

Name: _____

River View HS Band Handbook

2024-2025 School Year

**HS Band Rm. 824-3522, x. 1214
www.blackbearband.weebly.com**

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Dear Black Bear Band Members and Parents,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I am so proud of our band students and the music program here at River View. My wish is that you as a family will take the same pride in the music program as you prepare to perform and be an audience member!

Music is one of the most rewarding and challenging disciplines you can be part of and I want to make this year a positive musical and personal year for you as a family.

Use this handbook as a guide as you go through the band program this year. Please refer to it if you have questions regarding rules, attendance policy, protocol, and procedure.

I am looking forward to making many unforgettable memories with your students!

Best wishes for an outstanding school year!

Mr. Keith Watson

**Band Director, RVHS
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RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT LEADERS

A) BAND COUNCIL

1. **Drum Major**
 - a. Assume responsibility of conductor in absence of conductor
 - b. Enforce all band rules
2. **Guard Leadership**
 - a. Help run sectional rehearsals
 - b. Not appointed every year
 - c. Enforce all band rules
3. **President – Senior**
 - a. In charge of social events
 - b. Write thank-you notes
 - c. Enforce all band rules
4. **Vice-Presidents (Senior / Junior / Sophomore / Freshmen)**
 - a. Represent each class by showing positive leadership
 - b. Enforce all band rules
5. **Secretary - Grades 10, 11, or 12**
 - a. Take daily attendance and event attendance.
 - b. Enforce all band rules
6. **Librarian(s) - Grades 10, 11, or 12**
 - a. File music
 - b. Repair and label music
 - c. Enforce all band rules

B) SECTION LEADERS/ SENIORS

The duties of a section leader / Senior member are as follows:

- a. Help the members of your section learn their music
- b. Lead by being a good example in all areas
- c. Inspect uniforms - clean and properly worn / properly put away
- d. Set up sectionals and run them
- e. See that your section can perform properly
- f. Enforce all band rules

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST - Encouraged, not required - Part of going band letter

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the solo and ensemble contest. The contest is in late January or early February and students should begin on their solos and ensembles by Christmas time. The object of the contest is to initiate a learning experience for the student. The student has the opportunity to improve their individual and ensemble playing ability and build self-confidence simultaneously.

ENSEMBLES - Encouraged, but not required

Ensemble participation is encouraged to participate in the solo and ensemble contest. The training is essential for a well-trained musician and the band will benefit greatly from the experience your ensemble will have received. Any students wishing to organize an ensemble should arrange rehearsal time together. There is music in the library for the following types of ensembles:

Clarinet choir - All clarinets	Brass quintet – 2 Tpt, TB, Hn, Tu
Clarinet Trio – 3 Bb	Brass choir – Tpt, Tb, Hn, Ba, Tu
Clarinet Quartet – 2 Bb, Alto, Bass	Trumpet trio and quartet
Flute Trio & Quartet – All flutes	Horn Quartet – All four French horns
Woodwind Quintet – F1, Ob, C1, Hn, Bn	T-bone quartet – All four trombones
Saxophone quartet – 2 Alto, Ten, Baritone	Percussion ensembles – varied instruments

MARCHING AND SYMPHONIC BAND CONTESTS - REQUIRED - GRADED PARTICIPATION

The purpose of the band contest is to provide musical experience for the large group and to receive professional adjudication. Music selected for the contest is of sufficient merit and challenge to warrant intensive rehearsal and practice. Extra rehearsal may be necessary. Marching band will compete in four or five contests and the concert band in a maximum of two. A superior rating by either band will invite that band to participate in state level competition.

BAND SEATING ARRANGEMENT - GRADED PARTICIPATION

The seating arrangement is determined according to ability. Positions are determined by a try-out procedure, which involves playing a prepared piece, (16 - 32 measures), scales, and sight-reading. Scales will be selected from a list of Major scales. Requirements will be handed out in advance of try-outs. Try-outs usually begin in January. Sign-up sheet for times will be posted a few days in advance. Any student may challenge to advance in chair positions after placements are posted. Everyone must try out - graded participation.

Everyone will be recorded. If you do not perform at the best of your ability during the try-out, you may challenge the person beside you after placement.

The **challenge procedure** is as follows:

1. Inform the director and student to be challenged one week ahead of the scheduled challenge.
2. Challenge one chair at a time (the person next to you).
3. No challenges two weeks before a performance.
4. If you lose a challenge to a person twice in two weeks, you must wait a month before re-challenging.
5. The challenge consists of scales and prepared piece, both chosen by the director.
6. The challenge occurs before the director(s). They will judge on tone quality, rhythm, articulation, and accuracy.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are strongly encouraged to study privately with a qualified teacher on their instrument. If you are interested in private lessons, check with your director to recommend teachers. You may use the band room facilities for practice as often as possible, but you must obtain your pass before school begins.

HORN INSPECTION

There may be a mandatory horn inspections throughout the year. All instruments should be cleaned thoroughly inside and out. You will receive a grade for the inspection to be added in with your other grades. Failure to have horn inspection will result in a lower grade.

INSURANCE ON INSTRUMENTS

Any student who owns their personal instrument should carry some sort of insurance on their instrument. Accidents can happen and it is always wise to be prepared. Insurance companies allow you to carry personal instruments on a "rider" for an additional fee (so you can have it replaced with no deductible). *Copy down the serial number, brand, and model number of your instrument and keep that information at home.*

MARCHING BAND - PERFORMANCES REQUIRED AND GRADED

All interested musicians in grades 9-12 who play an instrument or wish to be a member of the Guard. This group performs at all football games, some contests and concerts. There is no limit on the number of musicians for this group.

SYMPHONIC BAND - PERFORMANCES REQUIRED AND GRADED

This group will perform at concerts and compete in contest(s).

PEP BAND

This group performs at all home basketball games and pep rallies. Instrumentation will be determined before the season begins.

JAZZ BAND

This organization performs at concerts and outside of the school day.

Normal Instrumentation: 4-5 Trumpets, 4 Trombones, 2-4 Alto Saxes, 2 Tenor Saxes, 1 Baritone Sax, 1 Guitar, 1 Bass Guitar, 1 Baritone or Tuba, 1 Electric Piano, 1 Drum Set and 1 Auxiliary Percussion. Any variation of this instrumentation is up to the discretion of the director.

CARIBBEAN STEEL DRUMS

This organization performs at concerts and outside of the school day. This is a percussion ensemble, however, it is open to any member of the River View Marching or Symphonic Bands.

COLOR GUARD

Any member of the high school in grades 9-12 can be a member of the marching band color guard. Tryouts will be held in the spring for guard the next fall season.

DRUM MAJOR

Must have been in marching band for at least one year. Tryouts will be held in the Spring.

BAND FOR ONE SEASON

It is strongly recommended that students participate in both marching and concert seasons. Students who meet these requirements will receive 1 credit per year counted towards graduation.

A student may elect to participate in just marching **or** symphonic band if they fall under any of the following classifications:

1. A direct conflict exists with marching band and a fall **varsity** sport AND your coach is not allowing you to be in marching band.
2. A student who chooses to attend post-secondary option program and can not clear their schedule during band class each day may still participate in marching band.
3. A student may be in one semester of band if the *guidance office* **and** the *band director* *agrees* there is no possible way to schedule required classes for graduation.
4. A student who is selected to the fall guard and does not play any musical instrument may sign up for first semester only.
5. A student who has a school related conflict with fall marching band and a solution can **not** be worked out between coaches and directors.

The band director has the option to veto the decision if they feel this arrangement is not necessary.

Students choosing these options will receive 1/2 credit towards their graduation and will forfeit their four year awards, (four year plaque). They may letter after FOUR semesters of participation. They will receive a certificate for participation in that event, however they will be eligible for any special group award they have earned, (i.e. Fall Guard, Jazz Band, Caribbean Steel Drums, or Pep Band).

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Uniforms will be issued during Summer rehearsals and you will be held responsible for loss or damage. Uniforms should be carried in garment bags at all times when traveling. All students are required to pay a uniform cleaning fee. There will be about four cleanings throughout the year. The hats will be carried in their boxes at all times. Shoes are to be polished black and kept clean. The uniform is to be worn neatly and proudly at all times. Our uniform is the following:

Bib Pants	Black Shoes – Students purchase
Jacket	Tall Black Socks – Students purchase
Hat & Hat Box	White Gloves – Students purchase
Uniform Bag	Wind Suit Jacket and Pants - Students purchase
2 Gauntlets	Band Ball Cap - Students purchase
Plumes - transported by band	Gold Marching Band T-Shirt - Included in band fee

The band director decides if any part of the uniform is excluded for a performance or while at a football game. Otherwise, the complete uniform is worn.

Long Hair - Will be French braided for all performances

Jewelry - When in uniform, you do not wear jewelry, watches, or piercings of any kind

Hair Color - Will be a “natural color, even if colored - no bright, non-natural colors

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Band students are to be in their seats with instruments and music at the beginning of each rehearsal.

1. If you cannot play due to circumstances such as sore throat, sore teeth, or other problems of personal health, bring a written excuse from home with you the day you cannot play. Still required to attend practice or performance.
2. If you cannot play due to circumstances such as instrument in need of repair, notify the band director as soon as possible before rehearsal. Under no circumstances will you simply be excused from band rehearsal! You will be expected to assist with non-playing duties such as roll taking, sorting music, or observing in your section. You are not to take the occasion to visit or otherwise distract during rehearsal.
3. Strict attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary to any performing organization. Each member of the organization is as important as every other member and should take the responsibility for both a good performance and a bad one.

For this reason the following rules have been set:

- a. *Please call and talk to a director if you are going to miss due to unforeseen circumstances. ALWAYS CALL in an emergency!*
- b. **An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in the student not performing at the next performance, but still required to attend in uniform and stand sideline.**
- c. **An unexcused absence from a performance may result in dismissal from band.**
- d. The following people may be contacted IN ADVANCE for excusing absences:
 1. Directors
 2. High School Building Principals
- e. Excused absences from performances must be cleared in advance and include:
 1. When there is a conflict with another school-related performance (sport).
 2. Illness substantiated by a written excuse from parents and doctor.
 3. Death in the immediate family.
- f. Excused absences from rehearsals will be cleared with the directors **two weeks in advance**. Failure to do so may result in absence being considered unexcused.
- g. Excused absences from a *rehearsal* include:
 1. When there is a conflict with another school related function (sports).
 2. Illness backed by a written excuse from parents.
 3. Appointments with out-of-town specialist.
- h. Excused absences will **NOT** include:
 1. Driver's Education – Take this coursework in winter or spring
 2. Temporary loss of memory
 3. Dental and doctor appointments
 4. Hair Cut or other elective appointments
 5. Work
- i. **If missing a performance due to an emergency, please call the school and notify the staff. 824-3522, Ext. 1214**

** By limiting after school practices during the football season to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, it is hoped that Monday and weekends are adequate to schedule 1 through 5 as listed in section "h" above.

***Extra sectional practice will be treated as full band rehearsals as long as it is scheduled by the section leader at least one week before the sectional is to take place.

FOOTBALL GAMES - ATTENDANCE REQUIRED AND GRADED

All football games are considered a graded performance.

All students will remain in their seats during the game. The directors or drum majors will start all songs. No one leaves the band bleachers without permission from the directors. Only band members will sit in the band bleachers, no outside friends or company. We play as a band, this is not practice time.

When in uniform, you are representing the River View Band and not yourself. Therefore your actions are very important at all band related functions. Third quarter uniform does not include hats or gloves. Any other variation is at the discretion of the band director.

BUS TRIPS

All students will abide by the bus rules that were adopted by the River View Board of Education. The bus chaperone will inform you before the bus leaves of any changes that might occur in bus behavior. All band members are required to ride the bus to away performances. All band members will ride home unless **prior arrangements** are made with the director. *A parent who attends an event may always sign out their own child without a prior written excuse.*

Only those parents who have sent in written notes requesting the band member to be allowed to ride home with another parent will be excused from bus transportation. The note must include the reason for not riding the bus, name of parent with whom the band member will be riding, and the parent/guardian signature. Remember to date the note and list the date of the event.

- a. Failure to ride the bus **to** the away game will result in their not performing.
- b. Failure to ride the bus **home** or to present a note will result in their not performing at the next performance, but they are still required to attend in uniform.

EQUIPMENT

1. Care
 - a. Everyone should leave the band area as good or better than they find it.
 - b. Music is property of River View Schools and must be treated carefully. You will receive temporary-use photo copies of your music.
 - c. ***Do not write on music in ink. USE A PENCIL!***
 - d. Instruments should be cleaned inside and out to insure proper performance. Clean mouthpieces are especially important.
2. Equipment required for rehearsal
 - a. Instrument (complete with reeds, oil, mutes, lyres, etc.)
 - b. Pencil
 - c. Music
 - d. Jackets, raincoats, hats, gloves, boots, etc. as weather dictates. (Marching band)
3. Checklist of equipment needed for performance
 - a. Instruments
 - b. Music
 - c. Uniforms and accessories

Each band member takes the responsibility for his own equipment. Those that damage school owned equipment (uniform, instruments, etc.) must pay for the replacement or repair for that item.

4. Music will not be taken out of the music library until the librarian or the director has checked it out.

BAND REGULATIONS

1. The use, sale, or distribution of any drugs, which are classified as illegal, narcotics, or mind-altering substance will result in the dismissal of the band member from band the rest of his/her high school career.
2. Any student, who appears at school, or at a school function with intoxicants or narcotics, shall immediately be suspended for expulsion for the remainder of the semester.
3. Any student caught smoking or using any tobacco substance in uniform or with the band will be suspended from the band and school.
4. All rehearsals will begin with each student warming up slowly and softly before the general tune-up. Rehearsals will end when the band director dismisses the band. Do not anticipate the end of rehearsal.
5. **No chewing gum.** This includes rehearsals and performances, in the room or outside.
6. No pop or food in the rehearsal area. A water bottle may be used during rehearsals.
7. Good posture when playing. This applies to when seated and when standing to play.
8. Students who own jackets with the Band's name on the back should wear them with pride. Do not abuse the entire band by your actions. THINK then ACT.
9. Lost items. We realize that no one is perfect, but it should be remembered that the more money that is spent on replacement means the less money that is spent on new music, needed equipment, instruments, and trips. (Replacement of item by band member)
10. If any band member fails to complete the entire year of band activities either by dismissal or his/her own choice, they will forego any and all earned band awards and credit for that year.

BAND RULES TO BE ENFORCED BY SECTION LEADERS AND SENIOR MEMBERS

1. When on the field, the student leaders are responsible for the conduct of their section.
2. Make sure everyone has music. If music needs to be copied, see director(s) or librarian.
3. Keep the instrument room and percussion room clean and organized.
4. Make sure everyone has their name on their music folders.
5. Make sure your section has their music folders for rehearsal.
6. Be on time to all rehearsals.
7. Make sure name and number is on their uniform bags.
8. Make sure uniforms look good. Not wrinkled, dirty, or in need of repair.
9. If any part of your uniform is lost, damaged, or misplaced, see drum major before Friday night/ Saturday morning.
10. Make sure gloves and shoes are clean.
11. Know rudiments of marching. Posture, how to march in step, how to change directions, and how to hold your instrument or silk.
12. Memorize music quickly. Encourage section to memorize quickly.
13. Help develop respect for the chain of command used in our band. Here is that chain.
 - a. Director
 - b. Assistant Director
 - c. Adult staff and chaperones
 - d. Drum major
 - e. Student leaders
 - f. Members

BAND OFFICE

You may enter if you have business or need to talk to a staff member. If a teacher is in the office, do not enter unless you knock first. The desk, files, computer, and phone are off limits without permission. The phone is for official business only. Cell phone usage is recommended to secure rides or communicate with parents. Purchase reeds **after** practices, not before.

SUMMER REHEARSALS

Summer rehearsals will be held each year and participation is **required**. Placements for percussion will be held prior to full band rehearsals. A letter informing you of the summer schedule will be mailed or handed out in June, after school is out.

BAND GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

1. Student attitude
 - a. Has learned all assigned music and drill.
 - b. Has shown continual improvement
 - c. Has shown outstanding willingness to assume responsibility, to cooperate and to help make the band better.
 - d. Has shown outstanding initiative by individual practice and has studied outside of school time.
2. Student horn inspection
3. Student attendance at band related functions and performances. Pass or fail. No partial credit for a missed event.
4. Any test that may be given. (Both written tests and playing music for Directors)

AWARDS

Various awards will be passed out to all band members at the awards ceremony in May. Providing that you meet all the previously stated requirements, you will be awarded the band letter in your third year. Exception: the second year members who attended solo and ensemble contest first and second years and met all the requirements. *Seniors will only get a "Four Year Award Plaque" if they have been part of the band or choir for four years. **If any band member does not attend the awards banquet, he/she forgoes any earned awards unless excused in ADVANCE by their director.***

RIVER VIEW MUSIC BOOSTERS

The parents and supporters of all students enrolled in music in the River View School District are eligible for membership in the Music Boosters. There are no dues and meetings are held on one Monday of each month with the exception of December, May, June and July. See Band Calendar for actual dates.

All meetings are held in the high school band room. The purpose of the organization is to assist the instrumental and vocal music departments in meeting their financial needs in the purchase of uniforms, instruments, and equipment. They also assist with trips, supervision at band activities, and fund raising.

**Encourage your parents to become an
active music booster.**

2024-2025 Agreement Form

I, _____

(student's name)

have read and fully understand the rules and regulations set forth in the **River View High School Band Handbook** and understand that this is the governing document for the River View High School Band. I pledge to follow all these rules and accept consequences if necessary.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/ 2024

For office use: _____ Mr. Watson has checked this form.