

# Ruckel Honor Band Class Policies and Procedures 2022-2023

## STATEMENT OF GENERAL PHILOSOPHY & EXPECTATIONS

This is a performance class. This class is the *highest level* of band taught at Ruckel and is open by audition only. It represents Ruckel Middle School in public performances throughout the year (football games, parades, festivals, special performances). It is reserved for the student who has met the minimum playing requirements, is willing to do *more than the minimum*, and who is willing to practice consistently at home for musical and personal improvement. Occasionally, each member may be expected to put the needs of the group ahead of his/her own personal desires. This class will place demands on the student in the areas of commitment, attitude, behavior and performance that are not expected of students in the Advanced, Intermediate, and Beginning Band classes. Generally speaking, members of this class must be willing to give band activities a priority.

## GRADING & CURRICULUM

The curriculum that we use for this class will involve music, scale sheets, handouts, and method books. Every student will need their own copy of the "Standard of Excellence" band method book 2 by Bruce Pearson. They will also need their own copy of "Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician" by Scott Rush & Jeff Scott for their instrument. Much of this class will be 8th graders. Therefore, the class objective will be to prepare for membership in the Niceville High School Band by the end of the year. Grades in band at Ruckel are earned by using the Pass-Off System. This means that the student is responsible for passing off assigned material during each grading period. In order to be "passed off" the line, scale, or exercise must be performed with at least 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. The student will be given a number grade for each pass off based on the band director's assessment of the quality of work. A pass off should be considered the same as a test. The number of pass offs per grading period will vary.

**1<sup>st</sup> 9 Weeks** - Participation in and attendance at Football Band activities is required. We will perform at least 3 home games this season. The attendance policies for all Ruckel Band rehearsals and performances are listed elsewhere in this letter. In addition to this, there will be a scale pass off regularly in class during the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks. There may be written tests as well. These will include but not be limited to vocabulary tests, theory tests, etc.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks** – Participation at any remaining football games **and the Niceville Christmas Parade on Saturday December 10, 2022 is required. Participation in the Ruckel Band Holiday Concert on Tuesday December 13, 2022 at Mattie Kelly Performing Arts Center is also required.** Again, there may be scale test as well as written tests. These tests will include but not be limited to vocabulary tests, theory tests, written rhythm tests, etc. In addition, each student may be required to play a prepared exercise, such as the All-County audition material at an acceptable level of proficiency.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks** – **All members of the Honor Band will be required to participate in the FBA District Concert Music Performance Assessment to be held March 7-9, 2023 (our day and time is still TBA) at Ft. Walton Beach High School.** There will be some required rehearsals outside of the school day beginning in February going through the second week of March. **This activity is the most important event of the year and is required!** In addition, pass-offs will continue. There may also be written tests.

**4<sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks**- Scale pass-offs and high school auditions will be completed this nine weeks. **Also, the Spring Concert on Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023, at Mattie Kelly Performing Arts Center is required.**

### CHAIR PLACEMENT

Students will sit in chair order in their sections based on the number of pass-offs and chair points that they earn. Chair placement will be determined by counting the total number of chair points that they have earned for the current school year.

### ATTENDANCE POLICIES

1. Honor Band is a co-curricular class. Most of the requirements can be met during the school day. However, some of these requirements will be completed before or after school hours. Therefore, you are expected to be at all performances and extra rehearsals unless sick or excused in advance.
2. An absence from a performance or extra rehearsal 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. If a student fails to assume his/her responsibility in this area, he/she will be subject to removal from this class.
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. 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.

### REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Required full band rehearsal outside the school day will be kept to a minimum. However, the Ruckel Football Band will rehearse Thursday mornings from 6:55-7:35 am during football season: August 11-October 20, 2022. If we make it into the playoffs (10/13) or the Championship (10/20), and those games are scheduled to be at HOME, we will also rehearse those Thursday mornings.

There will be one parade practice after school for the Niceville Christmas Parade on Wednesday December 7 from 2:30-3:30 pm. The Christmas Parade is Saturday December 10, 2022. The rehearsal schedule for the second semester will be announced at a later time.

### TAKING 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. Also, we have reduced space this year and won't have room for additional instruments. 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, on certain days after school, and 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.

### CONFLICTS

Conflicts will occur from time to time. When this is the case, school activities must take precedent over non-school activities (such as travel soccer or baseball, PAL soccer, little league baseball, etc.). If a student is involved in more than one school activity, the faculty members in charge will help the parents and students work out an acceptable solution. A performance or game will take precedence over a practice or rehearsal. A solution to conflicts can almost always be found if sufficient advanced notice is given to all parties concerned. Whenever possible, please arrange doctor or dentist appointments around rehearsals and performances.

### UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be issued near the start of school. Remember that the band T-shirt is our "informal" uniform and will be worn often throughout the year. The uniform costs are as follows: Black Ruckel Band T-shirt \$20.00, band shoes \$25.00, uniform rental \$74.00. The uniform for pep rallies and assemblies is band shirt and jeans. Students who are out of uniform for any band performance will not be allowed to participate.

### 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 school year. This fee is for normal wear and tear, ***not neglect or misuse, which may be an additional cost.*** Percussion are asked to pay a fee of \$50.00 per year for sticks, mallets, drum heads, etc. *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 3 minutes after the tardy bell.
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 & submit:

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 Honor Band.

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(Print Student's Name)

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(Student's signature)

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(Date)

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(Parent's signature)

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(Date)