

Riverwood International Charter School

Concert Band Handbook

2023-2024



RIVERWOOD BAND

Michael Karantonis – Director of Bands

Director Letter

Dear Riverwood Band Students and Parents,

I am incredibly excited to be joining the Riverwood community as the Director of Bands starting in the 2023-2024 school year. With the conclusion of Marching Band Camp and the anticipation of getting into the classroom, I am eager to get started with a great year of wonderful music making.

My focus for the Riverwood Band Program for the 2023-2024 school year is to strengthen our community within each ensemble. Music making, especially in a post-pandemic world, provides an opportunity for individuals to come together and create something truly incredible. The world is still facing challenges with recovering from what feels like a decade-long hiatus from face-to-face interaction. Through group performance and participation, band creates a space where individuals can once again come together and establish greatness as a community.

I come to Riverwood ready to continue, and in some ways begin, my career as a music educator. I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a vast amount of band programs throughout the Metro Atlanta area. Although this is only my 3rd year of teaching, I bring a vast amount of experience, ideas, and alacrity to the Riverwood community.

I look forward to an exciting school year, and especially to meeting every member of the Riverwood band community.

Mr. Michael Karantonis
Riverwood Director of Bands

Schedule

	A Day	B Day
1st Block	<i>Music Theory</i>	<i>Intermediate Band</i>
2nd Block	<i>Music Theory</i>	<i>Advanced Band</i>
3rd Block	<i>Mastery Band/IB Music</i>	<i>Planning</i>
4th Block	<i>Planning</i>	<i>Beginning Band</i>

Course Curriculum

Topic	Details
Creating	Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
Performing	Perform on instruments through a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.
Responding	Listen to, analyze, and describe music. Evaluate music and music performances.
Connecting	Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside of the arts. Understand music in relation to history and culture.

Course Objectives

In the band classroom, students will engage daily in rehearsing and performing with comprehensive musicianship.

- **Fundamental Development:** Students will focus on developing strong fundamental skills on their instruments.
- **Music Literacy:** Students will read, converse, and utilize the language of music including terminology, dictation, interpretation, and sight-reading.
- **Performance:** Students are expected to perform on stage with their ensemble.
- **Commitment:** Students in a music performance class at Riverwood make a year-long commitment to the ensemble.

Mandatory Dates

Band is a performance-based class. All the dates listed below are **REQUIRED** for all band members. Students are required to be present at all performances to receive full credit and remain in good standing in the Band.

Date	Event	Time	Location
10/5	Fall Concert	6:30pm	RICS Auditorium
12/7	Winter Cluster Concert	6:30pm	RICS Auditorium
3/6-3/8	Large Group Performance Evaluation Field Trip	TBD	Cambridge HS
5/2	Spring Concert	6:30pm	RICS Auditorium

Class Materials

Instruments

Because our program is constantly growing, we may not have enough instruments for each student to use their own school-owned instrument. If you are able, please rent your own instrument from one of the local music stores listed below. Many music stores offer rent-to-own programs for students and families who wish to keep their instruments for use after high school, or to reuse for another future band member in the family.

Supplies

Each student is required to have all the below materials for any band class at Riverwood. All materials can be purchased online or from one of the following local music stores:

- Ken Stanton Music: 6010 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022
- Sandy Springs Music: 5920 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30328
- Music & Arts: 1255 Johnson Ferry Road Suite 9, Marietta, GA 30068

Materials Per Instrument

FLUTE

- Cleaning Rod
- Silk Swab (Flute)

CLARINET

- Yamaha 4C Bb Clarinet Mouthpiece (Regular Clarinet)
- Yamaha 4C Bb Bass Clarinet Mouthpiece (Bass Clarinet)
- Vandoren #3 or 3.5 Clarinet Reeds
- Rico Reedguard IV
- Silk Swab (Clarinet)
- Cork Grease

SAXOPHONE

- Yamaha 4C Alto Saxophone Mouthpiece (Alto)
- Yamaha 4C Tenor Saxophone Mouthpiece (Tenor)
- Yamaha 5C Baritone Saxophone Mouthpiece (Bari)
- Vandoren #3 or 3.5 Saxophone Reeds

- Rico Reedguard IV
- Silk Swab (Sax)
- Neotech Sax Neck Strap
- Cork Grease

DOUBLE REEDS

- Oboe Reeds (Any medium or medium-soft strength)
- Bassoon Reeds (Any medium or medium-soft strength)
- Silk Swab (Oboe)
- Silk Swab (Bassoon)

TRUMPET

- Bach Standard Series Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Slide-eze Slide Grease

HORN

- Blue Juice Rotor Oil
- Slide-eze Slide Grease

TROMBONE

- Bach Small Shank Mouthpiece
- Slide-eze Slide Grease
- Yamaha Slide Cream
- Generic Spray Bottle for Water

BARITONE/EUPHONIUM

- Bach Small Shank Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Slide-eze Slide Grease

TUBA

- Conn Helleberg 120S Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil
- Slide-eze Slide Grease

PERCUSSION

- Vic Firth Education Pack 2 (Stick bag with mallets and sticks)
- Vic Firth Heavy Hitter Slim Pad (Practice pad)

Uniforms

For all concerts and performances, band members are required to be dressed in concert attire. Please visit the band website for links and additional details. Students have two options to choose from for their desired concert attire:

Option 1

- Black Tuxedo Jacket
- White Tuxedo Dress Shirt
- Black Tuxedo Dress Pants
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Bowtie
- Black Belt and/or Cumberbund
- Long Black Socks

Option 2

- Black Dress (Empire-style with small scoop neckline and bell sleeves)
- Black Close-toed Dress Shoes

Students are expected to purchase and maintain their own concert uniforms. Students that need to purchase a new uniform for the new school year should follow directions found below and on the band website. If students are unable to obtain their own uniform, please reach out to the director.

Fees

Concert Lab Fee

There is a mandatory concert lab fee of \$50 for every student participating in the Riverwood band program. The funding from this fee goes directly towards supporting the music education we provide at Riverwood. This includes music for the band, clinicians, charter buses to LGPE, various group registration fees for festivals or performances, and necessary maintenance accessories.

Instrument Rental Fee

Students are encouraged to bring their own instruments to band class. However, if a student needs to rent an instrument from the Band Program, students will be able to rent out an instrument outfit. Students will need to complete an instrument outfit rental form and pay the \$50 rental fee.

**Due to the limited instrument supply, students who rent their instrument through Riverwood may need to share their instrument with another student.*

Uniform Fee

Students are required to have a concert uniform for performances (please see the “Uniforms” section listed above for additional details). Students are encouraged to purchase their own uniforms. If students wish to purchase a new uniform for the upcoming school year, they can do so through the Riverwood Band and Orchestra Boosters:

- Concert Tuxedo Option: **\$110**
- Concert Dress Option: **\$80**

If students are unable to obtain their own concert attire, they may rent out a uniform through the Riverwood Band and Orchestra Boosters for a \$30 rental fee. Please email the director for further details.

Concert Ensembles

For the 2023-2024 school year, Riverwood is offering 4 different Concert Band classes for students to perform in.

Beginning Band (Beginning Band I)

The Riverwood Beginning Band is a performance group comprised of students who have never played a band instrument prior to their enrollment in the class. This beginning ensemble is for students who have no background in band and/or music and wish to learn more about performing in band.

Concert Band (Intermediate Band I – II)

The Riverwood Concert Band is a performance group comprised of students who have a basic background in band music playing (at least one year of playing) and who wish to progress their skills to an intermediate level. This includes, but is not limited to, note reading, rhythm, intonation, expression, fundamental technique, and musical literacy. Students do not need to audition to be placed in this course.

Symphonic Band (Advanced Band I – IV)

The Riverwood Symphonic Band is a performance group comprised of students who have an intermediate background in band music playing and who wish to progress their skills to an advanced level. This course will focus on advanced note reading, rhythm, intonation, expression, fundamental technique, and musical literacy. Students of this ensemble are selected through audition and/or Director approval.

Wind Symphony (Mastery Band I – IV and IB Music)

The Riverwood Wind Symphony is the highest band performance group comprised of students who have an advanced or mastery background in band music playing. This ensemble is geared towards students who are looking for a challenging band experience. This course will focus on the highest level of note reading, rhythm, intonation development, expression, fundamental technique, and musical literacy. Students of this ensemble are selected through audition and/or Director approval.

Grading Policy

Grading Categories

Student grades will be determined by using the following categories:

- **Major:** an assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills.
- **Minor:** an assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit.
- **Practice:** Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework to build pre-requisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills.

Final Exams will still be given at Riverwood. Final exams will now be considered a major grade and will no longer be its own grading category.

Grading Weights and Frequency

Grading category weights will be set using the following percentages:

- **Major:** 55%
- **Minor:** 35%
- **Practice:** 10%

Bell curves, bonus points/extra credit, and multipliers will no longer be used.

Additionally, all students will receive a minimum of 8 grades per course per 9-week grading period. The minimum grades will consist of a minimum of 2 major grades, 3 minor grades, and 3 practice grades per 9-week grading period.

Non-Academic Skills

Students will receive ratings on their non-academic skills based on individual teacher discretion. Non-academic skills will be comprised of 4 categories: self-direction, collaboration, problem solving, and work habits. Each student will receive a rating of consistently, often, somewhat, and rarely for each non-academic skill. Nonacademic skills will be reported at the 9 weeks and semester grade reporting.

Missing/Late Work

All missing work from students will be inputted as a '0' and will receive a comment of 'M' for missing in Infinite Campus. For the Fall 2023 semester, students may turn in late work until 3:30pm on Monday, December 4th at a 25% late work deduction from their earned grade for all visual and performing arts classes.

Students who have missing work due to an absence (excused or unexcused) will receive the same amount of class periods as they missed to make up the missing work (ex. if a student misses two A days they will have two A days to turn in the missing work). Any work turned in after the make-up days will result in a 25% late work deduction.

Recovery

Students are allowed to recover any major grade if they score below a 75%. Students are limited to one recovery attempt per major grade. The maximum grade that a student can receive on a recovery attempt is 75%. If a student's recovery score is higher than the original score, the recovery score will take place of the original score, and the original score will be noted in the comment section of the grade in Infinite Campus. If the student's recovery score is lower than the original score, the original score will stand in the grade book. All recovery attempts must be initiated by the student.

Band Grading Breakdown

Grade Type	Percentage	Assignments
Major	55%	Performances, Major Playing Tests
Minor	35%	Part Checks, Minor Playing Tests, Fundamental Assessments
Practice	10%	Fundamental Check, Sectional Reports, Concert Reflections

Performances

Band is a performance-based class. Members shall regard performances as the primary purpose for being in the program. Students are required to be present at all performances and rehearsals to receive full credit and remain in good standing in the Band. Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal may warrant an 'F' for that 4.5-week grading period. Students with an unexcused absence from a performance WILL NOT be allowed to make up the performance grade. Notice of predetermined absence must be given to the Director at least 24 hours in advance. 24-hour notice does not guarantee being excused; situations will be considered on an individual basis.

Excuses after the fact will not be considered unless it is an emergency. Excuses must be turned in, in writing or email, by the parent directly to the director within 7 calendar (not school) days of the missed performance. Any excuses received outside of these guidelines WILL NOT be excused and result in a '50' in the gradebook.

Students must be in full concert attire for each performance. Students who are not in full performance attire will automatically receive a '75' in the gradebook for their performance. Refer to the "Uniform" section for information on full concert attire. Students do not need to wear their concert attire for dress rehearsals.

It is imperative that students are ON TIME for each performance and dress rehearsal. Attendance will be taken at each performance call time. Students not present when attendance is being taken but are present for the concert will automatically receive an '80' in the gradebook for their performance or dress rehearsal grade.

Remember, PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY - One missed performance without excuse or reason will assure an "F" for the 4.5-week grading period and possible removal from the program at the end of the semester. We know we'll be able to count on your presence. Mandatory dates are given at the beginning of the handbook to help plan band commitments around other conflicts.

Playing Tests

Musical progress is vital to the foundation and progression of the Band Program. Playing and/or written tests are a way to measure student's musical progress. Playing and/or written tests will be given regularly by the Director throughout the semester. Students will receive guidelines on what is required for each test at least one week prior to the test date. Unless noted otherwise, students will submit playing tests via video. Students will record, upload, and submit videos of their playing at home. Students will receive guidelines on how to submit video tests. A numerical grade will be assigned after each quiz/test.

Part Checks

It is expected that students practice outside of class. Students cannot grow as a musician if they don't practice the skills they learn in class. It is also necessary for students to receive feedback on their playing prior to a formal assessment on it. To instill this expectation, students will be required to complete part checks in class. Measures for part checks will be given to the students one week prior to the part check.

Fundamental Check

Individual progress is informally assessed during every class period. Fundamental check refers to a student's participation and understanding of daily fundamental techniques and exercises for their instrument.

Communication and Appointments

Communication

It is the responsibility of the student to stay informed of everything that is happening within the band program. Various forms of communication are made available for both the students and the parents of band members. Communication is sent out regularly, stay informed!

Appointments

If students and/or parents wish to meet with the director for any reason, they will need to schedule an appointment. Appointments can be scheduled via email for any time directly after school. Appointments will need to be confirmed by the director before meeting.

Riverwood Band and Orchestra Boosters

In the Band Program, we are always looking for parents who have any jobs, skills, or interests that would enrich the program. If you feel like you can assist in any capacity, contact the director and we will put your talent and skills to use to support the program.

Parents can also help support the Orchestra Program by joining the Band and Orchestra Booster Club. The Band and Orchestra Booster Club (BOB), a non-profit 501(3)(c) corporation, supports the school's instrumental music program through service, advocacy, and financial support. Through generous parent donations and fundraising efforts, BOB is able to enhance the music experience of our students by funding clinicians and coaches for the students, transportation to events, instrument and classroom equipment, annual student awards and banquets, band and orchestra workshops and competitions, scholarships to participate in co-curricular activities, and music trips.

Handbook Agreement

Please head to the band website and complete the Handbook Agreement Form by Friday, August 19th. Completion of this form will count as a grade for students.

<https://riverwood.band>