



## **RMS Advanced Band Class Policies 2023-2024**

**Updated January 2024**

### **Statement Of General Philosophy & Expectations**

This is a performance class. While not the top performing ensemble, 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 Intermediate or Beginning Band.

### **Grades In Advanced Band**

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 "Tradition of Excellence" band method books 1 & 2. Most of this class will be 7th graders and the most advanced 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Therefore, the class objective will be to prepare for membership in the Ruckel Honor 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. To be "passed off" the line, scale, or exercise must be performed with 3 or fewer mistakes. Additionally, the student must demonstrate good posture, correct holding of the instrument, good tone, and tap the toe while playing. Once passed off, the student will receive a 100% in the grade book. 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 the Ruckel Football Band activities is required, and all students in this class will participate in it. Therefore, much of the instructional time during the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks will involve this music. In addition to this, there will be pass-offs regularly in class. 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 in the **Niceville Christmas Parade** and the **Ruckel Band Holiday Concert** is required and preparation for will occur in class. There will again be scale pass offs and the possibility of written tests. These include but are not limited to vocabulary tests, theory tests, and rhythm tests.

*3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks* – All members of the Advanced Band will be required to participate in the **FBA Music Performance Assessment [MPA]** at Fort Walton Beach High School. There will be no rehearsals outside of the school day. However, this activity is the most important event of the year and is required, so please place it on your family calendar today! In addition, pass-offs will continue. There may also be written tests.

*4<sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks* – Pass-offs and final requirements for Honor Band will be completed this grading period. Also, the Spring Concert will be 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. Band is a co-curricular class. Most of the requirements can be met during the school day. However, some of the requirements may need to be completed outside of the school day. Therefore, students are expected to be at all performances and extra rehearsals unless sick or excused in advance.
2. An absence from an extra rehearsal or 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. Excused absences grades may be made up by completing an assignment 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 Mrs. Tenoré before the absence.
5. Due to the “team” nature of 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**

At this point, there are no required full band rehearsals scheduled for Advanced Band other than Football Band (Thursday mornings from 6:55-7:35 AM during football season, and one parade practice before the Niceville Christmas Parade).

### **Taking Your Instrument Home 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. For this to happen, the instrument must go home daily. Any student who does not bring their instrument and materials to class will also lose five points from the 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 Mrs. Tenoré in advance.

### **After School Pass-Off Class**

All Ruckel Band students will have the opportunity to stay after school to pass off. Students will have some time in class, on certain days after school, and will have the opportunity to submit pass-off videos to Mrs. Tenore through Seesaw. Pass-Off Class will be most afternoons from 2:30-3:00 PM. Available dates will be sent out through Remind/Charms.

### **Calendar 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 advance notice is given to all parties concerned. Whenever possible, please arrange doctor or dentist appointments away from 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. Uniform costs are as follows:

- Black Ruckel Band T-shirt – \$20
- Band shoes – \$25
- Uniform rental – \$74

The uniform for pep rallies and assemblies is the band shirt and jeans. Students who are out of uniform for any band performance will not be allowed to perform.

**School Instruments**

Students using school instruments (oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, baritone, tuba) are asked to pay a maintenance fee of \$120 per school year. This fee is for normal wear and tear, not neglect or misuse. Percussion students are asked to pay a fee of \$50.00 per year to off-set the cost of sticks, mallets, drum heads, etc. *If finances are a concern, please see Mrs. Tenoré. 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 materials (this includes a pencil) no later than three minutes after the bell. Students who are tardy with a pass will be admitted with no penalty.
2. Do not play your instrument out of turn (which includes before/after class).
3. Do not borrow instruments or music belonging to others.
4. Help keep the band room clean. Don't write on stands.
5. Food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band room.
6. If you leave the room for any reason during class, always sign out.

Please sign, detach, and return the form below.

We have read and understand the Ruckel Band Class Policies.  
We agree to follow these policies for the 2023-2024 school year.

The band class I am in is Advanced Band.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Student Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)