

J.E. RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH GRADE
BAND HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Richards Middle School Band Program! 6th Grade Band is a year long beginning performance/methods class. Students will be able to properly assemble their instrument, make a characteristic tone on that instrument, and attain technical and musical (aesthetic) skills that will carry them into the 7th grade band. They will also learn proper rehearsal and performance etiquette.

Many parents have never been in a music program, and are not sure how to help their child. The most important things parents can provide are support and encouragement. Be an audience for your child – listen to them practice and make sure they hold regular Living Room Concerts. Students will need to practice at least 15 minutes every single day.

If you have any questions, please call the band office at 770-338-4798, or visit our website (<http://www.richardsband.org>).

We look forward to making music with your child!
Mrs. Jennifer Carwile and Mr. Eddie Jennings
Band Directors

2009-2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Band Cheesecake Fundraiser Kick-off: September 24 and 25. Forms due October 8 and 9, pick-up date to be announced

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 (WEDNESDAY) BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL CLINIC
4:30 - 6:00 P.M. Richards Middle School. All students stay after school. Parents will pick up their children at 6:00 P.M. Students will learn how to properly assemble and clean their instrument. Guest clinicians have been hired for this event.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 (WEDNESDAY) BAND PARENT MEETING
6:00 – 6:45 PM. Richards Middle School Old Gym. Immediately after the Beginning Instrument Clinic, students and parents are invited to a discussion about what to expect during their child's first year in band, including a discussion of the handbook and other materials.

NOVEMBER 17, 2009 (TUESDAY) AFTER-SCHOOL FULL BAND REHEARSAL
4:30 – 6:00 P.M. Richards Middle School Old Gym. All students stay after school. Parents will arrange for their children to be picked up at 6:00 P.M. Students will be rehearsing in preparation for the December concert.

DECEMBER 1, 2009 (THURSDAY) DECEMBER CONCERT – Our first performance!
7:00 P.M. Richards Middle School Old Gym. Student call time will be 6:30 P.M., concert will start promptly at 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 20, 2010 (TUESDAY) AFTER-SCHOOL FULL BAND REHEARSAL
4:30 – 6:00 P.M. Richards Middle School Old Gym. All students stay after school. Parents will arrange for their students to be picked up at 6:00 P.M. Students are rehearsing in preparation for the Spring Concert.

APRIL 29, 2010 (THURSDAY) SPRING CONCERT
6:30 P.M. Richards Middle School Old Gym. Student call time will be 6:00 P.M., concert will start promptly at 6:30 P.M.

Accelerating Academic Achievement Equitably via Continuous Improvement: A3ECI

GRADES

Grades will be figured every nine weeks, with a progress report going home with the student at the midway point. Grades are based on a point system, and each nine weeks will vary slightly, depending on the performance calendar.

Each nine weeks students will earn points in the following categories: classwork, homework, living room concerts, pass-offs, and performances. Students will be provided with a grade point checklist each nine-weeks.

Failure or Unsatisfactory grades (less than 70%) in any band class for any nine week period may jeopardize that student's membership in the RMS Band Program.

Band is an EVERY OTHER DAY CLASS. Please be organized and remember which day (A or B) to bring your instrument to school.

Large instruments, like Tubas, Euphoniums, and Trombones will be brought to the band storage room before home room. All other instruments will be kept with the student during the school day. Instruments are not allowed to stay overnight in the band storage area.

STUDENTS **MUST** HAVE A NAME TAG ON THEIR INSTRUMENT.

J.E. Richards Middle School, Gwinnett County Public Schools, or the Richards Middle School Band Program is not liable for articles left at school in school lockers, gym, music, or classroom. Students have the opportunity to take these items home. This includes personal instruments, etc. in the classroom. We will be offering storage for these items during the school day; however, we cannot accept responsibility for them. Students must plainly print their names on a label or luggage tag for all instruments and other equipment . All equipment must be put up after class in the proper place.

INDIVIDUALLY OWNED MUSIC INSTRUMENTS (Or rented from music stores)

Gwinnett County Public Schools provides some instrument storage in music facilities. Parents are advised to provide some type of insurance coverage for individually owned instruments. Homeowners or renters insurance can cover instruments for a small fee. No GCPS / RMS / RMS Band funds are available for replacement of lost or stolen instruments.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The school furnishes some large instruments to students on a check out basis. The student and parent are responsible for the care of the instrument while in their possession. The parent must pay for damage to the instrument while in their care.

6TH GRADE UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS 2009-2010

- BAND TEE - SHIRT (purchased through the Band Parents Association at the start of the school year, see last page of handbook)
- KHAKI DRESS PANTS
- CLOSED TOE SHOES
- NO JEWELRY (Including, but not limited to: watches, necklaces, earrings, nose piercings, eyebrow piercings, and rings.)

All students must be in proper uniform at all times for the performance. Students who are not in uniform may not be able to perform with the ensemble and may lose the points for the performance. If you are unable to obtain uniform items, please notify Mrs. Carwile or Mr. Jennings at least one week prior to a performance, so they have enough time to help you.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

As members of the Richards Middle School Bands, students are expected to be at all performances for their group. Please understand that EACH student is an important part of the ensemble, and absences hurt not only the individual, but the entire group.

Students not in attendance will only be excused under the following circumstances:

1. A family emergency (immediate family)
2. Personal Sickness (note from parent must accompany student the first band day back to school)
3. Prior written excuse presented to and excused by the director and/or principal.

Not having transportation is NOT an excuse for absence from a performance. If you are having difficulty arranging transportation, you need to let a band director know at least 24 hours in advance, so they may help you.

Recovery assignment for points not earned due to a missed performance: [in accordance with AKS (QCC) (6BA_E2005-23) and (QCC) (6BA_E2005-22), demonstrating responsibility to the group through attendance, punctuality, cooperation, listening, preparation and acceptable behavior, as well as performing individually, in small groups, and as a member of an ensemble] the student will, at the rehearsal following the concert, perform their music for the rest of the class as a solo. Students who miss rehearsals may be able to make up points with extra pass-offs, at the discretion of the directors.

Conflicts with School Sponsored Activities

1. A performance or game takes precedence over a rehearsal or practice. If both events are of equal importance, every attempt will be made by the student, parents, director, and coach/sponsor to have the student participate in both activities.
2. If the student is not physically able to be at both activities; the student, parents, director, and coach/sponsor will make the best decision for the student, ensemble, and team.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY.
90% of conflicts can be resolved with communication.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS

Daily rehearsals are important to the success of the band. There are some basic guidelines to follow:

1. Always have needed supplies for rehearsal. These include:

- working instrument (this includes all reeds, oils, and sticks/mallets necessary for rehearsal)
- music (notebook)
- PENCIL
- agenda

Students will have one “freebie” time a year where lack of instrument will not affect their grade. Any tests will need to be made up the first returning day with their instrument.

- If a student’s instrument is in the repair shop, please have a note from the parent telling which day the instrument was taken in and where it was taken. Without this note, students will have daily participation points taken away from their grade.**

2. Respectful behavior is required. Students will act as ladies and gentlemen at all times. The band thrives on students choosing to respect other students’ right to learn.

3. Be in your seat at the appointed time. Students will be counted tardy if they are not in their seat, instrument assembled, and music ready when a director is ready to begin.

4. Have your part prepared. Rehearsal is the combining of individual parts to make the whole. This means students should practice on their own, at home, daily. “Every day that you eat, you need to practice.”

5. Listen to and follow directions the first time.

6. Try your best! A positive attitude can make the biggest difference in whether or not we succeed.

Due to copyright concerns, no part of any class or rehearsal may be recorded, either audio or video without explicit written permission from a band director.

All discipline problems will be handled on an individual basis and will follow the Richards Middle School discipline plan.

Richards Middle School Band

Learning Contract and Commitment Form

- We have read and understand the material in this handbook regarding grading policies, rehearsal and concert attendance, classroom behavior expectations, materials needed, and the concert uniform.

- We understand that lack of transportation to/from a rehearsal or concert is not an excused absence.

- We understand that band class is a yearlong commitment. Students **MAY NOT** drop out due to lack of interest or instrument.

E-mails will be intended only for those to whom it is addressed and will contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. By disclosing your e-mail and signing this form you agreeing that it is acceptable to communicate such student information via e-mail.

Student's Name (Please Print Clearly)

Class Period (6A, 6B)

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date