be reported to and approved by the band directors early in the season. Please read the attendance section of the band handbook upon receipt so you are aware of the attendance policy.

Greater Atlanta Marching Festival will be held October 23rd at RCHS. **Please note that ALL band students are required to work the GAMF as this is our band's primary fundraiser for the year.**

Jazz Band – This audition-only ensemble is available to students interested in studying a variety of stage band genres. Rock, Latin, Swing, and many other styles of music will be studied. Students in this ensemble will have opportunities to perform throughout the year. Auditions for this ensemble will be held in the fall of each school year.

Small Ensembles – Small ensembles are available for student participation dependant upon student interest. These ensembles have included Percussion Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Spring Musical Orchestra, Winter Guard, and other small groups.

Band Fees and Payment Schedule

Attached with this information is the financial information regarding our band program. Please review the financial policies, fees, and additional costs involved with being a member of the Rockdale County High School Band.

Band Trip 2011

This school year we are scheduled to travel as a band. This will be a performance trip involving our band and chorus. Once this trip is officially approved by all appropriate administrators, we will give you the trip details, including destination, costs and itinerary, about this trip.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

With any student organization, parent and guardian support is vital to each student's success. Parents who support their children and their children's teachers will have highly successful children. It is the desire of the band directors to work with each student and their parents/guardians to ensure each student's success. The following are some expectations of band parents/guardians to help ensure a positive band experience for all:

1. Hold your child accountable for his/her actions including behavior, practice habits, attendance, and participation. Set aside a DAILY practice time for your child just like homework from other classes, check the website frequently for calendar and other information, and listen to your child play their instrument.
2. Attend monthly band booster meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of each month August through November and January through April.
3. Volunteer your time. There are a number of areas for service including chaperoning at performances and events, helping with the concession stands at football games and GAMF, helping with the field crew, and serving as a committee chairperson.
4. Participate in all fundraising activities.
5. Attend your child's performances.
6. Provide on-time transportation for your child to and from rehearsals, performances, and special band events.
7. Contact the band directors directly when a question or problem arises. The band room phone number is 770-483-8754 ext. 231. E-mail will result in a quicker response. Mr. Stanton's e-mail is sstanton@rockdale.k12.ga.us and Mr. Belfast's e-mail is belfast@rockdale.k12.ga.us.