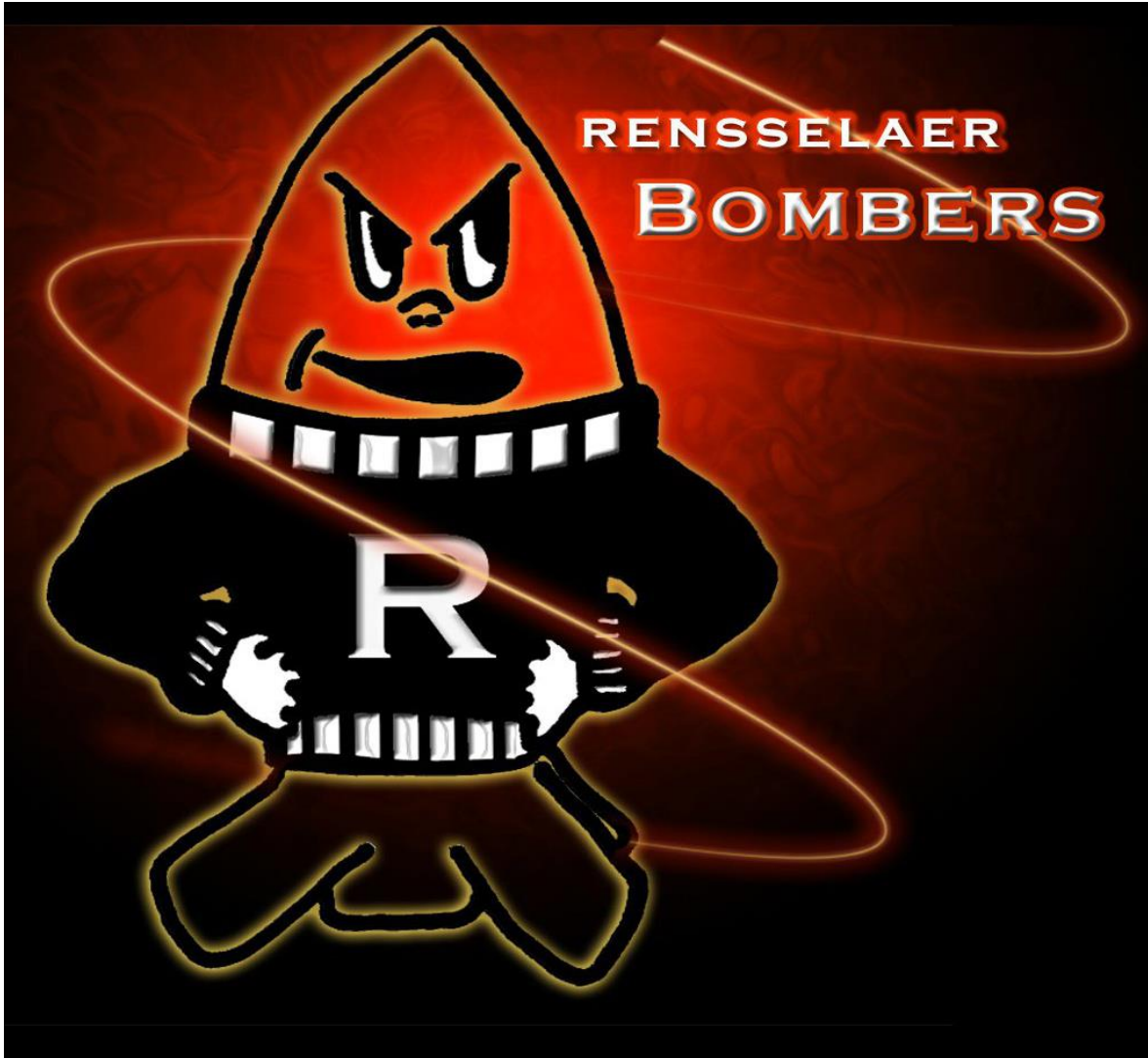


Rensselaer Central Schools Instrumental Music



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Rensselaer Central School Corporation Instrumental Music Department Handbook

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Curt Craig -Superintendent

Rensselaer Central High School Principal

Mr. Andrew Jones

Rensselaer Central Middle School Principal

Mr. Greg Michael

Instrumental Music Director

Ms. Amber Hall

Guard Director

Mary Molenaar

2020-2021 Boosters

Jim Wisely - President

Ryan Budd - Vice President

Stephenie Budd - Treasurer

Tammy Wisely - Secretary

Music Department Phone Number and Website

(219) 866-5175

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Welcome Letter

It is my privilege to welcome you as a member of the Rensselaer Central Schools Band. Membership in this organization permits you to embark with us on a journey in the pursuit of **Excellence and Success.** This journey will be filled with many joys and pitfalls. Let nothing stand in the way of the positive direction we must take to achieve our goals.

We will always end up successful if you remember some key points. First, always maintain the desire to better yourself. Second, always respect and help each other. Third, never enter any rehearsal or class without a personal goal, a group goal, and the commitment and attitude to pursue and realize those goals. Fourth, know that **You** and no one else controls **Your** success or failure. We have no control over any other band or what they do. But we can insure our own success and achievement.

This handbook is to be used as a procedural guide and source of information for all members of the RCHS/MS Band Department and their parents. I encourage you to keep this guide in a handy place for easy reference.

The regulations stated here were designed in the best interests of all band members and the entire Band Program. Rules are necessary in any large organization to bring a semblance of order and efficiency to that organization. Our rules are made for a reason: not to inconvenience any one member, but to establish a common ground of agreement from which all individuals can best accomplish their own musical goals, as well as the goals of the organization. Making exceptions to the regulations serves only to breed a general feeling of discontent, disorganization, and confusion within the band.

You will not be asked to do anything that is beyond reason or outside the realm of your capabilities as middle/high school students. It is your responsibility to help make the RCHS/MS Band an enjoyable and productive activity for yourself and your fellow band members by accepting and following the regulations stated within this handbook.

Winners are people who never worry about the results because they are too busy doing what is necessary to reach their destination of excellence and success. **Winners are people like YOU!** We are very interested in you and would like for you to join us for a great year of celebration, excitement, and lifelong memories.

Sincerely,

Amber Hall

General Rules and Regulations

As representatives of Rensselaer Central Schools and the city of Rensselaer, it is imperative that the behavior and appearance of Bombers Band members be beyond reproach. I insist that **all** public appearances of the band are important, and that attendance is vital. Every band member has a job to do and a part to play.

1. All band members should be present for all band functions.
2. The individual student, upon recognition of an anticipated absence, should observe the following procedure:
 - A. See director to pick up a rehearsal/performance conflict form. This form should then be filled out and turned into the director.
 - B. The director will evaluate the conflict to determine if it constitutes an excused or unexcused absence. ***Filling out a form does not automatically constitute an excused absence!*** The director reserves the right to refuse the validity of the conflict. I understand that impossible situations do arise occasionally and an understanding ear is available to those that have developed a reliable reputation.
 - C. ***A minimum of 48 hours notice is required for missing a rehearsal. A minimum of 1 week notice is required for missing a performance.***
 - D. Any unexcused absence, be it practice or performance, will have a negative influence on the band. That negative influence will therefore be reflected in a deduction from the unexcused member's grade. During marching season, an unexcused absence from any performance may result in the removal of the student from his/her show position. ***Work is never an excused absence.***
 - E. In the event of an emergency, parents or guardians should call the band office () and leave a voicemail explaining the situation.
3. The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products will not be tolerated during any band function. All school rules/penalties will apply. The consequences for such offenses are outlined in the School Student Handbook.
4. General misconduct (i.e. profane language, profane gestures, or any acts unbecoming to the standards set for the RCHS Band) will not be tolerated. School rules/penalties apply.
5. At any athletic event, all band members are required to be in assigned seating areas. No one from outside our organization will be permitted in these areas without the permission of director.
6. Public displays of affection are not permitted. As indicated in the RCHS Student Handbook, **"Kissing, embracing, and close contact of any kind are not permissible nor appropriate"** at any school function.

7. Students are responsible for taking care of their uniforms and all school owned instruments. Appropriate fines will be assigned for careless treatment in this area.
8. There should be no talking during rehearsals by band members without the consent of the director in charge.
9. Each band member will be treated in the same manner and with the same respect that they show to others.
10. An acceptable and professional uniform look is expected for all members during public performances and presentations. Facial piercings (including tongue) and facial jewelry of any kind are not permissible during a performance. Striping, dyeing, or coloring of the hair using “non-traditional” or “unnatural” hair colors is not acceptable for performance situations. Hair should also be kept at a “reasonable length” so as to maintain a uniform look within the group and to not interfere with the easy putting on or removal of uniform hats during marching season.

The following are some specific guidelines pertaining to the rehearsal rooms and Music Department Office:

1. No food, drinks, or gum in the rehearsal facilities.
2. Enter the Music Office only to conduct business.
3. The Music Department phone is to be used only in the case of an emergency with the permission of the director.
4. Reeds and other supplies should be purchased before or after school only. **No Credit**
5. Students not enrolled in a music class are **NOT** permitted to be in the music area without the permission from the director.
6. Practice rooms are only to be used for practicing music and require permission from myself or Mrs. Davisson.
7. Please respect the facilities, equipment, and each other. No horseplay; keep your hands to yourself.
8. **Cell phones are not to be out during rehearsal unless permission is given.**
9. Be on Time! (on time means to be early)
10. Instrument lockers are issued for instrument storage only. Please keep personal items in your regular school locker.

Locker Expectations

Having a locker in the band room is a **PRIVILEGE** not a right, follow these five rules to avoid eviction:

1. Only store your instrument, music, and necessary equipment in your locker
2. NO food, drink, or clothing allowed
3. Water bottles should be removed by the end of the day’s use
4. DO NOT place cases on stands
5. Cases go back into lockers once instruments are removed for rehearsal

Band Boosters

By definition, the role of our booster organization is to "boost" the band and guard program in a positive manner through the presentation of a "united front" in support of the students, other parent volunteers, and the director(s). Any parent/guardian with a student(s) in the program is automatically a member of this organization.

The purpose of the Rensselaer Central Bomber Band Boosters is to advance the best interests of the RC bands and color guards by providing support of the programs, donation of time toward service to the entire program, and financial support through donations and participation in fund raising efforts.

All parents are strongly encouraged to be involved in attendance of fundraisers, travel, etc. There will be several committees that are formed throughout the year to aid in each of the functions for the group. Many of the board members may serve as committee chairs, however, any parent is welcome to assist or chair a committee. All parents/volunteers must have a volunteer form/background check on file in the band office prior to any contact with the students.

Committees include:

Nominating:

The Nominating committee shall meet in April each year for selecting a slate of officers for the next year. Presentation of the members selected will be made and voted on at the regular meeting in May.

Audit:

The Audit committee shall, on a yearly basis, make a complete check of the treasurers books, verify all bank accounts, and prepare a "Receipts and Disbursements" statement. The audit shall be made and completed after the end of the current school year and before July 1st, when the new officers take office.

Uniform:

The Uniform committee shall assist the band director with the distribution of uniforms at the start of each school year. The Uniform committee shall also have charge to arrange for the proper cleaning of the uniforms and to make sure the uniforms are in the proper condition for use.

Fundraising:

The Fundraising committee shall be responsible for the arrangement and organization of any fundraising activities necessary to help this association meet its budget demands. This Committee will be over-seen by the Vice-President.

Concession:

The Concession committee shall provide for the proper function of the concession stand. Such as arranging and scheduling workers, procurement of inventory (or assignment of such), providing the proper maintenance of the concession stand, and establishing prices. The Chairperson of this committee shall make it known to the Officers and Board Members any and all needs or requirements, including more committee members or volunteers.

Battle of the Bands:

The Battle of the Bands committee over-sees all aspects of this event including concessions, hospitality room, parking, equipment, etc.. Must work closely with the Concessions Chairperson and Treasurer. Must also work with the Band Director to ensure all needs are met.

Food and Spirit:

The Food and Spirit Chairperson will be responsible for providing food, snacks and decorations

throughout the school year. Events include, but are not limited to, monthly birthday celebration, locker decorations, snacks and water, occasional contest food/breakfasts and Band Room decorations.

Travel:

The Travel Coordinator will be responsible for assigning trailer-pulling duties for any and all events requiring the trailer. Duties will include taking an inventory of capable and willing members, making sure they are properly licensed, insured and skilled.

Banquets:

The Banquets Chairperson will be responsible for all aspects of both of our annual banquets. Planning food, decorations, donations, location, etc.

Public Relations:

It shall be the responsibility of the Public Relations committee to promote band activities to the general public via the media, including social media. This committee shall also arrange and schedule activities, which will promote support among parents, students, directors, teachers and administration, and the general public for the RC middle and high school programs.

Meetings are held once a month on the second Thursday of the month. They start at 6:30 pm and are held in the High School Band Room. All parents are encouraged to attend!

Tentative 2020-2021 schedule

August 13
 September 10
 October 8
 November 12
 December 10
 January 14
 February 11
 March 11
 April 8
 May 13
 June 10
 July 8

General Rules for Travel

1. BE ON TIME!
2. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products on any trip will result in the appropriate disciplinary action as set forth by the school corporation.
3. Stereos, mp3 players, and any other music devices that can be heard by anyone other than the individual student are not permitted.
4. Observe proper bus etiquette at all times:
 - a. Students should use the front door of the bus at all times.
 - b. Stay seated while the bus is in-motion. Two people per seat. Following corporation policy boys and girls are **NOT** allowed to sit together in a seat.
 - c. Do not lower windows below the line and keep all body parts inside the windows. Yelling or singing out of the bus window is prohibited.
 - d. No one should get off the bus without the permission of the director.
 - e. Students should maintain an appropriate noise level at all times.
5. Each student is responsible for his/her own instrument and uniform. All percussionists are responsible for the loading and unloading of the percussion equipment. No one is excused or dismissed until all of the equipment is put away.
6. All band members should stay together at all times. No one is to leave a contest or performance area without the permission of a director.
7. Uniforms:
 - a. Either completely on or off-no in between unless specified by a director.
 - b. Food or beverages other than water are not permitted while in uniform.
 - c. Uniforms should be placed neatly on a hanger and in bag when not being worn.
 - d. There should be nothing stored in the uniform bag besides the uniform (shoes, etc.)
8. Only music students with a signed field trip permission blank and parent chaperones will be permitted to ride the bus.
9. You are representing yourself, your directors, your band, your school, and your community. Be courteous with everyone you come in contact with. Your actions will be considered when planning future trips by our department.
10. Chaperones have given of their time to assist us. Please show them the respect they deserve and follow their requests without question. Violations of this rule will not be tolerated.

Overnight Travel/Hotel Rules

1. When staying in a motel or hotel, students are not permitted in the room of a member of the opposite sex at any time for any reason. When boys and girls rooms are on separate floors, students are not permitted in the areas of the opposite sex for any reason.
2. You are to be in your room at the assigned curfew time. No one may enter your room at this time except chaperones. Bed checks will be made.
3. After curfew, rooms should be locked. Students should not open the door without knowing the identity of the person requesting entrance.
4. Lights out and quiet 30 minutes after curfew.
5. Room phones should not be used except in case of an emergency. Cell phones should be used for outside phone calls. This will avoid slow down at the check-out process.
6. Do not take towels, etc...from the motel. Keep your room orderly at all times. Any items stolen or damaged will be charged to the students in that room.
7. The playing of instruments in rooms is prohibited.
8. Students should not order room service or movies.
9. Gambling of any kind is prohibited.
10. Keep your room locked at all times. Know who has your key.
11. Chaperones will check each room before check-out to insure nothing is left behind and there are no damages.
12. Some motels have many adult residents who are not used to a lot of exuberant students. Out of courtesy to these people and the hotel staff, excessive noise or disturbances at any time is prohibited.

Violations of the above could result in confinement to your room during activities, or dismissal from the trip for serious offenses. You will be returned home at your parent's expense, and a conference will be conducted to discuss your further participation in the band program.

Guidelines for Chaperones

1. Keep order on the bus: Noise to a safe level, sitting in seats properly, everyone inside at all times, no throwing of food, boys and girls in separate seats, etc...
2. Call roll before each and every departure. You will have a list of students on your bus.
3. Make sure that there are trash bags available and supervise the cleaning up of each bus at the end of the trip. Also, check for personal items left behind.
4. Do not let students off the bus until you receive instructions from the director. Be sure everyone understands these instructions.
5. Stay with the group in case you are needed for a specific task. Make sure students are ready to move at the proper time.
6. If a situation arises that you are not sure how to handle, please contact one of the directors immediately.
7. Above all, have a good time and enjoy the trip and being with our kids. Share in their excitement and help them when they stumble. We appreciate your assistance in cultivating our most precious resource, our children.

Rensselaer Central Schools Instrumental Music Department

The Instrumental Music Department of Rensselaer Middle/High School provides the music student with a variety of opportunities for music study and performance. All groups have been developed to suit the differing needs and proficiencies of all band students. There is an organization to fit everyone.

Bomber Brigade Marching Band

The Bomber Brigade Marching Band is a large performing organization open to all band students in Grades 9-12. The Bomber Brigade Marching Band season begins with rehearsals in May and runs to early November. The band performs at all home football games, as well as participating in select invitational contests and ISSMA sponsored events. The band also participates annual parades. The band also takes a variety of performance trips.

Basketball Pep Band

The Basketball Pep Band is made up of members of the band program and plays for Rensselaer Central Bombers home basketball games. The band plays a variety of contemporary and popular music. Games are co-curricular performances and are for a grade. Students are required to attend performances.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is a group of outstanding musicians who study and perform a variety of literature for the modern concert band. Advanced technical and musical skills are incorporated to provide the students with opportunities to attain a high level of performance and musicianship. The band performs at least three concerts, as well as participating in ISSMA sponsored events. Sectional rehearsals are used at the Director's discretion and private lessons are strongly encouraged for all members. Participation in ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest is recommended, and regular testing is also conducted on scales, etudes, musical excerpts, and music terminology.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Lab Band is a select group of musicians in Grades 9-12 devoted to the study and performance of various musical styles within the Jazz idiom. Emphasis is placed on the development of correct style, articulation, inflection, and phrasing that leads to authentic Jazz interpretation. Students are also encouraged and given opportunities to develop improvisational skills used in soloing. The use of recordings featuring various jazz artists and styles are incorporated to bring all these elements together.

The band performs at least three concerts during the year, performs at the ISSMA Jazz Contest, and conducts many other performances within and outside the community.

Musical Pit

The ensemble aides the spring musical production put on by RCHS Drama Department. Students are selected based on instrumentation and audition. Rehearsals will be held on select days after school throughout the winter and spring.

Music History and Appreciation

Music History and Appreciation is based on the Indiana Academic Standards for Music and standards for this specific course. Students receive instruction designed to explore music and major musical styles and periods through understanding music in relation to both Western and Non-Western history and culture. Activities include analyzing and describing music; evaluating music and music performances; and understanding relationships between music and the other arts, as well as disciplines outside of the arts.

6th Grade Band

Any 6th grade student at Rensselaer Central is eligible to enroll for the 6th Grade Band. Students enrolled in this group begin their musical journey by learning how to play their respective instrument, learning how to read music and musical symbols, and learning the art of musical performance. Students in this group begin to develop the ability to perform in front of others and begin to develop more confidence in front of others. During the school year, students meet every day to begin developing good tone quality, intonation, and overall better music performance. 6th grade band students perform a minimum of 3 concerts throughout the year.

7th Grade Band

The 7th Grade Band is the next step for Rensselaer students in their musical journey. Members will continue to build upon skills learned in the year previous and will meet as a full ensemble every day during the school year. Students in 7th Grade Band will begin reading more sheet music, learn more advanced musical techniques, and explore more about their instruments. Students who wish to continue to develop even further are encouraged to participate in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Solo and Ensemble non-competitive contest. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Indiana Bandmasters' Association (IBA) All Region Band. 7th grade band students perform a minimum of 4 performances throughout the year.

8th Grade Band

The 8th Grade Band is the next step for Rensselaer middle school students. Members will continue to build upon skills learned in the years previous and will meet as a full ensemble every day during the school year. Students in 8th Grade Band continue their musical journey by learning even more about their musical instruments, performing more complex music, and working towards performing more as an ensemble. Any 8th grade student who wishes to participate in band will have the opportunity to do so. Students who wish to continue to develop even further are encouraged to participate in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Solo and Ensemble non-competitive contest. Additionally, students in this group will have the opportunity to join the jazz band as well as the pep band. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Indiana Bandmasters' Association (IBA) All Region Band. 8th grade band students perform a minimum of 4 performances throughout the year.

Percussion Ensemble

The Winter Percussion Ensemble is a select group of students that may participate in the Indiana Percussion Association Indoor Percussion competition circuit or focus on local performances and activities. A choice will be made each year as to the type of ensemble (movement or concert) that will be fielded. Rehearsals begin in December and run through the IPA State finals in April and consist of one to two extra-curricular rehearsals, as well as weekly Saturday rehearsals and contests throughout the season. The ensemble may also play for concerts and other performance venues throughout the school year. The ensemble is open to any percussion students in Grades 8-12.

Guard

The Rensselaer Guard is the auxiliary unit of the Bomber Brigade Marching Band. They perform with the marching band at all home football games and field show competitions. They also perform as the Rensselaer Central Winter Guard at all IHSCGA events during the winter guard season. Guard is offered as a class meeting concurrently with band during the first semester. Training sessions and auditions for the Bomber guard are held during the spring for the following year. You must be in band or guard in the fall season to participate with the winterguard.

All rules, schedules, and policies that apply to the band apply to the guard, with the following additions:

1. All absences from a practice or performance must be excused by the director. Even if you are sick, please call the director.
2. Tryouts will be held before each performance if necessary. Any member who does not satisfactorily know a routine may not be permitted to perform.
3. You must attend the final rehearsal before a performance to be allowed to participate in the performance. You must also attend school on the day of a performance. If the performance is during the weekend, you must have been in school on the previous Friday. Exceptions must be approved by the staff. (If you are late for a performance, the director has the option to withdraw you from the performance.)
4. Gum is not permitted during any rehearsal or performance.
5. The use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs during a Guard activity will result in removal from the guard. The student will also be sent to the high school administration and police or law enforcement officials.
6. Guard business will be conducted inside the group. Slanderous statements and discrimination will not be tolerated.
7. You are expected to attend 100% of all rehearsals and performances.

Grading Policies for Rensselaer Central Bands

The grade a Rensselaer Central band student earns is based on three specific requirements: 1. Attendance and participation, 2. Playing/Performance/Written exams, and 3. Attitude and Cooperation.

1. **Attendance and Participation**- A band member can insure a solid grade by his/her attendance at all rehearsals and band performances. Credit is given for each rehearsal outside of regular class time, as well as each performance of any of our performing groups. This can make up a

considerable portion of the overall grade during the fall and winter months. Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will result in the student earning a failing grade for that event. Tardiness to class, rehearsal, or performance will result in the lowering of the grade accordingly. Regular and punctual attendance is vital to our success as a band, and to your success as part of that band.

- 2. Playing/Performance/Written Exams-** Tests on material and music being covered will be administered at least twice each grading period. The grade for playing exams will be based on an evaluation rubric that encompasses several elements of playing including tone, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, note accuracy, tempo/pulse, articulation, dynamics, and phrasing/musicianship. Students performance will be ranked from 1-5 points in each category with the total score reflecting the grade earned.

40-A+	35-B-	30-D
39-A	34-C+	29-D-
38-A-	33-C	28 or lower F
37-B+	32-C-	
36-B	31-D+	

Students have the opportunity to retake any playing test as many times as they wish before the end of the grading period to improve their grade. It is the students' responsibility to arrange a time to meet with the director for any retest.

Written exams may be given at the end of each semester, as well as other appropriate times. Performance grades will be earned for each band performance, as well as in Solo/Ensemble Contest participation.

3. Attitude and Cooperation- Success for the RCHS Band depends on the sum total of each individual member's commitment, desire, and dedication. To achieve our goals, each student must be able to display dependability, must show everyone around them respect, must be able to accept constructive criticism, and demonstrate an ability to work in harmony with others. Any deviance from these qualities will seriously inhibit our band's ability to achieve. Such uncooperative acts as talking during rehearsal, playing when inappropriate, poor posture, chewing gum, improper care of instruments or music, absence or tardiness, disrespect towards others, or any behavior that is detrimental to the band's success will result in the appropriate action based on the severity of the infraction.

Observing these guidelines will insure each band member of an appropriate grade. It will also insure the success of our organization. The more individuals deviate from these guidelines, the less successful we will be, and the less desirable that students' grade will be.

High School Solo/Ensemble Requirements

1. Concert Band personnel are strongly encouraged to participate in District Solo/Ensemble Contest. Preparation for this contest is an excellent opportunity for small ensemble and solo performance, and a valuable learning experience.
2. Woodwind and Brass players may enter up to two total events. (one solo/one ensemble, or two ensembles.) Percussionists may enter up to three total events. (three solos on different instruments, two solos and one ensemble, one solo and two ensembles.) Any participation over these limits will first need to be approved by the director.
3. Group I solo entries should be studying consistently with the director or private instructor.
4. Entry fees must be paid by the given deadline for that year!
5. It is the responsibility of the student to work with the director in arranging for a piano accompanist prior to Christmas vacation.
6. You will be required to meet with an assigned director/instructor a minimum of five times. At least one of those times should be before Christmas break. Failure to do so may result in withdrawal from the contest by the director. This will result in the student/students receiving a grade of F for this contest. Entry fees **cannot** be refunded after the entry deadline has passed.
7. Consider time requirements and dependability when selecting your ensemble personnel. Credit will not be given for a practice time with the director unless **everyone** is there.

Middle School Solo/Ensemble Requirements

1. Concert Band personnel are strongly encouraged to participate in District Solo/Ensemble Contest. Preparation for this contest is an excellent opportunity for small ensemble and solo performance, and a valuable learning experience.
2. Woodwind and Brass players may enter up to two total events. (one solo/one ensemble, or two ensembles.) Percussionists may enter up to two total events. (two solos on different instruments, one solo and one ensemble, or two ensembles.) Any participation over these limits will first need to be approved by the director.
3. Entry fees must be paid by the given deadline for that year!
4. It is the responsibility of the student to work with the director in arranging for a piano accompanist prior to Christmas vacation.
5. You will be required to meet with an assigned director/instructor a minimum of five times. At least one of those times should be before Christmas break. Failure to do so may result in withdrawal from the contest by the director. This will result in the student/students receiving a grade of F for this contest. Entry fees **cannot** be refunded after the entry deadline has passed.
6. Consider time requirements and dependability when selecting your ensemble personnel. Credit will not be given for a practice time with the director unless **everyone** is there.

Sample Entry Form

Solo Entry	Group	Ensemble Entry	Group
Student Name		Type of Ensemble	
Did you take a solo last year?		Name of Students/Instruments	
What group			
Rating received?			

Summer Marching Band and Your Obligations

Why is it important for you to attend summer band? The rehearsals scheduled for June and July serve the valuable role of acting as a springboard for band camp and the fall marching season, as well as setting the tone for the amount of success we experience with our competition show. These rehearsals were designed to give us a “leg up” on marching fundamentals heading into the drill learning process, as well as providing the group an opportunity to become comfortable playing our show music before attempting to put the music in motion on the field. Attendance at all these rehearsals by each member is paramount to our having a successful season.

Band Camp and the rehearsals in August before the start of school is when all elements of our field show will be learned and put together. Obviously, attendance is mandatory for these sessions to insure everyone stays “on the same page”. Our rehearsals in the fall will be much more productive and helpful if we have a productive, well-attended summer season.

It is the responsibility of each band and guard member to attend all scheduled rehearsals to secure his/her position in the Bomber Brigade Marching Band. If an absence is unavoidable and the student will miss the entire rehearsal, a conflict resolution form must be on file prior to the missed rehearsal for the absence to be excused. If a student must be late to a rehearsal, a conflict form marked “Late” must be on file prior to the rehearsal. In case of an emergency, a director should be notified by phone or email prior to the rehearsal or as soon as possible.

For every unexcused absence from a rehearsal, the student may be assigned to “alternate status” for the same number of performances, meaning the student may not perform if he/she has an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence from any performance may result in the permanent removal of the student from his/her field show position.

As always, students should use the conflict resolution system if an absence is unavoidable. Judgments are not often made as to the validity of an absence. Poor attendance is sure to inhibit our progress as an organization and will jeopardize the success that we are trying to achieve.

“As The Summer Goes, So Goes The Fall”

Marching Band Uniforms

The uniform for Marching Band consists of:

1. Jacket and black bib-style trousers with hanger
2. Cadet style shako hat with plume
3. Black shoes and socks, black gloves
4. Marching band t-shirt with athletic shorts to be worn at all times under the uniform.
 - a. Show shirt is to be clean for every show.
 - b. No cutting of the sleeves or sides of shirts.

Parade Uniform

The uniform for parades consists of:

1. Marching Band show shirt
2. Black athletic shorts
3. Tennis shoes

NO jeans, short-shorts, flip-flops, etc.

Uniforms are fitted during the summer practices to give ample time for alterations before the first performance. The Band Department cleans the uniforms as needed during the marching season. **It is the individual student's responsibility to make sure the uniforms are treated with care so as to preserve their appearance.** Accessory bags are for shoes and accessories, uniform bags are for uniforms (on hanger when not on body), hat boxes are for hats.

Concert Band/Jazz Band- All band members are to provide their own appropriate concert attire. Grade deductions are based on any unmet uniform requirement.

Option 1

Long Sleeve Collared Black Shirt
Black Dress Pants/ Belt
Black Tie
Black hose/calf length socks
Black Dress shoes

Option 2

Black Dress (must fall below the knees when seated;
must be $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves)
Black hose/ calf length socks
Black Dress shoes

Music/Music Folders

Music folders are distributed for each performing ensemble. All music for each ensemble is to be kept in these folders when not being used (not lying around on instruments, floor, or in lockers). Folders should be kept in instrument lockers when not being used. Each student is responsible for all the music in each folder he/she receives. A fee of \$10.00 will be assessed for any music or folder that is lost or destroyed. Folders and music are to be turned in at the end of each performance season.

Instrument Rental

Specialty instruments are available to rent through the Music Department. These instruments include oboe, piccolo, bassoon, French horn, baritone, tuba, bass clarinet, contra alto clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, and bass guitar. Other instruments such as flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone are available on a more limited basis to students with special circumstances. A rental fee of \$50.00 per

semester will be charged to all percussion students and to students using any school owned instruments. Any additional school rented instruments will be \$10.00 per semester.

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain proper care and upkeep on the instruments being rented. It should be returned in the same shape as it was issued. Any damages above the rental fee will be charged to the student's account. A rental agreement is to be filled out and signed upon receipt of the instrument.

Instrument Accessories

Valve Oil	\$4.00		Trombone Slide Cream	\$3.00
Tuning Slide Grease	\$3.00		Cork Grease	\$3.00
Oboe Reeds	\$15.00		Bassoon Reeds	\$15.00
Bb Clarinet Reeds	Rico	\$2.00	Vandoren	\$2.50
Bass Clarinet/Tenor Sax	Rico	\$3.00	Vandoren	\$4.00
Alto Sax Reeds	Rico	\$2.50	Vandoren	\$3.00
Baritone Sax Reeds	Rico	\$4.00	Vandoren	\$8.00
Mouthpiece Patch	\$2.00			

***These prices do sometimes change after the school year starts. We will notify you of any price changes from Quinlan and Fabish or Paiges Music.**

Fees

A computerized financial record keeping system (My Music Office) is in place in the band office which provides "up to the minute" information on transactions dealing with the band fundraising and student fees.

We use a "fair share" system of operating our band program. **A band department fee of \$75 HS, \$25 MS** is charged to each member based upon a yearly operating budget beyond what is supplied by the school corporation. The fee can be paid in cash or through several fundraising opportunities that are offered to the students. **We ask that all fees be paid by August 31st.** Any money raised through fundraising over and above the band department fee may be used for any other band fees such as band camp, shoes, t-shirts, etc. Please do not allow finances to prevent your student from participation. We are more than happy to assist with payment plans if you are unable to make a full payment. This does need to be communicated by August 31st to Booster Treasure- Stephenie Budd to prevent the additional late fee.

Fundraisers take place throughout the year. Students can earn a % of profit towards their band account for items sold, or completing service hours. These are meant to help offset the cost of department fees, rentals, trips, etc. It is possible to accumulate enough funds to pay upcoming years as well; however, you are still encouraged to participate in all fundraisers and events as a well to better the program together.

We feel this system, widely used by other successful band programs throughout the state, is a positive step in the direction of fair share funding. If we all involve ourselves in the fundraising projects, we won't have to worry about fees during the school year.

<u>Yearly Fees</u>	\$75.00	HS Department Fee
	\$25.00	MS Department Fee
<u>Instrument Rental</u>	\$50.00	Per semester for those renting school instruments/ percussion.
	\$10.00	Per semester for any additional school instrument.
<u>Discounts</u>	\$20.00	Siblings- each sibling will receive this discount off the department fee.

Rental fees are due in full by August 31st for the fall semester and January 31st for the spring.

Leadership

The Rensselaer Band offers many opportunities for student input and leadership. All members are encouraged to find a leadership role within our organization that fits their needs and the needs of the organization. The more actively involved the members of our organization become, the better our band will be.

Drum Majors- Drum majors are the student conductors of the Bomber Brigade Marching Band. They are chosen by audition in the spring. The audition is the culmination of a series of training sessions conducted by the director. Candidates are asked to display skills in marching, vocal command techniques, conducting, musical interpretation, and written and oral interviews. Other factors such as musicianship, attendance, and previous leadership responsibilities will be factored into the decision.

The Drum Major's responsibilities during the Summer and Fall seasons include helping instruct marching fundamentals and drill, running music sectionals, setting up yard markers and podiums, and directing the band during field show rehearsals and performances. They are to act as student liaisons to the band directors and should set a positive example for the rest of the group in terms of morale, spirit, dedication, and attendance.

Section Leaders/Caption Heads/Leadership Team-These individuals are members of each section who volunteer or are assigned to assist in the training, teaching, refining, and implementation of all facets of marching and playing. They are there to set an example for the rest of their section, and to assist those having problems. Their commitment, dedication, and attitude should be beyond reproach. These leaders will be asked to run fundamental marching drill, as well as certain music sectionals. They may also act as liaison between students and directors. They should be willing to offer suggestions for improvement and bolster the confidence of everyone around them.

A section leader should be someone that earns the respect and admiration of their peers through their positive, dedicated commitment to attaining excellence in themselves and the entire band.

Leadership is not to be taken lightly. It takes more than the directors to make the band successful. It takes students who are willing to put forth the effort, take the chance, and commit to making everyone around them better. Not everyone is cut out to be a leader, but you may never know whether you can be or not until you try. Join us in helping to mold our band into a unit who cares about what they do, cares about each other, and is constantly in "**Pursuit of Excellence!**"

Commitment

"Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, and the actions which speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none, coming through time after time, year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of, the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism."

Winners and Losers

Winners go about correcting their mistakes before others point them out. Winners always produce excellence, no matter how much effort it takes. Winners know that the team can only win when each person wins. Winners know themselves and never have to be compared to others. Winners know that more love and less need is the key to success and happiness.

Losers are interested in justifying and not correcting mistakes. Losers use excuses to bolster their sagging self-image. Losers have a general attitude of skepticism and suspicion. Losers pretend that they really don't want to win. Losers eventually lost the opportunity to love themselves and others.

Which One Are You?

Do YOU Dare To Be Great?