

RICE JUNIOR HIGH BAND HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Rice Consolidated Independent School District Junior High School Band program. On behalf of the directors and the school administration we would like to thank you for being a member of your school band. The Rice CISD Bands is a very vital aspect of this school district and community and without you it would not be possible.

It is our sincere hope that you will find many long lasting friendships, earn the respect of those around you, and feel genuine pride in a job well done. We do not expect every person to be a virtuoso musician or performer. We do expect mature, responsible attitudes and actions combined with lots of hard work.

By being a member of the Rice Junior High Bands you will be expected to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

You are expected to:

- Report consistently and promptly to all rehearsals, classes and performances - to be in the right place at the right time in proper dress with your music, instrument and/or other required equipment, ready to put forth committed effort needed to accomplish excellence.
- Practice sufficiently to be prepared to rehearse and perform at the highest level according to your capabilities.
- Cooperate to the fullest with your band directors knowing you will be accountable for your actions and your contribution to the success of this organization.

In writing this handbook we have attempted to include important information about student responsibilities and the mechanics of running our band program. For this reason it is important for parents and students to read through this handbook and then refer to it during the school year as needed. This handbook is not intended to cover all aspects of classroom management or class rules, but is intended to be a guide in understanding the basic operations of the junior high bands.

This handbook will be edited and updated each year as needed. Please contact one of the band directors if you have any suggestions. This is your band and your handbook so we would like your input.

Band Staff

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Rice CISD Music Education Philosophy

The Rice CISD Music Education Philosophy provides the framework for all music education efforts and events within the Rice Consolidated Independent School District. Rice CISD recognizes that every known civilization has utilized music for satisfying multidimensional human needs; that music is the aural art form which satisfies the need to respond emotionally to human experiences; and that through listening, performing, creating and responding to music, aesthetic fulfillment can be achieved.

We, therefore, believe that the role of music instruction in the schools is to enhance and expand the cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of students through the integration of music in the teaching/learning process.

Furthermore, we believe that the music education curriculum has the following unique and essential responsibilities:

1. To sensitize students to the effects of sound, thereby heightening their aesthetic development.
2. To help students attain proficiency in order that they may become active participants in music.
3. To help students attain the highest level of musical understanding of which they are capable.
4. To help students attain a cosmopolitan attitude and multi-cultural perspective, employing all types of music and giving recognition to the value of all types of music.

Rice CISD will respond to these responsibilities by generating a music education program to provide an environment which promotes self-worth through the recognition and development of talents, the expansion of knowledge, the development of self-discipline and commitment, the use of creativity and the application of what is learned.

Rice CISD Bands provide excellent opportunities for students to:

1. Experience a high level of self-worth.
2. Expand their knowledge of many forms of music.
3. Expand their abilities and talents.
4. Develop self-discipline and commitment by fulfilling responsibilities, and develop creativity through rehearsal and performance.

Philosophy Of Competition And Contests

Making **music** is much more important than making first divisions. Contests should be thought of as an opportunity to demonstrate our accomplishments and quality of work. Your satisfaction at having done your best is the goal. Ratings are subjective and should be understood in that context. When we are judged, we are receiving the opinions of individuals very much like your directors. Naturally, we want their approval, but our own personal satisfaction derived from making **music** is the real goal. If your priorities are right, the ratings eventually take care of themselves.

Below is a summary of the possible ratings in any Texas region, area, or state contest.

- First Division (I) = Superior
- Second Division (II) = Excellent
- Third Division (III) = Good
- Fourth Division (IV) = Fair
- Fifth Division (V) = Poor

Band Eligibility

All students, grades 6-12, must meet the requirement for eligibility as outlined by the University Interscholastic league (UIL). Students must maintain an average of 70 or higher in each of their classes to maintain eligibility. Eligibility is determined every six weeks.

Band Calendar

The band calendar will be available and updated regularly on-line at www.ricebands.com. Students will also be given a physical copy on the first day of school. Since students are aware of this schedule from day one and it has been approved by the administration, other events outside of school such as sporting events (games, practices, etc.), family situations or social activities will not be a viable excuse to miss a required event.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined for each six weeks as follows:

- 50% = Class Participation / Citizenship
- 50% = Exams
- Performances (please read explanation below)

Description of each category:

Class participation / citizenship is based on in-class attendance, behavior, and participation. This includes attending class on time, performing in class, having proper equipment (instrument, mouthpiece, reeds, sticks, music, oil, and pencil), and following all class rules. Points are as follows:

20 points per class attended

-10 points for disrupting class (example: excessive talking)

-10 points for having food or drinks in band hall, chewing gum

-20 points for not participating

- 5 points for infractions of class rules as explained to students

Exams are based on any playing or written work. Examples of exams are:

*Scale Tests (grade based on individual ability)

*Playing Tests (grade based on individual ability)

Music Theory (written class work, written homework, or written tests)

*Scale tests and playing tests may be retaken at any time during the 6th weeks for a higher grade. These tests will be redone at a time that is convenient for the director. Exception: Any student who refuses to take a playing test will not be allowed to make up that test.

Chair placement will be decided upon by exam grades as listed above. If a student is absent on the day of a chair placement test then they will automatically move to the last chair position in their section. Students will be allowed to make up the test if it is an excused absence but cannot be placed higher in the section.

Performances – All performances are mandatory for every band student. If a student has an *unexcused* absence from a performance then the final 6th weeks grade will be dropped by 25%. All *excused* absences from a performance must be requested in writing and signed by a parent or guardian and submitted to your band director for approval. Please give as much notice as possible. Please understand that one of the primary purposes of band is to learn how to perform for the public. Therefore, it is vital that all students attend each performance. The Director of Bands will have the final decision if the absence is excused.

Make-up and Late Homework – The homework policy, as listed in the Student Handbook, will be adhered to in the event of an absence or in the event that class work is not turned in on time. *Exception:* A student will be expected to take any playing tests on the day he/she returns if that student had prior knowledge of the date of the playing test before their absence. An absence on the day of a playing test will result in loss of chair placement in their section.

The Band Rehearsal

The rehearsal, this includes during class, is where the success of any band occurs. If rehearsals are successful, the band will be successful. For this reason it is important that all involved be prepared. Your director prepares music, objectives, goals, and time schedules for reaching goals. The students are responsible for making full effort to achieve the specified goals. The following items will be provided for each rehearsal.

- Rehearsal set up. (Chairs, stands, etc.)
- Rehearsal objectives and goals.

Student responsibilities include the following:

- Effort. This is a willingness to achieve goals.
- Music Binder in good order.
- Instrument in good working order. The time to discuss a repair is immediately before class or after class. (Never as the director moves to the podium, please.) An instrument in disrepair can lower a student's grade.
- All supplies to keep instrument in working order.
 - ✓ Brass - Mouthpiece, oil (valve, rotor, slide), polishing cloth.
 - ✓ Woodwinds - 3 reeds, cork grease (except flutes), swab or tuning rod.
 - ✓ Percussion - mallets and/or sticks
- Pencil.
- **No food, drink, or gum** is allowed in the band hall at anytime without the prior approval of a band director.
- Follow all directions of the directors.

8 Golden Rules For Success In Band

1. Always conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to you, your family, your community and your school, and such that you are a positive reflection of the Rice CISD Bands.
2. Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or drugs.
3. Be loyal, honest, courteous and sportsmanlike in all dealings with your band directors and fellow band members.
4. Refrain from foul language and comments. This is a reflection on you, your family, and the Rice CISD Bands.
5. Adults are available to assist you on any trips that the band takes. They should receive your complete cooperation and respect.
6. Watch, listen and cooperate with directors, student leaders, and chaperones during band functions.
7. Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is properly cared for. Place identification tags on all school and personal items. Record serial numbers for home records and for identification. Take care that nothing is damaged, lost, or misplaced when needed.
8. Be at the right place, at the right time for all band activities with proper equipment, attire and attitude. Remember - "on time" is late!

As a representative group of your school, the Band must adhere to the latest Student Code of Conduct. We should all be familiar with the contents of the Code of Conduct since it is distributed each year to all students.

The Student Code of Conduct will be in effect at all scheduled band activities. Examples of disciplinary options, as listed in the Student Code of Conduct, will be interpreted by the Director of Bands and/or building level administrators whenever necessary.

Disrespect of any staff member, adult volunteer or fellow student will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

Students are to remain in designated areas during ALL scheduled band activities. Students that leave the designated area without school staff permission will be subject to disciplinary action.

Instruments

Students should be sure that their serial number is on file in the director's office. Any damage to personal or school instruments should be reported to directors at once so that repair arrangements can be made. The band director must send all school instruments to the repair shop. Please make sure that your name is on the outside of your instrument case at all times. Students are not to exchange instruments with other band members. Non-band members should never be allowed to handle a band instrument.

Students using school owned instruments are responsible for any repairs of the instrument, beyond normal wear and tear, while it is in their care. Students and parents will be required to sign an "Instrument Check-out Form" at the time the instrument is issued. Students are encouraged to furnish their own mouthpiece because of health and sanitary reasons.

Band Attire for Performances

The following attire is required of all students for performances. If a student does not wear the required clothing then points will be taken off the performance grade. A student may **NOT** wear jeans, shorts, t-shirts, or flip flop type shoes to concerts.

BOYS: Slacks or dress pants and a collared shirt.

GIRLS: The same as the boys or a dress of appropriate length. The skirt or dress must follow the district's dress code.

Facilities

Band Room - Band members are to keep the band room clean and neat at all times. Keep the chairs and stands in place and use the trash cans for all items to be thrown away. **Non-band members are not allowed in the band room.** Under no circumstances are students to bring food and drinks into the band room without the prior consent of the directors.

Band Office – Students are only allowed in the office if a band director is present. Students are asked to knock before entering. If the directors are in a conference, please wait patiently.

Telephone (located in band office) - The telephone may be used after a rehearsal or performance in order to obtain a ride home. The phone is not available during school hours for student use without prior permission from a director.

Lockers - These are for instruments and music only. Instruments are to be kept in their cases and the cases closed and locked while in the lockers. Locks are to remain on the lockers and locked when the instruments are present. If the lock goes missing the student will be responsible to pay for it. *No instruments are to be in the band room during weekends or holidays.*

Transportation Guidelines

All students must ride on school buses when the band travels. The only exception to this rule is as follows: The student may return with their parents or guardians provided permission is obtained in writing and approved by the band director and principal.

Trip Procedures

All school policies and rules of conduct apply on band trips. Only headphones will be allowed on bus trips, no external speakers on any kind. Students should use normal talking voice on the bus. A long list of "Do nots" could be placed here but common sense and courtesy will be the guide in determining what behavior is acceptable.

On all school trips, the drivers and chaperones must be given the same respect as directors. Failure to follow the instruction of a chaperone or driver will result in disciplinary action through the principal's office.

Band Awards

In order to be eligible for a band award you must meet the following criteria:

- A member of the band for the entire year or transferred from another school in which you were a member of their school band program. If a student transfers from another school, the student must be a member of this band for at least one semester.
- Meet UIL's eligibility requirements. This means that you could not miss a performance due to ineligibility.
- Receive an 80 or higher for each of the six weeks.
- Participate in Region Band tryouts or UIL Solo and Ensemble.

Band Booster Association

The Band Boosters have consistently supported the music groups of the instrumental music department and have rendered invaluable financial aid and parental backing to all the instrumental organizations. The success of the band program is due, in large part, to the active participation of the Band Booster Association.

Some of the objectives of the Band Parents are:

- To arouse, stimulate, and maintain an enthusiastic interest in all phases of the instrumental music department of the Rice Consolidated Independent School District.
- To cooperate with those in charge of the instrumental music department and the school administration to see that this department be brought to and kept at the highest possible degree of efficiency.
- To develop a closer relationship between parents and the school, fostering the musical interest and education of the children, and stimulating the knowledge, performance, and appreciation of finer music.
- To assist in the purchase of necessary items and other equipment not purchased through the school.
- To augment or encourage educational trips, contests, or concerts that are approved or sanctioned by the school and the University Interscholastic League (UIL).
- To aid in chaperoning on band trips.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership of the Rice Band Booster Association shall consist of the parents of the Rice CISD band students and any others that share an interest in music education.

Acknowledgment Form

Return within one week.

Rice Junior High Band

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Student's e-mail: _____ Birthday: _____

Major Instrument: _____ Years Studied: _____

Fathers Name: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Phone # _____

E-mail: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Phone # _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone# _____

What school activities are you involved in? _____

By signing below we acknowledge that we have received the Rice Junior High band handbook and that we are responsible for reading and understanding the policies and other information contained in this handbook.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____