

Ridge View High School Band Policy Handbook 2009-10

This handbook is provided so that the Ridge View Band Program can be as successful as possible. These regulations are implemented because we believe that discipline is the cornerstone of a successful program. This handbook is a supplement to all policies set by Richland School District Two and by Ridge View High School, and is in effect during all rehearsals, performances and travel.

ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals and performances depend on 100% attendance to be effective. Each member depends on all other members. ***You are important and we need you at each and every rehearsal and performance!***

For Marching Band, there will be only three excused reasons to miss a rehearsal or performance: (1) death in the family, (2) personal illness (with a parent contact), and (3) an emergency conflict that you have approved with the director in advance. **Dentist and doctor appointments should be scheduled around after school practices.** Rehearsals will begin on time! For each minute that a member is tardy, a consequence will be invoked. After school detention is not excused. If there are excessive tardies, or if a rehearsal or performance is missed in its entirety for an unexcused reason, the member will not be allowed to attend the next performance(s) at the discretion of the director. **If this occurs a second time, the member may be permanently dismissed from Marching Band with a “Withdraw Failing” grade. Excessive excused absences will not be tolerated.**

Attendance in Concert/Symphonic Band classes will follow school rules. Attendance is a part of grading. See “Grading”.

AUDITIONS

Two auditions will be held each year. The first audition will take place in the Spring to determine the appropriate band class *and approximate chair* for the following school year. Students may challenge for a higher chair in the Fall. The second audition will be held in November. It will be based on the South Carolina All State Band auditions,

and will be done by professionals within the community. Students will be given the opportunity to challenge for higher chairs. The decision of the director is final.

AWARDS

Awards given to band students at the Spring Awards Banquet include the Most Outstanding Color Guard Member, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior and the John Philip Sousa Award. Directors select recipients after student input and careful consideration of musicianship, leadership, attitude and participation. Total Merit Points (see below) carry much weight.

AWARD LETTERS

Ridge View Band members who have shown the utmost dedication will have an opportunity to earn an Award Letter in Band. There will be two different sets of criteria - one for winds and percussion and one for flag members.

For wind and percussion members to qualify for an Award Letter, the student must:

1. maintain at least a “B” *yearly* average in band.
2. attend all performances.
3. have no unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances.
4. participate in fundraising activities.
5. meet all financial deadlines.
6. achieve a minimum of 115 merit points.

For flag members to qualify for an Award Letter, the student must:

1. maintain at least a “B” *semester* average in band.
2. attend all marching band performances.
3. have no unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances.
4. participate in all fundraising activities.
5. meet all financial deadlines.
6. achieve a minimum of 85 merit points.

Award Letters will be issued at the Spring Awards Banquet. A star to be placed on the Letter will be awarded for second (or more) year recipients.

MERIT POINT LIST

1. Marching Band member = 25
2. Winter Guard member = 15
3. Jazz Band member = 10
4. Percussion Ensemble member = 10
5. District Orchestra Member = 10
6. “A” yearly average in Band = 10

CLASS RULES

1. Only Band Members are allowed in the Band Room.
2. No food, drinks, or gum – ever.
3. Band members are not to touch any instrument or equipment that has not been assigned to him/her.
4. Band Members are to keep their instruments in good working order with the proper accessories. Students having their instruments repaired need to bring in the repair receipt in order not to receive a 0 for the daily grade.
5. Band Members are to arrive by the tardy bell and immediately begin to assemble their instrument, retrieve music, and have a seat. Students will not be allowed to go back for a note.
6. No talking during a rehearsal.
7. Band Members are to put away all equipment, music, etc. in the proper place after each rehearsal or performance.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Girls will be required to purchase a specific dress. Boys will be required to purchase or rent a basic black tuxedo. The purpose for Black Formal wear is to make the ensemble uniform without causing a visual distraction. Please follow these requirements:

Ladies

- You will order directly from the company online.

Gentlemen

- Basic black tuxedo or black suit – no tails
- Basic white formal shirt
- Basic black bow tie – not the cross type
- Black studs
- Black cummerbund – not a vest
- Black socks and black dress shoes

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parents will be contacted mostly by email. If you do not receive the weekly “Ridge View Band News” please contact the director at once.

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Columbia, SC 29229
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ENROLLMENT

All after school rehearsals and performances are extensions of the classroom. Therefore, all Ridge View Band members (with the exception of Color Guard members) are required to be enrolled in a band class for the year.

FUNDRAISING

All band members are expected to help in fundraising their fair share. We simply cannot have the type of program we desire with district funds alone. It is important to do your fair share by taking orders and turning money in on time.

GRADING SYSTEM

Band members are graded on playing tests (both live and on “Smart Music”), written tests, daily grade average and after school rehearsals and performances. Band members must pass the fall semester in order to continue in the spring semester. Band members must make at least a “C” in order to continue the following year. Since attendance affects everyone’s success, unexcused absences will not be tolerated. One unexcused absence will cause the 9 weeks grade to be lowered by one letter grade. A second unexcused absence can result in dismissal with a “Withdraw Failing” grade. Concert Band grades are weighted as Music = 40%; Class = 30%; Performances = 30%. Marching Band grades are weighted as Music = 50%; Football Games = 20%; Contests = 30%. Students will be given time each Friday to calculate and record his/her class average and attendance. Students will update the current grade and attendance weekly in their Agenda Book. Students will be held to the Academic Integrity policy of Richland District II.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

School owned instruments are available for rental at \$25 per semester (included in Band Camp fee for Marching Band Members). This includes piccolos, oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor saxophones, baritone saxophones, french horns, euphoniums, tubas, and percussion. Instruments will be taken to a repair shop after the season. The student is responsible for all repairs.

INSURANCE

There is no insurance offered through the Band Booster Club, nor is band covered under any type of Athletic Insurance. Parents are urged to purchase the optional school insurance, which is offered at the beginning of each school year.

OFFICERS

Officers of the Ridge View Band will include Band Captain, Drum Major, Woodwind Captain, Brass Captain, Percussion Captain, Flag Captain and any other student leaders needed.

PRINCIPLES FOR BAND

1. **Attitude.** Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you choose to react to it. Approaching every situation with the proper mindset can dramatically affect the outcome.
2. **Think and Plan Ahead.** Do not wait to be told how to do things you already know how to do. Do not let life take you by surprise. Try to anticipate events and circumstances, and prepare for them in advance.
3. **Commitment.** The ability to begin a task or concept and follow through until its full completion. This often means fighting through frustration, difficult times, or momentary distractions to reach a worthwhile goal.
4. **Generosity.** Share the talents you have been given unselfishly with others. This often refers to monetary donations, but it is also just simply taking time out of your day to help another person. Who did you go out of your way for today?
5. **Integrity.** Always do the right thing in every situation – even if it isn't the easiest way. What decisions do you make when you are by yourself?
6. **Judgment.** The ability to decide what is important and what is not. Do not waste energy on situations beyond your control, but don't use this as an excuse for situations that you could positively affect with effort.
7. **Respect.** Treat others in a kind and caring way. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (The Golden Rule)
8. **Responsibility.** The ability to respond to every situation with our own choice. Evaluate yourself honestly, and always strive for improvement, pushing yourself to do your best in everything you do.
9. **Trust.** The ability to believe in and depend upon a person's character. Trust is an essential element in any meaningful relationship. With every interaction, trust is gained or lost. Make sure you build trust with as many people as possible through all human contact.
10. **Walk the Talk.** Actions speak louder than words. Don't be hypocritical. If you say that you are going to take do something, make sure it gets done. If you offer to help others, make sure you have taken your own advice.

SMART MUSIC

Each woodwind and brass student must have a home subscription of “Smart Music”. This \$30 fee is included in the Band Camp fee for Marching Band members. Students who are not in Marching Band will pay for this at the beginning of the school year. Students in the same family (brother and sister for example) only need one subscription.

TRAVEL

The Ridge View Band will travel to and from all events as a group via school or charter bus. Each band member will be assigned a specific bus to be used for the entire season. Band members will be given itineraries the week of each trip (contest) will departure time and arrival time. Parents should make arrange to have their child picked up within 30 minutes of the arrival time from a trip. After that time, the band room will close and band members will be instructed to wait at the security office on campus. Since we keep uniforms at school, each band member is required to ride the bus to and from each event. A parent must make requests for exceptions to this rule with the director in advance.

UNIFORMS

Ridge View Band uniforms will be issued during the beginning of each marching band season. The uniform will be stored at the high school and dry cleaning will take place as needed. The dry cleaning fee will be included in the Summer Camp fee.

Summer uniforms will consist of band shirt, white shorts, white socks and white tennis shoes.

Students who forget uniform parts for performances may borrow shoes for \$5. Gloves will be sold for \$3.

In marching season, jewelry will not be worn while in full uniform. Long hair must be put up in the hat in full uniform. At no time is any part of the uniform to be removed when in public (except for hat and gloves). The student will have the responsibility to repair or replace any damage to the uniform beyond normal wear and tear. Wear your uniform with pride! You represent us all - be a “Class Act”.

Approved July, 2009

Vince Clayton, director

Dr. Marty Martin, principal

This sheet must be signed by a parent/guardian and the student.

I have received the **2009-10 Ridge View High School Band Policy Handbook** regarding attendance, auditions, awards, award letters, band camps, booster club, class rules, concert attire, contact information, enrollment, fundraising, grading system, instrument rental, insurance, officers, principals for band, Smart Music, travel, and uniforms. I understand that this is a performance-based class and that any unexcused absence from a performance may result in dismissal. I understand that a passing grade must be met for the first semester in order to continue for the second semester, and at least a grade of C to continue the following year. I understand that attendance is a part of grading and that there are consequences for unexcused absences. I also have a copy of the calendar of band events.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date