

Rice Middle School Raven Band

Jason Tucker, Amber Moore, and Josh Reyna, Directors

July 23, 2018

Dear Raven Band Members,

I hope you have been having a terrific and restful summer vacation. As hard as it may be to believe, it is almost time to head back to school for another fantastic year. Hopefully, you have been able to look over the music we gave you before you left. If you misplaced your copy, you can still download it from our website at www.ricemsband.com. Don't worry if your chops are a little rusty. We all have to get back into shape a little after summer vacation!

It has been a very eventful summer for us. Mr. Reyna flew to Seattle, Washington, and then drove back to Dallas with stops in Idaho, Utah, and Colorado along the way. Mrs. Moore had two very successful weeks of band camp at Stephen F. Austin State University followed by a driving tour through California with her family. I enjoyed teaching the Plano ISD and Stephen F. Austin State University Band Camps again this year, then spent a good part of the summer helping my oldest daughter get ready to start college this fall. Even with a shorter summer than usual, we enjoyed our time recharging and are looking forward to an outstanding school year ahead!

I am pleased to introduce Mrs. Jennifer Dabbs as our director intern for the fall semester. Many of you may remember Mrs. Dabbs visiting and observing our classes on several occasions. Mrs. Dabbs earned her Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance from Arizona State University and is completing her teaching certification program through the University of Texas at Arlington. Mrs. Dabbs will begin the semester at Wyatt Elementary and will join us in October to finish the fall semester. Please be sure to welcome her to our band staff!

I am pleased to announce that our Full Orchestra advanced once again to the TMEA Honor Full Orchestra state finals! The final round of the competition will be held in San Antonio on July 26th. I will post our final placement on our website (www.ricemsband.com) following the announcement of results.

As you look at the calendar, please remember that schedule pick-up will be on August 1st this year. Sometimes, the computer scheduler will mix up a few students' band placements. This is a common occurrence and nothing about which to be alarmed. We will make sure everyone is scheduled correctly. However, if you still have any questions about your schedule, please take a moment to email me.

Once again, we are going to start the year off with a fantastic family concert performance by the Plano West Band, joined by the Shepton and Jasper 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. You may wish to bring lawn chairs or a blanket, as this is an outdoor performance. The concert is free and **can be used as your fall semester concert evaluation if you attend**. Concert evaluation forms are located on our band website, or you can pick one up in the Band Hall the first week of school.

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.

Before school begins, please have all of the materials needed for class. These were included in the letter you received before summer break, and I am listing them below for your convenience:

- Black 1½" 3-ring binder. This will be a concert binder, so it needs to be solid black when facing the audience.
- All students will need 8 tabbed dividers for their binder. We will label these during the first week of school. **If you are reusing your binder from last year, please clean it out before this school year.**
- Personal Digital Tuner* with a Clip-On Pick-Up Microphone (excluding percussionists)
- Metronome* (with subdivision)
- Pencil and Highlighter
- All trumpets should have an aluminum straight mute. Dennis Wick is preferred, Tom Crown is an alternate.
- Wind Ensemble trombones should have an aluminum straight mute. Tom Crown is preferred, Dennis Wick is an alternate (opposite of trumpet above).
- Students will need a marching band style "flip folder" for use at pep rallies and football games. We will be placing a bulk order of flip folders this year if you prefer to order one from the band.
- Clarinets, saxophones, horns, trumpets, trombones, and euphoniums may wish to get a lyre to hold your flip folders. There are many types of instrument lyres, so be sure to take your instrument with you to the store when you get a lyre to make sure it will fit your instrument. Other instruments will need to bring your folding music stands to these games.
- Percussionists have slightly different needs that were included in the information you received before the summer. Go to our website if you need another copy of this information.

*The Korg TM-50 or TM-60 Tuner/Metronome Combo is highly recommended for all woodwind and brass players, since it contains both the metronome and tuner in a user-friendly package. Either the Korg or Peterson Pick-Ups will be fine.

Bring your instrument on the SECOND day of school! You will only need to bring a pencil with you on the first day of school. We will begin regular rehearsals on the second day of school.

Again, I hope you have been having a wonderful summer vacation. I look forward to seeing everyone again on August 13th. Please send me an email or call my voice mail number below if you have any questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Jason Tucker
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