



RIVERDALE BAND

RiverdaleBand.com * TheRiverdaleBand@gmail.com

2024-2025 Riverdale Band Handbook

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Band Membership

To be a member of the Riverdale Band, students and parents must:

- Enroll in a band class
- Complete all forms and payments by the due dates
- Agree to comply with terms of the band handbook
- Remain in good standing, academically and behaviorally, with Riverdale High School teachers and administration
- Attend all camps, rehearsals, performances, and other scheduled band functions

Materials

Class Materials – have the following items at each rehearsal:

- 3 ring binder with page protectors
- Pencil
- Instrument, in good working condition
- Habits of a Highly Effective Musician by Scott Rush (winds only. Band provided.)
- Woodwinds – reeds and reed case (1 spare reed at all times, preferably 3)
- Brass – mutes, as needed
- Percussion
 - Large practice pad (Offworld Invader or 12” Evans ReelFeel)
 - Marching snare sticks (IP-FSIJ or equivalent)
 - Concert snare sticks (IP-LD or equivalent)
 - Marimba mallets (IP-1003 or equivalent)

Marching Band Materials – have the following items at each rehearsal:

- Music (in 3-ring binder with page protectors)
- Instrument
- Coordinate sheets (secured on a lanyard)
- Appropriate shorts / athletic pants
- Low top athletic shoes (no crocs or sandals)
- Large personal water jug.

Uniform Parts – students are expected to provide the following to complete the uniform:

- Black DrillMaster Marching shoes (purchased through band)
 - Guard members will order a specialized shoe through the guard instructor.
- Long black socks
- Black band gloves (winds-only, purchased through band)
- Black athletic shorts

Forms & Financial

Individual Dues Contribution- \$700, each year of membership, broken up into four payments. Payable with cash or check (made out to **Riverdale High School Band Boosters**). Contributions are non-refundable. This contribution provides 70% of the operating budget necessary for a successful high school band:

- Bus transportation to games, contests, performances (~\$12,000/year)
- Band shirts/Uniform Care (~\$1,500/year)
- Music and equipment purchases/repair (~\$4,000-15,000/year)
- Staff for camps and sectionals (~\$15,000-20,000/year)
- Marching band show design (~\$7,000/year)
- The Band spend approx. \$1000 per student each year; \$350 per student is spent on band camp and \$350 goes towards instructional expenses (music, materials, uniform apparel, etc.). Again, this amount only covers 70% of expenses, with the rest covered by fundraising. You can find out more by attending the monthly Band Booster Parent Meetings.

Sibling Discount - \$50/student for any family with more than one student in the band.

School Instrument / Equipment / Stick Fee - \$50: For all guard, percussion, and wind players using a school instrument / equipment. This covers regular maintenance costs.

Forms available at RiverdaleBand.com

- Band Registration and Financial Info
- Medical Form, notarized (resubmit each year)
- Travel Permission & Media Release (resubmit each year)

Payment Dates

May 24 Contribution #1 (\$150)

School Instrument/Equipment/Stick Fee (\$50, if applicable)

Student Information Form

Medical Form

Travel Permission & Media Release

June 21 Contribution #2 (\$150)

July 19 Contribution #3 (200)

Aug. 16 Contribution #4 (\$200)

Fee and Form drop-off

Riverdale High School

802 Warrior Dr.

Murfreesboro, TN 37128

To drop off forms and payments during the summer, mail to Riverdale HS Band Boosters , PO Box 2337, Murfreesboro, TN, 37133-2337. You may also contact the boosters at RiverdaleBandBoosters@gmail.com or the directors at TheRiverdaleBand@gmail.com.

Expectations & Grading

Marching Band Uniform (Uniform shirt, Shorts, Shoes are provided to new members)

- Uniform Fittings will occur during band camp
- The full uniform shall include: band uniform shirt, black athletic shorts, long black socks, jacket, bibber pants, shako (hat) and plume, black gloves. Guard members will wear a uniform as detailed by the guard instructor.
- When in uniform, students are expected to:
 - Act professionally and respectfully
 - Keep uniform in pristine condition
 - Not wear jewelry or makeup
 - Not remove uniform pieces in public unless band is instructed to do so by the directors

Concert Band Uniform

- “Concert black” – includes tuxedos or tux shirt with black suit and bow tie for men, similarly formal long solid black gown or blouse/black pantsuit for women.

Bus / Travel Expectations

- Students will travel by bus for most away games and events. A select few in-county games will require students/parents to provide their own transportation. Check the calendar for call times and travel plans for all games / events. Detailed itineraries will be available online and in the band room.
- Bus assignments will be made prior to the first trip. Rutherford County Schools & Riverdale High School rules and regulations for behavior will apply on all band trips. Chaperones will supervise each bus.
- If we travel by bus, students must return by bus unless **THEIR parent/guardian** signs them out in-person. Bus sign out slips will be available on trips and must be;
 - Communicated in advance to the directors
 - And signed by the parent/guardian and the bus chaperone.

Grading

- Students will be at all scheduled rehearsals and performances in order to receive full marks for their grades.
- Student grades will be derived from attendance at all rehearsals and performances, assessments (playing and written), and daily participation.
- The grading scale will follow the system currently in use by Rutherford County Schools and Riverdale High School. Grades can be viewed anytime by visiting the school’s Skyward portal.

Required Events

The following events are required of members of the Riverdale Band. Check the calendar at RiverdaleBand.com for current dates and times for all events.

Band Camp- This camp occurs over the last two weeks of July, allowing us to properly prepare for the marching band season. We learn music for the stands and field, bring in additional band staff to teach sectionals, and learn how to march for the half-time show.

After-School Rehearsals- After camp is completed, we have weekly after-school marching rehearsals throughout the fall and dress rehearsals prior to each concert. Unless specifically communicated by the directors or RCS, rehearsals are never cancelled due to inclement weather. Students should be prepared to march in a variety of weather. In the event of rain or lightning, we will rehearse indoors.

Football Games- We play at every home game and a majority of away games. Students will meet in the band room (or designated location) at the designated call time in full uniform and will stay for the entirety of the game.

Contests- Student will perform at a limited number of competitions for assessment purposes. These are a part of our curriculum. Students and band parents also host a contest for fundraising purposes.

Concerts- Students will meet in the band room at the designated call time in “concert black.”

Schedule vacations and appointments around these events. Students must also set their work schedule around these events: Work is not an excusable reason for an absence. **Excessive or uncommunicated absences from rehearsals and/or performances will result in a student’s dismissal from the band program.**

Contact Us- Life happens (i.e. unforeseen illnesses and other emergencies): contact the band directors as soon as possible (24 hr notice preferred) if you know your student will not be able to make a rehearsal or performance.

Private Lessons

In order for our band to reach the highest levels of achievement, every member must seek to improve their individual musicianship. Private lessons provide a pathway to success in All-County, Mid-State, and All-State honor bands, and for collegiate scholarships. We are very fortunate to have a high-quality private lesson program on campus both during and after school hours. All Riverdale Band staff are vetted through a Rutherford County Schools’ background check and are leading professionals on their instrument.

All band students are highly encouraged to participate in the lessons program. We can work with our staff to find an affordable solution for all students.

To enroll, find more information, or contact our lessons staff, see a director or visit the band website.

The Riverdale Band Tradition

Our history is one of excellence and rich in tradition. In marching, the band has been a finalist at the Contest of Champions and champion of several contests from the southeast to as far north as Toronto, Canada. Performances have taken the band across the United States, from California to Texas, from New York to Chicago, and include a performance at the 1995 Sugar Bowl. Riverdale is the only Rutherford County School to have two students honored as U.S. Army All-American Band members (maximum of 2 students selected per state each year).

The Riverdale Band is not just a marching program, as our concert bands consistently receive superior ratings and have performed at several events of significance. The Riverdale Band has performed at the National Band Association Biennial Conference; the Jazz Band, at the 2009 Tennessee Music Education Association Professional Development Conference; and the saxophone ensemble, at the 2013 National Association for Music Education National Convention.

Additionally, the Riverdale Band is a consistent fixture at the TMEA State Concert Festival. These opportunities for individual growth are beneficial for students not only for their inherent value, but also for potential college scholarships, regardless of major. Former Riverdale Band students serve in a variety of capacities today; band directors, lawyers, doctors, politicians, and as touring musicians, just to name a few.

Objectives of the Riverdale Band

- To make participation in music available to all students of Riverdale High School
- To develop musical experiences to enhance students' overall educational experience as well as prepare them to be productive citizens.
- To provide a suitable background in music instruction for those students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation.
- To assist students in developing a lifelong appreciation for music and a continuation of musical activities
- To develop a performing organization that is a source of pride for the individual, the school, and the community.

Alma Mater

On a hill beside Stones River,
Always proud and bold.
Stands our cherished Alma Mater's
Flag of red and gold.
Warriors ever brave and loyal,
Making right prevail,
We will honor thee forever,
Riverdale, all hail!

O' Great Spirit of our nation,
Watching overall,
Guide us by thy light eternal,
Lest we faint and fall.
Warriors ever brave and loyal,
Making right prevail,
We will honor thee forever,
Riverdale, all hail!