

# Ruckel Beginning Band Policies and Procedures 2022-2023

## STATEMENT OF GENERAL PHILOSOPHY & EXPECTATIONS

The purpose of this class is to learn how to read music and become proficient on an instrument in order to be able to move into a performance class by the second year. It is entry level into band.

## MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS CLASS

Your band instrument, a pencil, the "Standard of Excellence" Band Method Book 1 (red) by Bruce Pearson, and the "Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician" (green) by Scott Rush & Jeff Scott.instrument.

## GRADES IN BEGINNING BAND

The curriculum that we use for this class will involve method book instruction as well as supplementary material (scale sheets, etc.). The class objective will be to complete requirements for membership in the Intermediate Band, Advanced Band or Honor Band by the end of the year. Grades in band are earned by using the Pass-Off system. This means that the student is responsible for passing off a certain number of designated pass off lines in the method book during each grading period. In order to be "passed off" the line, scale, or exercise must be performed with 80% accuracy on SmartMusic or less than 3 mistakes live, the student must demonstrate good posture, correct holding of the instrument, good tone, and tap the toe while playing. A pass off should be considered a test. There will be written and playing pass offs. 30% of your grade is class participation. If you bring your instrument, book, and pencil to class each day this grade will always be 100%.

## YOU MUST TAKE YOUR INSTRUMENT HOME IN ORDER TO PRACTICE

If the student will practice 20-30 minutes a day 4-5 days a week, they should be able to play on grade level. In order for this to happen, the instrument must go home daily. There is a 100% chance you won't practice if you don't take your instrument home. Any student who leaves their instrument in the band room overnight, will lose five points from their class participation grade. NOTE: Legitimate reasons for leaving the instrument ("I have a soccer game and I will not get home until 9:00 p.m.") can be worked out with Ms. Bruse in advance. **Any student who does not bring their instrument and materials to class will also lose five points from the class participation grade.**

## AFTER SCHOOL PASS-OFFS

All Ruckel Band students will have the opportunity to pass off or to move ahead in the book. Students will have some time to pass off in class, but also will have the opportunity to access SmartMusic to use from the convenience of their own home. This allows the student the opportunity to move at their own speed.

## PERFORMANCES

There will be 2 performances for this class.

Ruckel Bands Holiday Concert (Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ NWFSC Mattie Kelly)

Ruckel Bands Spring Concert (Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ NWFSC Mattie Kelly)

## ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES IS REQUIRED FOR THIS CLASS

1. There will be no after school rehearsals for this class. However, this is a co-curricular class, which means performances will take place outside of the school day, and you are expected to be at all performances unless sick or excused in advance.
2. An absence from a performance will be excused for the following reasons: sickness, death in the family or written excuse PRIOR TO the absence and excused by the director. Oral permission may be granted in exceptional cases. In making your request, give the director enough information to adequately assess the situation.
3. It may be necessary to make up an excused absence by completing an assignment to be given by the director.
4. There are no provisions for making up unexcused absences. If there is any doubt about whether an absence will be excused or not, see the Ms. Bruse before the absence.
5. Students will not be excused from a performance for a non-school activity (travel soccer, travel baseball, etc.).
6. Due to the “team” nature of a band, parents are requested not to withhold attendance at rehearsals or performances as a means of punishment for issues unrelated to this class.

## UNIFORMS

Uniforms will consist of the black Ruckel Band T-shirt and jeans (NO HOLES), and closed toe shoes. The band T-shirt will be ordered through the Ruckel Band. The cost of the shirt is \$20.00. The students wear this uniform at all Ruckel Band concerts.

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Students who are using school instruments (oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, baritone, tuba) must pay a maintenance fee of \$120.00 per year.

***This fee is for normal wear and tear and not neglect or misuse, which may be an additional cost.***

*If finances are a concern, please see Ms. Bruse. No student will be denied an opportunity to participate in the Ruckel Band due to finances.*

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Be in your seat, with your instrument, music and all materials (this includes a pencil) no later than three minutes after the tardy bell. Students who are tardy with a pass will be admitted with no penalty.
2. Don't play your instrument before or after class.
3. Don't borrow instruments or music belonging to others.
4. Sanitize hands coming in and out.
5. Help keep the band room clean. Don't write on stands.
6. Food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band room.
7. If you leave the room for any reason during class, always sign out.

Please sign, detach, and return this form.

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We have read and understand the Ruckel Band Class Policies.  
We agree to follow these policies for the 2022-2023 school year.

The band class I am in is Beginning Band.

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(Print Student's Name)

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(Student's signature)

(Date)

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(Parent's signature)

(Date)