

Concert Band Handbook



2010-2011

**Rutherford High
School**

Mr. Jonathan M. Kinne, Director

Musicians,

On behalf of our administration and myself, I welcome you to the Rutherford High School Instrumental Music Program. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy being a part of this great organization. We aim to grow and maintain the strong music tradition here in Rutherford.

Our Instrumental music program will offer many things to the individual student: an opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility; an opportunity to meet and make new friends; an opportunity to perform as a representative of Rutherford High School; and an opportunity to discover the unique thrill of performance.

This handbook is provided to make your orientation to the Instrumental Music Department a quick and easy task. In it, you will find all you need to know to have a successful year in Band(s). I encourage you to read this handbook along with your parents/guardians so that you may better understand our policies, regulations, and expectations.

I am looking forward to working with each of you. Your talent and hard work can make this year at Rutherford High School a very exciting and rewarding one for all of us.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kinne

Jonathan M. Kinne
Director of Bands
Rutherford High School

Class Objectives

The object of this course is to engage in the process of natural music production. Student will explore contemporary styles in musical literature that are relative to the concert band idiom. This course will encompass various musical styles and genres and is designed to meet the needs of all students who are interested in participating in an instrumental music. In addition to the regularly scheduled Concert Band period, there are required lessons that meet on a rotating basis one period a week. This lesson period rotates so a student will not miss the same class more than once every three weeks.

A main objective of the class is to increase self-awareness and self-reliance. Each individual must fulfill his or her obligation to the whole, so we may become a true ensemble. These obligations are listed, but not limited to, the operating procedures in this handbook.

In addition to this class, various other instrumental ensembles such as: Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and various Chamber Ensembles are available at different times of the school year.

Classroom Conduct and Operating Procedures

We are all here because we have at least one thing in common; we enjoy creating music. How we sound as a group has a lot to do with how we work together. If you follow the class procedures listed below, the result will be an ensemble that truly makes beautiful music. 😊

1. Upon entering the room for rehearsal, make sure you have everything that you need for the period (folder, pencil, working instrument and all necessary components etc.) before you are seated.
2. Please have a sharpened pencil in your folder at all times. We will use them to mark our music; **never** mark music with pen, all marks must be erased at the end of the year.
3. With the exception of percussion and string bass, all of our sound is made by our own air; therefore, no gum, food, or candy during class. Not only do objects in the mouth affect the production of sound, but also can damage instruments and instrumentalists alike. **Please be understanding and remember to remove all gum and candy before you enter the Band Room.**
4. Please remember that proper posture is sitting or standing up tall, feet flat on the floor, instrument in rest or playing position.
5. During class sectional rehearsals the instruments not playing should always be following along in their parts so that total knowledge of the work is achieved.
6. Each student is responsible for his/her folder, music and instrument. Any negligent damage to music, folder or instrument, is the responsibility of the student to whom it was assigned.
7. It is your responsibility to always have your music in class and be seated promptly.
8. Since we will be working with each other very closely over the next year, common courtesy is a must. Please treat each other with respect and understanding.
9. Students with any problems or concerns can feel free to contact Mr. Kinne at any time to discuss them in private. Communication between all of us as an ensemble is extremely important to being successful. My door is always open to **ALL** of you.

Grading

Concert Band does require homework and written assignments as in other classes. The main form of homework is the practice log. This is a weekly assignment that records and monitors the student's progress while identifying strengths and weaknesses so the student can more efficiently

progress. Other work such as small writing assignments, are assigned randomly and will be counted in the students homework or participation grade.

Quizzes will take place in lessons and students will always have sufficient advanced notice for all playing quizzes. Since all of our students are at different experience levels, individuals are graded on a personal improvement basis not necessarily musical excellence. Some work is done in class by participating and being a responsible member of the group. You are not graded on how well you personally play, but on your effort and growth as a musician.

Lesson attendance is mandatory. Students will not loose credit for a missed lesson on a day of an absence. If students miss a lesson for any other reason, they are responsible for scheduling a make up lesson with me at a mutually convenient time.

An explanation of the Concert Band grading system follows:

Participation	40%
Attendance	30%
Playing Quizzes	15%
Homework	15%

Performances

Performances are an extremely important part of being in Band. We work constantly to be prepared to perform at a high level. When performing, students receive a deeper appreciation of music and a greater feeling of unity. This sense of accomplishment is what being in a music ensemble is all about! Performances are mandatory for all students in concert band.

Special Dress for concerts will be required for all band members. Gentlemen will need a long sleeve solid black shirt, slacks, necktie and dressy shoes (no Sneakers) for concerts. Ladies will need appropriate black dress, skirt or pants for concerts. Skirts/Dresses must be fingertip length and all tops must cover shoulders. All clothing is subject to approval and must meet our school dress code. Please see Mr. Kinne with any questions.

***Mandatory performances**

*Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal	TBD
*Winter Concert	Thursday, 12/9/10
Club Rutherford	Thursday, 4/07/10
*Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal	TBA
*Spring Concert	Thursday, 5/5/10
Festival Competition	TBA

Our instrumental music program offers more than just instrumental skills. Our aim is to bring out the best in the individual by maintain an outstanding musical ensemble. Through hard work and dedication we can achieve great things. Welcome to RHS Music!