

Rice Raven Symphonic Band

May 24, 2022

Dear Rice Raven Band Parent,

We would like to welcome your child to the Rice Symphonic Band for the 2022-2023 school year! This invitation is based on your child's performance ability as demonstrated in a live audition as well as a summary evaluation of his/her contributions to the band during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Symphonic Band performs literature of a difficulty generally associated with the varsity band in most middle schools. Although the focus of the curriculum is musical growth and artistic expression, the Symphonic Band is also a highly successful competitive organization in local individual and ensemble contests each year. This is a testament to the diligence and hard work of both the directors and students in the band.

Students who will be new to the Symphonic Band must realize that their selection to this band is not the end of a process, but rather the beginning. Many months of hard work and great musical rewards lie ahead. With quality instruction and hard work, they will be amazed at the potential they can realize.

Students who are returning to the Symphonic Band are not going to be repeating the same experience they had as seventh graders. Rather, they must now assume their crucial role as leaders in the band. Their experience will be invaluable to the incoming members of the band.

Attached you will find a listing of materials that will be required for the 2022-2023 school year. An updated calendar will be provided at the beginning of the school year with all available event information. In the meantime, we will try to keep our website calendar updated with as many dates as possible over the summer. However, please note the following tentative special events for Symphonic Band members next year:

- Saturday, November 12th—All-Region Band Phase 1 Auditions at Willow Springs MS
- Monday, November 14th—All-Region Band Phase 2 Auditions at Willow Springs MS
- Friday & Saturday, November 9th and 10th—All-Region Clinic/Concert at Melissa HS
- Thursday, March 23rd—Probable UIL Performance at Plano West Senior High

As was previously mentioned, there are a number of responsibilities that accompany membership in the Symphonic Band. Students in the Symphonic Band are expected to fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Attend all scheduled curricular and extracurricular band functions, unless prohibited by excusable circumstances (illness, death in family, etc.) or participation in an overriding school function cleared in advance by Ms. Hixson.
- Promptly attend all section rehearsals and scheduled clinics throughout the year
- Maintain academic eligibility throughout the year
- Prepare all assigned music
- Complete all assignments completely and on time
- Represent the band program positively through peer interactions and encourage members of other bands.

Because of the importance of the individual in the level of literature performed in the Symphonic Band, it is crucial that every student in the organization accept his or her commitment and responsibilities as a member of this band. ***Consequently, any student who is unable or unwilling to fulfill the requirements of Symphonic Band will need to let Ms. Hixson know prior to the summer break.***

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If you are interested in something very fun and band-related over the summer, we highly recommend you attend a summer band camp or check out a performance by members of Drum Corps International. Words cannot describe the music and pageantry of these “extreme marching band” groups that tour and compete across the United States each year. Two of their regional performances are here in the DFW area:

- DCI Denton is on July 21st in Denton
- DCI McKinney is on July 26th in McKinney

For ticket information, please log on to www.dci.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email. I certainly look forward to having the opportunity to work with your child in Symphonic Band next year!

Sincerely,

Annalee Hixson
Associate Director of Bands
(469) 752-6133
annalee.hixson@pisd.edu

Symphonic Band Summer Preparation

Students should work on the following things over the summer:

- Private lesson materials. If you are not taking private lessons, I strongly encourage you to begin. Our list of approved private instructors is listed on our website for your convenience.
- Scales (and rudiments for percussion).
- Summer Band Music. We will give you a copy of this, and you can also download this music on our website: www.ricemsband.com
- Get some fun stuff! Maybe pick up a solo or a book of tunes that you could enjoy working on. Most local music stores have an excellent selection.

Approved Private Instructors for Rice Middle School

Students are highly encouraged to continue private lessons over the summer. Please refer to our website for our most current listing of approved private lesson teachers.

CHARMS Information

If you have not done so recently, please be sure to log onto the CHARMS website and update your child's information. This will be an important method of communicating information with you regarding your child and band.

www.charmsoffice.com

School Code: ricemsband

Required Materials for Symphonic Band

All students in the Symphonic Band will need to have the following items prior to the first day of school:

- All students will need a heavy-duty black 1½" 3-ring binder with a Clear Cover. 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.
- Marching Band Flip-Folder** (May be purchased through the band)
- Marching Band Lyre or Folding Music Stand** (depends on instrument)
- Personal Digital Tuner* with Clip-On Pick-Up Microphone. (excluding percussionists)
- Metronome* (with subdivision)
- 4 Pencils
- 4 different colored Highlighters
- Trumpets may want to get an aluminum straight mute (Dennis Wick is preferred, Tom Crown is an alternate)
 - Trombones only if desired-Tom Crown is preferred, Dennis Wick is an alternate

*The Korg TM-50 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. Please put your name on your tuner. They all look identical.

**New for the 2022-2023 School Year

Approved Step-Up Instruments

Many Symphonic Band students find that their beginning-level instruments no longer meet their needs as advancing musicians. The following instruments are approved for use in the PWSH cluster and will last your child beyond high school. Please visit with Mr. Tucker before substituting any listed instrument, as there are many special considerations unique to step-up instruments.

Flute

- Miyazawa 102 series or above
- Yamaha YFL-577H
- Visit Carolyn Nussbaum's shop for additional options.

Clarinet

- Yamaha YCL-CSVR with Vandoren M-15 mouthpiece and Vandoren M/O inverted ligature.
- Buffet R-13 with Vandoren M-15 mouthpiece and Vandoren M/O inverted ligature.

Alto Saxophone

- Yamaha YAS-875EX Custom with Vandoren AL3 mouthpiece and Vandoren M/O ligature.
- Selmer Super Action 80 with Vandoren AL3 mouthpiece and Vandoren M/O ligature.

Trumpet

- Bach Stradavarius 180-37 with Bach 5C mouthpiece
- Yamaha YTR-8335S Xeno with Bach 5C mouthpiece
- Bach Artisan AB190S with Bach 5C mouthpiece

Trombone

- Bach Stradavarius 42B0, 42T, or 42A with Bach 5G mouthpiece
- Conn 88HO with Bach 5G mouthpiece
- Yamaha YSL-8820 with Bach 5G mouthpiece
- Bach Artisan A47I with Bach 5G mouthpiece

Euphonium

- We recommend you upgrade your mouthpiece to a Schilke 51D if you do not own one.
- Contact Mr. Tucker if you are interested in purchasing your own instrument.

Tuba

- We recommend you upgrade your mouthpiece to a Perantucci PT-36 if you do not own one.
- Contact Mr. Tucker if you are interested in purchasing your own instrument.

Percussion

- See the separate percussion sheet

Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn

- Contact Mr. Tucker if you are interested in purchasing your own instrument.

Remember, always contact Mr. Tucker before purchasing a step-up instrument!