

Rice Middle School Raven Band

Jason Tucker, Amber Moore, and Josh Reyna, Directors

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Dear Beginning Band Parents,

I hope you are enjoying a very relaxing summer vacation and that your child is looking forward to middle school and being a part of the Award-Winning Rice Raven Band! As you can probably tell from the back-to-school advertisements, we are already beginning to make preparations for the upcoming school year, so I am writing this letter to just remind you of a few things and provide some updates before we get started in a few weeks.

As with other classes, we have some forms and procedural items to which we must attend at the beginning of the year. To streamline that process, I have created digital forms that can be completed at any time through our band website. I highly encourage you to complete the registration process as soon as possible so that we can start the year with the fewest possible administrative tasks to complete. To complete your child's registration for band, simply go to www.ricemsband.com and follow the instructions.

I highly encourage you to obtain your child's supplies for band right away if you have not already done so. Supply packets are posted on our band website under the "New Students" tab. You can also find a listing of local music stores in the "Local Music Stores" section. You also may want to look at the online calendar so that you can plan ahead for our exciting events this coming year. You can click on an event for more detailed information.

Beginning oboe and bassoon students, please remember that we have a special "mini-camp" for you on the evenings of August 6th through August 9th, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in the music area. You will need to bring your instrument and materials and enter the building through the music area doors near the tennis courts. Oboes will be in Room 603. Bassoons will be in Room 610. Please let Mr. Tucker know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend.

Please do not bring your instrument or other band materials to school on the first day. You will only need a pencil and highlighter. We will assign instrument storage lockers and go over other important information on the first day of school. We will let you know when to start bringing your instruments and supplies to school.

We will once again be ordering some of the standard supplies (binder, dividers, mirror, pencil pouch, and case tag) in bulk this year if you would like to purchase them from the band. When you begin the online registration process, you will find an order form listing these supplies with two package options, depending on the instrument you play. There will also be an opportunity to order individual items if needed. If you would like to order one of these packages, please have your child bring the order form and payment to school during the first week of classes. Although every student will need these materials, there is no obligation to purchase these from the band. We offer this as a convenience only.

All band students will need to have a Rice Band polo shirt to wear at our performances and other events during the school year. The design of the polo shirt is the same each year, so I recommend ordering a little big on the large side to allow for growth in the future. We also offer an optional “fun t-shirt” to students and parents. This shirt is colorful with a different design each year, and it is a very popular option for our students each year. Both shirts are included on the order form with the supplies.

Our senior high and high school bands start off each year with a free outdoor concert featuring traditional football game favorites and a preview of their marching show for the season. Once again, we are going to start the year off with a fantastic family concert performance by the Plano West Wolves Band, joined by the Shepton Stallion and Jasper Jaguar Bands at the annual Plano West Senior High “Starlight Concert.” This year’s concert will be on **Friday, August 10th, at 7:00 PM** at **Plano West Senior High School**. Please note that this is the Friday *before* school starts. Be sure to bring lawn chairs or a blanket, as these are outdoor performances. In addition, one of the curricular requirements of our band program is to attend and evaluate one concert each semester. The Starlight Concert is a great way to satisfy this requirement early in the semester! Concert evaluation forms are located on our website, or you can pick one up in the Band Hall the first week of school.

I know that the transition to middle school can be very stressful, and adding a very new and different class like band can sometimes add to that. Don’t hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns you might have about getting started in band.

Again, I hope you have been having a wonderful summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Sincerely,

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