

Rice Middle School Raven Band

Band Placement Audition Information

April 24, 2020

Dear Raven Band Students and Parents,

Despite the uncertainties of the coming weeks and how we will bring the current school year to a close, we must prepare our students for the 2020-2021 school year. Part of this process involves our band placement auditions for current 6th and 7th graders.

This year will be different than in previous years. Normally, students would audition in person for the directors during their band classes. Due to the COVID-19 sequester, this year's auditions will be submitted in a recorded format. Last week, copies of this year's audition music were uploaded to each class page on Google Classroom. Additional copies of the audition music and required scales will be included in another email very soon and will include audition information and procedures.

After all audition recordings are received and evaluated, the directors will collaborate and determine the most appropriate band placement for each student. Although the auditions are the main tool in placing students, additional factors that will affect placement include daily class preparation, overall musical progress and performance, participation in applicable band events, knowledge of music theory and related concepts, and student conduct.

There are three levels of 7th and 8th grade performing bands at Rice Middle School. All performing bands will be collaboratively taught by the band directors next year. Since no two classes are exactly alike, the level of performance and challenge in each ensemble changes from year to year. However, the following are some general descriptions of the band levels:

- The Concert Band is the standard performing ensemble at Rice Middle School. The concepts and difficulty of music taught in Concert Band are aligned with the state and district curriculum for 7th and 8th grade.
- The Symphonic Band is an advanced ensemble that performs music equivalent to advanced 8th grade standards. The Symphonic Band requires a higher level of commitment than Concert Band but is not quite as demanding as Wind Ensemble.
- The Wind Ensemble performs the most advanced literature. UIL and TMEA classify our Wind Ensemble as a varsity group for evaluations and competitions. There is a high level of commitment required of students invited to be members of the Wind Ensemble.

It is important for students to remember that band placement is not a “win-lose” situation. All bands at Rice Middle School are of high quality and are very successful. Band placements group students into ensembles to challenge them appropriately without overwhelming them. A student overwhelmed by the difficulty of the music will become frustrated and will develop a negative attitude. Likewise, a student who is not sufficiently challenged will usually slow in his or her musical development. For this reason, there is not a set instrumentation for each band. Proper instrumental balance will be maintained in each band to create a quality musical experience for the entire ensemble while simultaneously meeting the needs of individual students.

Students can become much more anxious about the audition process than they should. If your child does his or her best, all will be fine. The audition material will be easier for some students and more difficult for others. Unlike a playing test, in which we aspire for mastery from every student, the purpose of an audition is to group students according to their developmental level. **We expect students to make mistakes in placement auditions.** The number and types of mistakes allow us to more fairly and accurately evaluate and place each student in the correct ensemble. Please have your child visit with his or her director if he or she is experiencing an undue amount of anxiety related to the upcoming auditions.

We are hoping to announce placements prior to the last day of school, but that may not be possible under the current circumstances. We will provide more specific information when we have a better idea of our situation in May. Once announced, some students will be pleased with their placements, while others may be disappointed. **We encourage parents to guide your children in dealing appropriately with either response.**

The directors will not change any placement as a result of parental pressure. We are happy to visit with students at an appropriate time to offer suggestions for continued growth and improvement. Band placements cannot be appealed.

More details about the audition process itself will be provided very soon. Once you receive this information, please contact me if you have any unanswered questions regarding the audition and band placement process. I look forward to continuing as a partner in your child's musical growth and development next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Tucker', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jason Tucker
Director of Bands
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jason.tucker@pisd.edu

2020-2021 Rice Middle School Raven Band

Flute Audition Packet

All Rice Raven Band students will submit video recorded audition selections this year. The submission deadline will be **Saturday, May 9th, at 11:59 PM**. Please read the Audition Information letter carefully and thoroughly. You are also highly encouraged to watch the Audition Information videos from Mr. Tucker.

Students will have the option to audition at one of three levels, depending on individual aspirations for band placement. The requirements for each audition level are as follows:

If you aspire to be in **Concert Band** for 2020-2021, you will submit:

- Three Level One or Level Two Scales of your choice (see the next page)
- The **Level One Chromatic Scale**
- The **First Line Only (measures 1-8) of the Audition Music**

If you aspire to be in **Symphonic Band** for 2020-2021, you will submit:

- Three scales of your choice, at least Two of which must be Level Two Scales (see the next page). All three may be Level Two if you wish.
- The **Level One or Level Two Chromatic Scale**
- The **First Three Lines (omit measure 8) of the Audition Music**

If you aspire to be in **Wind Ensemble** for 2020-2021, you will submit:

- Three Level Two Scales of your choice (see the next page)
- The **Level Two Chromatic Scale**
- At least the **First Three Lines (omit measure 8) of the Audition Music**
- ***Preferred***—All Five Lines (omit measure 8) of the Audition Music

Aspiring to be in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble does not guarantee placement in these bands. However, students will not be placed in an advanced ensemble for which they do not audition. In other words:

- A student aspiring for Concert Band will be placed in the Concert Band.
- A student aspiring for Symphonic Band will be placed in the Concert Band or Symphonic Band.
- A student aspiring for Wind Ensemble will be placed in the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, or Wind Ensemble.

You are encouraged to record as many times as you like, but you will only submit your best recordings for audition consideration. It is recommended that you record daily and keep the better recordings of each scale and the audition music, deleting the lesser recording. This way, you are always keeping your best work for submission.

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You may select any tempo of your choice for your scales and your audition music. Though directors will consider your chosen tempo and scale difficulty, performance quality will always be most heavily considered. Remember, auditions are intended to make sure students are challenged, but not overwhelmed. **Perfection is not expected.** We want to hear your best effort for your current level of development. Do your best, but do not get overly stressed.

Audition Procedure

Please follow this procedure once you are satisfied with your submissions and ready to submit your recordings. You will only be able to do this once.

1. Go to your Google Classroom page for band.
2. Open the assignment for Auditions
3. Open the Google Form for Questionnaire
4. Have your parent or legal guardian complete the first section.
5. You will complete the rest of the form and upload your recordings.

Auditions must be submitted Saturday, May 9th, at 11:59 PM. Plan ahead. **Band placements will be posted to Google Classroom by May 22nd if possible.** If not, we will post them as soon as we can.

Flute Scale Selections

Level One Scales

C Scale-One Octave
Bb Scale-One Octave
Ab Scale-One Octave
G Scale-One Octave
F Scale-One Octave
Eb Scale-One Octave
D Scale-One Octave
Db Scale-One Octave
Chromatic Scale-One Octave F-F

Level Two Scales

C Scale-Three Octaves
Bb Scale-Two Octaves
Ab Scale-Two Octaves
G Scale-Two Octaves
F Scale-Two Octaves
Eb Scale-Two Octaves
D Scale-Two Octaves
Db Scale-Two Octaves (Three Preferred)
Chromatic Scale-Three Octaves C-C

Rice Middle School Raven Band

2020-2021 Audition Music

Andante ♩ = 72

Skip This Measure if Aspiring for Wind Ensemble and/or Symphonic Band

Continue if Aspiring for Wind Ensemble

Moderato (♩ = 100 - 108)

ff *rit.*

f *mp* *ff* *rall.* *fp* *ff*