

COURSE GUIDELINES
FOR THE
RISING SUN BAND DEPARTMENT



Implemented and Board Approved in the fall of 1989
Revised in 1993 and 1999 and 2009

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Letter.....	page 3
Sixth Grade Letter.....	page 4,5
Junior High Band.....	page 6
High School Band.....	page 7
Marching Band.....	page 8,9
Flags Corps.....	page 8
Drum Major.....	page 8
Floor Show	page 8
Pep Band.....	page 10
Concert Band.....	page 10
Summer Band	page 10
Band Camp.....	page 10
Grading.....	page 11
General Band Rules.....	page 12
Practice Sheet Information.....	page 13
Medical Information Form	page 14
Field Trip Permission Form.....	page 15
Bus Rules	page 16

TO OUR PARENTS

This document has been put together with you in mind. Please take time to read through this document. Reading this will help familiarize you with how the band program operates. This document has tried to anticipate any questions you may have concerning the operation of the band department. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. It is easiest to reach me at school at 438-2626 ext. 1507.

COURSE GUIDELINES

The course offerings, band performances, and band rehearsals of the Rising Sun Bands are within the guidelines set forth in the "Music Performance Guidelines" established by the Indiana Department of Education. Rising Sun Schools are a member of the Indiana State School Music Association, Inc. and participate in many ISSMA events. ISSMA events are scheduled on Saturday with an occasional Friday evening performance on Concert Contest weekend. The High School Marching Band participates in the Mid-States Band Association consisting of schools from Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Rising Sun Bands are very happy and willing to participate in community activities. In order to facilitate a quality performance, and to ensure maximum band member participation, we request that any group wanting the band to perform at an event contact the principal or band director at least two weeks prior to the event. Four weeks prior notification will ensure better participation. A summer schedule of events is sent home with the students prior to the end of school. If you would like to request a band performance during the summer, please notify the principal or band director before May 1. Thank you for your help in these matters.

SIXTH GRADE BAND

PREREQUISITES:

Students must be going into the sixth grade in order to enroll in band. Students will sign-up for band in the spring of their fifth grade year. Students must attend the summer practices prior to the sixth grade year in order to be officially enrolled in band. We are currently using Muncie Music Center as our instrument supplier. All expenses for the band instrument (including books, valve oil, reeds, repairs, etc.) are to be paid by the band student.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students meet daily as a group. During class the students will be taught about tone production, intonation, phrasing, counting, theory, and various other aspects of becoming a musician. Students are required to practice at home one hour each week. Students will take written tests and playing tests over the material covered in class. Attendance is required at all performances. A major emphasis is also placed on behavior and attitude. Students are expected to treat others with respect and dignity AT ALL TIMES.

PERFORMANCES:

The sixth grade band will perform at the Christmas Concert, Concert Contest (usually in early April if attended), and the Spring Concert here at school in the spring. The sixth grade band may perform for various community activities if requested.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

The sixth grade band may have a maximum of two after school rehearsals.

OPTIONS:

Sixth grade band students may attend the ISSMA District Solo and Ensemble Contest in late January, early February if they are invited by the band director. There is an entry fee for this contest which is to be paid by the student.

GRADING (for grades 6,7, & 8)

Grades in sixth grade and junior high will be based on the following

- playing of the instrument
- practice time (at least 50% of the final grade)
- playing exams
- written exams
- attendance (rehearsal and performance)

Grading Scale

92 - 100 = A

82 - 91 = B

70 - 81 = C

60 - 69 = D

0 - 59 = F

Grades are figures on the twelve point scale.

Attendance at all performances is required. Missing a performance will be reflected in the student's grade. Excused absences can be made up. Unexcused absences cannot be made up and may result in failure for the grading period.

Every effort will be made to coordinate band activities with other school activities. However, outside activities will not be scheduled around and if they are attended instead of a previously scheduled band activity, the absence will be considered unexcused.

NOTE: A schedule for the entire school year is sent home the first week of school each year. A summer band schedule is sent home the first week of May each year.

JUNIOR HIGH BAND

PREQUISITES:

Students must have been in the sixth grade band or pass an audition in order to enroll in the junior high band. Audition requirements are available from the band department. Summer band schedules will be passed out the first of May each year.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students meet daily as a group. The junior high band will continue being taught about tone production, theory, and other items related to becoming a better musician. Written and playing exams will be given periodically. Home practice of one hour is required. The junior high band will audition for chairs at the end of the first semester. Student behavior will still be emphasized. Students are expected to treat others with respect and dignity at all times.

PERFORMANCES:

The junior high band will perform at the Christmas Concert, possibly a Concert Contest, and the Spring Concert. They may perform in local parades in the fall, and may perform at community events during the school year if requested. The junior high band can perform in a maximum of ten events.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

The junior high band will have very few after school rehearsals. If an after school rehearsal becomes necessary, students will be notified at least one week in advance of the rehearsal.

SUMMER BAND:

The junior high band will have summer band practices. The number of practices will vary according to the number of summer performances. The junior high band may have up to eight summer practices.

OPTIONS:

Junior high band members may elect to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest held in February. There is an entry fee that is to be paid by the student. Occasionally, junior high band members are invited to participate in the high school pep band, jazz band, or marching band. Band Director and Parent permission is needed to participate in any of these groups.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND

PREREQUISITES:

Students must have participated in the junior high band program or pass an audition in order to enroll in band. Students must also attend 70% of the summer rehearsals in order to remain in band.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students meet daily as a group. The high school band will continue to foster tone production, learn music theory, and move toward a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a musician. Occasional written exams and playing exams will be given. Home practice time will be assigned at various times during the school year. Home practice is always encouraged. Music repertoire will vary in style to give students a broad base of musical awareness and capabilities. Band members may audition for chairs toward the end of the first semester. Student behavior is of the utmost importance at this level. Students will be expected to treat others with respect and dignity - especially those from other schools and places.

PERFORMANCES:

The high school band may perform at the following events:

Marching Competitions	Concert Contest
Christmas Concert	Parades
Community Activities	Varsity Basketball Games
Commencement	Spring Concert
Memorial Day	

NOTE: A schedule for the school year is sent out the first week of school and the summer schedule is sent out the first of May each year.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

The high school band will practice as needed after school. Please see the following activity breakdown for further details of after school rehearsals.

MARCHING BAND:

The marching band season lasts from the beginning of August until the end of October. The band may work on a field show to be used for invitational competitions and for the Mid-States Championships. The marching band will practice as a group at least three times after school each week and at least once each week in sectionals. Prior to the start of competitions a few Saturday rehearsals may be scheduled. A fall marching practice and performance will be sent home the first week of school.

(See addition of rules on page 9.)

FLAG CORPS:

This unit is used to augment the marching band and marches with the band in parades, field shows, and the floor show. Any student in grades 9-12 (including band and non-band members) can audition for this unit. Those (non-band) who audition and make the corps must sign-up for flag corps for the first semester on their schedule. Flag corps members must attend all rehearsals and performances of the high school band. The number of flag corps members needed will be determined by the band director. The decision on who makes the flag corps will be determined by the band director. NOTE: Band members who drop out of band must sit out one year before they are eligible to try out for the flag corps.

FLAG CORPS EQUIPMENT:

Performance flags, poles, and uniforms will be provided by the band department. Any necessary undergarments are to be purchased by the corps member through the band department. Practice flags and shoes may need to be purchased by the corps member.

DRUM MAJOR:

Drum majors will be chosen in the spring prior to the end of school. Any band student who is at least a sophomore may audition. Uniforms will be supplied by the band. Drum majors are encouraged to attend drum major camp during the summer. The band boosters will pay 50% of the camp fee.

FLOOR SHOW:

The marching band will do a floor show for one of the home boys varsity basketball games. All members of the band will participate in the floor show. Basketball players and cheerleaders who are in the band will participate. This usually takes place at the second home game.

PEP BAND:

The pep band will perform at home boys' varsity basketball games. All students who are not cheerleaders or on the basketball team must play in the pep band. Cheerleaders and ballplayers may play in the pep band if they are permitted to do so by their coach or cheerleading sponsor. All pep band members will receive a complimentary season pass from the athletic department and are eligible to purchase sectional tickets as a season ticket holder.

CONCERT BAND:

Concert band starts shortly after the marching season ends. The concert band studies and plays a higher level of music and may attend concert contest in the spring. The concert band takes a very serious approach to the critical study of music.

SUMMER BAND:

The high school band will meet during the summer for practices and performances. A summer schedule will be sent home the first of May. Students must attend 70% of the summer practices in order to be enrolled in band in the fall.

BAND CAMP:

Band camp will be held during the summer, usually in August. Band camp will last for five days. It may or may not be held here at school. Additional staff members will be hired to help during band camp. The cost of additional staff may be offset by a fee paid by the band members. Attendance at band camp is required and is part of the 70% attendance requirement.

OPTIONS:

High school band members may elect to participate in the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble contest in late January, early February held at Sunman-Dearborn MS. If the student goes in Group 1 and receives a Division 1 rating, the student may attend the State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Indianapolis. Another option for high school students is jazz band. The jazz band rehearses after school starting sometime after Christmas Break and usually performs at various events in the spring.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

- practice time
- attendance (practice and performance)
- class participation
- written exams
- playing exams
- memorization of music (when applicable)
- knowledge of drill (when applicable)

Any absence from a practice or performance will result in a deduction from the student's grade.

Excused absences from any event can be made up as per the school attendance policy. An unexcused absence from a performance can result in failure for that grading period.

Every effort will be made to coordinate band activities with other school activities. However, outside activities will not be scheduled around and if they are attended instead of a previously scheduled band activity, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Grades in High School Band are based on deductions and credits. Points are taken away for missed scheduled practices and performances, but points are added for extra rehearsal attendance (ie., sectionals) and extra performance attendance. Points are added for: solo and ensemble, jazz band, honor bands, church performances, etc.

GRADING SCALE

92 - 100 = A

82 - 91 = B

70 - 81 = C

60 - 69 = D

0 - 59 = F

GENERAL BAND RULES

- 1) There is to be **NO** chewing gum during rehearsals or performances. **Cell phones** are to be turned **OFF** during rehearsals and are **NOT allowed** during performances.
- 2) Every student is to have their INSTRUMENT, MUSIC, and a PENCIL for each class period, rehearsal, and performance.
- 3) There is a dress code for all performances of all bands. The high school band will wear their uniforms for marching performances. **UNDERSHIRTS WITH SLEEVES** and **SHORTS** must be worn underneath the marching uniforms. Students will **change on the bus** at marching competitions. Band students are required to wear dress clothes for all concert performances. Ladies should wear dresses or skirts and gentlemen should wear dress slacks, shirts, and ties. Please, **NO** shorts, jeans, or tennis shoes. Anyone not complying with the dress code is subject to a penalty.
- 4) Attendance is a very important part of being a band member. Please be responsible and be at all performances. If you must miss a rehearsal or performance, please notify the band director.
- 5) The band travels frequently. Students **must** ride the bus **to** all performances. Students may leave from the performance with their family or another adult if a note of permission is written by the parent and is given to the band director prior to the student leaving. **NOTE: The bus driver is the authority when you are on the bus.**
- 6) Be on time for practices and performances! If you are late for the bus to a performance you will be left. If practices START LATE they will probably END LATE.
- 7) **Practice sheets** are due by the **beginning** of the **class** period on the third day of each week (normally Wednesday).
- 8) **Fundraising** is a necessary part of any successful band program. Students will be expected to participate in fundraising activities. All money raised is for the direct benefit of the students. Fundraisers will be done through the band department and the band boosters. Students will have an "account" in which some of the profit from fundraising will be kept. The more profit a student generates the more money the student will have credited to their "account." This money may be used for various band activities as determined by the director. The main purpose of the "account" is to accumulate money for the major trip which will happen every four years.
- 9) Cursing will not be allowed or tolerated. Students will not wear offensive clothing. Every student will treat every student with respect (regardless of which school they attend). Adults will also.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Practice Requirements: Starting the fall of 2009

Dear Parent and Student,

Due to the laws governing what can, and mostly cannot, be in the aisles on a school bus, and the new power teacher, I need to change the practice requirements for middle school band students.

Starting this year, practice requirements for band students will be changed to 60 minutes each week to receive an "A" for their grade. The old requirement was based on a certain number of days and minutes, but since the students are greatly discouraged from taking their instruments on the bus, I am changing the requirement to only a number of minutes per week. The students can do it all in one day, or break it up over several. Here is the breakdown for their weekly grades:

- A = 60 minutes (100%)**
- B = 49 to 59 minutes (90%)**
- C = 42 to 48 minutes (80%)**
- D = 30 to 41 minutes (68%)**
- F = 20 to 29 minutes (50%)**
- F = less than 20 minutes (20%)**
- F = nothing turned in (0%)**

Please note that grades are given each week and are NOT based on cumulative minutes.

Practice sheets are due on the first day of the week, but they will be accepted with no deduction of credit for three days. If practice sheets are not in the classroom and turned in on the third day each week, no credit will be given (a zero will be written in the grade book). Practice grades will be based on the **GRADE PERCENTAGE (NOT the number of minutes) a student earns each nine weeks. The practice grade is a band student's homework grade and will be at least 50% of the student's final grade.**

Bonus points can be earned each week by practicing more than the required time. 2 percentage points will be given for each 10 extra minutes of time for the week. A maximum of 10 percentage points may be earned each week for extra practice time (50 minutes maximum credit).

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

Student Name: _____ **D.O.B.** _____ **Weight:** _____

Parents,

We hope that this information is never needed. However, should a medical emergency arise, we would like to be prepared for it. This information will help assist the doctor or emergency team in assessing what will be the best course of action to help your child. Please fill out the form completely.

Mom's Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Dad's Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Dad's Work Phone: _____ **Mom's Work Phone:** _____

Dad's Cell Phone #: _____ **Mom's Cell Phone #:** _____

Alternate Contact: _____ **How Related?:** _____

Phone #: _____

Doctor's Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Other Medical Contact: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Insurance Carrier: _____

Please list CURRENT MEDICATIONS: _____

ALLERGIES: _____

PLEASE LIST any other medically related information you feel we should be aware of. Use the back if you need more room. THANK YOU for your help.

NOTE: This is NOT a permission to treat form.