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**Rolling Hills Middle School**

**Band Handbook**

**2025-2026**

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**Rolling Hills Middle School Band Program**

**Eagle Band** is a group dedicated to the solid beginning of a musical education. This ensemble is *largely* made up of **6th grade** students, most of whom are brand new musicians. During the first two weeks of class, students will learn how band class functions and will be able to sample instruments in order to select the right one for them. This ensemble will perform three concerts of exciting and challenging music and celebrate their accomplishments with one special event (TBD)!

**Concert Band** is a group made up of **7th and 8th grade** students who have successfully completed at least one year of Eagle Band and have committed themselves to developing their talents even further. This ensemble will present three concerts and travel to Santa Clara with the Symphonic Band to participate in the Great America Music Festival!

**Symphonic Band** is the top ensemble, and is made up of **7th and 8th grade** students who have earned a spot in the group by audition. Throughout the year this group will present four concerts, perform at the CMEA Music Festival, and travel to Santa Clara to participate in the Great America Music Festival!

**Jazz Band** is an optional group that meets after school and is available to **Symphonic** and **Concert** **Band** students. The main focus of this group is on jazz styles, improvisation, and independent playing. This ensemble will perform in two concerts this year. **Watch for information about this after-school club!**

**Solo and Ensemble Festival** is an optional event in which students in the **Symphonic Band** **only** may play a solo with piano accompaniment or work as a part of a small ensemble. This music will be performed sometime in **March** (TBD) at San Jose State. Each performance will take place in front of a judge and the students will receive scores, comments, and awards. This is always a wonderful learning experience and great fun for all who choose to participate. **(Application/Fee deadline: Friday, October 31)**

**Necessities For Rolling Hills Band**

**NOTE FOR BEGINNERS: Please DO NOT PURCHASE these things until we have chosen the correct instrument for you! This will take the first two weeks of school.**

**Instrument**

**Instrument Accessories**

**Method Book**

**Pencil**

**Music Folder**

1. **Instrument-** (rented or owned) must be kept in playing condition **(repairs by a music store professional may be necessary throughout the school year)**!

* **Contact Mr. Rawlinson** for more information if you cannot afford this expense.
* Percussionists will need a bell kit (includes **bells** and **practice pad/snare drum**) for home practice (no need to bring it to school).

2. **Instrument Accessories**- these items are **required**and can be purchased as a **kit**from the music stores or online. Some items (reeds, valve oil, etc.) will need to be replaced throughout the year.

* **Contact Mr. Rawlinson** for more information if you cannot afford this expense.
* Percussionists will need *at least* one pair of snare drum sticks and one pair of plastic bell mallets. These may be kept in a stick bag and must be brought to school every day.
* Reed players will need a constant supply of good reeds. I recommend higher quality reeds like La Voz, Vandoren, etc. Students generally start with soft to medium soft reeds (Eagle Band) and move up in strength as their embouchures develop more strength (Concert and Symphonic Bands).

3. **Method Book**- (provided by school) this book contains the songs and exercises we use on a daily basis to develop our musical knowledge and techniques.

* **Eagle Band**- *Essential Elements, Book 1 (Yellow)*
* **Concert Band**- *Essential Elements, Book 2 (Red)*
* **Symphonic Band**- *Essential Technique, Book 3 (Teal)*

4. **Pencil-** please keep one (or more) in your instrument case or music folder.

5. **Music Folder-** (provided by school)all sheet music and hand-outs will be kept in this folder and will be checked frequently as part of the grade.

**- Please make an effort to have all of the above materials in class every day!**

**- Many of these things need to be replaced throughout the year, so be ready to make a trip to the music store when necessary!**

**Daily Procedures**

**1.** You must do your best to be in your seat with all materials **(instrument, folder, pencil, and book)** ready to begin class when the bell rings. This is very important, and it means that you will have to **hurry to class!**

**2.** Large instrument cases will be kept in designated areas in the back of the room. Small instrument cases and backpacks may be kept under your chair during class.

**3.** Warm-up exercises start as soon as possible after the bell rings. **Do not play** until then.

**4.** The last couple of minutes of class will be set aside for clean-up time, during which students will gather all of their belongings (including any trash to be discarded) and place their instrument in their band locker. Students may not leave the room until dismissed by the teacher.

**Daily Guidelines**

**1.** Please bring your instrument to class every day. Failure to do so will result in a loss of Self-Monitoring points. Please **contact Mr. R** if special circumstances arise.

**2.** When the conductor is on the podium, **all talking must stop.** An ensemble rehearsal is an activity that requires participation **at all times** from **the entire class!**

**3.** When the conductor’s baton goes up, put your instrument in playing position and give them your undivided attention.

**4.** Do not leave your seat without the instructor’s permission unless it is an **emergency.**

**5.** Do not bring gum, food, candy, or drinks (other than water) into the band room.

**6.** Play **only** your instrument. Most instruments are very fragile and can be broken if handled by those who are unfamiliar with them.

**7.** Avoid doing instrument maintenance during rehearsal time. The cleaning and oiling of your instrument should be taken care of at home whenever possible.

**8.** After rehearsal, carefully return your instrument to its case and place it into its locker. Keep these lockers clean--nothing else (school books, papers, clothing, coats, etc.) is to be stored in them.

**9.** Arrive **each day** ready to make music and achieve **success**; leave each day **satisfied** and **fulfilled**!

**Concert Uniforms**

**-**Always wear solid **black** slacks, **black** socks, and **black** shoes with your uniform for our performances (**you may have to purchase these before the first concert).**

-**Eagle Band**: RHMS Band t-shirt purchased from school

-**Concert Band**: RHMS Concert Band polo shirt purchased from school

-**Symphonic Band**: RHMS Symphonic Band polo shirt purchased from school

- **Contact Mr. Rawlinson** for more information if you cannot afford this expense.

**Band Field Trips**

(Dates and Times TBD)

1. Parent chaperones are needed for each trip; please contact Mr. R to sign up.

2. Students exhibiting disruptive behavior in class may be pulled from the trip.

3. Scholarships are available for all fees associated with student participation.

4. Students pulled from the trip (see above) will not receive refunds.

**Grading Procedure**

**20%--**Weekly Practice Journal (Homework)

**30%--**Playing Tests (Assessment)

**30%--**Self-Monitoring (Assessment)

**20%--**Performance Attendance (Assessment)

-Weekly Practice Journal- designed to encourage each student to strive for personal progress and success (10 points per week)

-Playing Tests- designed to assess the progress of each student’s individual playing ability. (100 points per test, 2 tests per trimester)

-Self-Monitoring- designed to encourage each student to actively participate

in each rehearsal (5 points per day)

-Performances- designed to ensure that each student attends each performance in order to succeed as a group. (100 points)

**MISSING/LATE WORK**

Missing assignments will be given zero points and labeled as “missing” online. This

work may be turned in any time **before the end of the trimester during which it was assigned**. Late work will be given 50% credit.

**Classroom Management**

-**Disruptions** will result in the loss of Self-Monitoring points (from 1 – 5 points per day based on frequency and severity).

-**Inappropriate** behavior may result in after-school or lunch trash duty (5 minutes) or a referral to the office (parents notified).

**RHMS Band Event Schedule (2025-2026)**

**Information concerning the events without dates/times will be provided ASAP!**

Fall Concert -Wednesday, 10/29 **Symphonic Band** Only, 6-7PM, Gym

Winter Concert -Wednesday, 12/17 **All Bands**, 6-8PM, Gym

Solo/Ensemble Festival -TBD **Symphonic Band** Only (optional), TBD

Spring Concert -Wednesday, 4/8 **All Bands**, 6-8PM, Gym

Great America Music Festival -TBD **Symph. & Con. Bands** Only, TBD

CMEA District Band Festival -TBD **Symphonic Band** Only, TBD

Eagle Band Special Event -TBD **Eagle Band** Only

Notes and Floats Concert -Wednesday, 6/3 **All Bands**, 6-8PM, Gym

**VERY IMPORTANT!** Please plan to attend all of the events on the schedule! Add these very important dates to your calendar and plan to schedule around them. We need EVERY student to participate in these events in order to be successful!

**Rolling Hills Middle School**

**Band Signature Page**

**\*\*\*Please read, complete, and return by Monday, August 25th \*\*\***

**STUDENT**: I pledge to attend all scheduled events, rehearsals, and performances with all the necessary materials. I promise to treat others with kindness and respect, and I will put forth my best effort every time I play my instrument!

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**Student Name** (please print) **Student Signature**

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**PARENT/GUARDIAN**: We hereby acknowledge that we understand the rules and commitments of the RHMS Music Program. We have kept a copy of the final schedule from this handbook for reference throughout the year, and we pledge to ensure that our child is in attendance for each special event that includes them!

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**Parent/Guardian Name(s)** (please print) **Parent/Guardian Signature**

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**CONCERT and SYMPHONIC Band Only**

**Eagle Band will do this section after instruments have been chosen**

**NECESSARY MATERIALS**: Although we ask that you provide your own materials for the class, we will happily loan you anything you need for the school year. If you need the school to provide any of the necessary materials for the class, please mark the corresponding box (or boxes) below.

🞐 I will need an instrument from the school

🞐 I will need a method book from the school

🞐 I will need the following instrument accessories from the school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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