



**Kingsport  
City Schools™**  
*Inspire. Cultivate. Impact.*



**ROSS N. ROBINSON  
MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

**2022-2023**

**RNR BAND  
HANDBOOK**

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RNR Band Parents and Students:

Welcome to one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of your life! The mission of the award-winning Robinson Middle School Band is to *influence the development of talented, respectful, and conscientious students through intensive musical study and performance*. We are planning to complete this mission in one of our best years ever!

Last year was a true return to form for the RNR Band. We performed at both football and basketball games. All our students participated in Solo & Ensemble Festival. We placed more students than any other school at Jr. Clinic. The Concert Band received superior ratings at Concert Festival. And, both the Beginning Band and Concert Band received superior ratings at the Dollywood Music in the Parks. What a fantastic year!

We are poised to continue our upward trajectory this year with our city, administrative, and parental support unmatched in this state. Only with this kind of assistance can our dedicated and musically gifted students continue to be seen as one of the most successful middle school bands in our area, and continue to bolster and feed the nationally renowned Dobyys-Bennett High School Band for years to come.

The most immediate and direct improvement our administration has afforded us this year is the addition of Mr. Cory Sequin as our official assistant band director! Mr. Sequin worked with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays last year with temporary COVID funding and became an essential part of our program. He will now be with us every day and direct our Concert Band during MTSS when the Symphonic band splits.

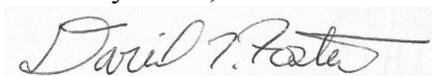
Our MTSS period practices for 7th & 8th grade band students will be returning. It was an essential time for us to prepare for performances without after school rehearsals that limit student involvement in band and sports. This year, with our numbers increasing and two directors, we will be able to split 7th & 8th Graders by ability for the first time ever! The members of each group will be determined in part by audition, giving more individualized instruction to students needing both enrichment and reinforcement

Our schedule is even more full than last year. We are adding a Veterans Day performance in November for a select group of 7th & 8th Graders. We will be the substitute group for the DB vs Science Hill football game. And we plan to take our Concert Band overnight for their Music in the Parks performance in April. See the events list on page 8 for more details.

The most important component to our success is the parent support for our individual students. Each child needs to know that you think what he does is important. Please encourage students at all levels to practice diligently and with purpose, keep their equipment in working order, and remember upcoming events and requirements. To help you do that, please use this handbook as a reference throughout the year.

Please contact me at any time with questions or to volunteer at [dfoster@k12k.com](mailto:dfoster@k12k.com). Once again, Welcome to the RNR Band. *“Only the Best!”*

Musically Yours,



Daniel J. Foster, Director of Bands

# Booster & Fee Information

The RNR Middle School Band Boosters is the organization that keeps the band running. Without parent support, the band would not be successful. Fortunately, we have one of the most amazing middle school boosters in the state. Every parent is a member, and only you can determine how active you are!

This year's Booster Board is:

Elizabeth Mai, *President*

Nicole Tarpley, *Vice President*

JoHila Roach, *Treasurer*

Laura Watts, *Secretary*

Natalie Wells, *Social Media Coordinator*

The annual dues for all band members is **\$40**. This allows us to provide materials that every student uses throughout the year regardless of instrument. These materials include items like the band t-shirt, technique book, matching binder, music stand, flip folder, etc. The band is able to get these materials wholesale and cheaper than parents. We also do all the shopping for you, so you don't need to go out and find the exact items on the list. The dues also pay for festival registrations, like Solo & Ensemble and Jr. Clinic that cost \$10 each.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible when school starts with either cash or check. They are due at the Fall Booster Meeting on Tuesday, October 5th. **All checks can be made out to the "RNR Band".**

Fees are not meant to be a limiting factor. If money becomes tight at any point, please contact Mr. Foster. No child needs to be denied a musical education because of situations that are out of his or her control.

## Required Materials

All students will be issued a black band binder at the beginning of the year. Students are required to keep all sheet music and fundamental exercises in the binder to be easily accessed in rehearsal and performance. Students will also be issued a copy of *Sound Innovations*, book 1 or 2, or a copy of *Festival Ensembles*, book 1 for 8th grade. This book is paid for by the band dues and is yours to keep.

Most importantly, all students must have a working instrument and all necessary accessories during class and at every performance. These accessories may include, but are not limited to:

- Mouthpiece & Ligature
- Reeds (Woodwind students must have at least 3 working reeds at all times)
- Neck Strap (Saxophone) or Seat Strap (Bassoon)
- Sticks and/or Mallets (Percussion)
- Cleaning Rag or Brush (All Woodwinds)

Instruments borrowed from the school must be kept in working order throughout the term of use. Please see the **Instrument Check-out Form** on page 10 for more details.

Instruments not available from the school can be rented locally or purchased from retailers. These retailers are not related to the school, so we recommend consulting a qualified professional associated with the school before purchasing. Some instruments cost more to repair than replace and may not meet the standards required for our band. Great options, including used instruments, are out there. Please let us help you find the best investment for your future musical experiences!

## Early Band

Early Band is a regular place and time for students of all grade and ability levels to practice together and learn from each other. It is a voluntary event, which can be attended as often as desired. There is no commitment or requirement, but all students are highly encouraged to participate as often as possible.

Beginners who attend Early Band often get a helpful hand from experienced players or Mr. Foster. Students from different bands can play music together. Students can pass off scales and seek help from Mr. Foster. Many students will use this time to get their 2 hours of required practice, especially those who play large instruments that they cannot take on the busses.

Early Band will be offered every school day this year. We hope to see you there!

## Grading Policies

The primary grades in band are the performances. Each performance, including Solo & Ensemble, is the formal summative assessment for that cycle's musical material, and so *it is a test grade*. Please see page 8 of this handbook, the Events Checklist in the band binder, and the online band calendar for the list of performance dates and place them on your calendars ASAP.

Performances may be excused at the discretion of Mr. Foster in the event of an unavoidable conflict, but written notification from the parent is required at least a week before the performance. If an emergency occurs the day of the performance, written notification from the parent is required within a week after the performance. Performances can then be made up with a mock Jr. Clinic audition or performance of the concert material with Mr. Foster outside of class time.

All students are also required to learn and pass-off a list of major and chromatic scales each year. These are considered *quiz grades*. Students may record their scales on their Chromebooks or SmartMusic as many times as they want and only submit their best work. Alternatively, scales may be passed-off in person with Mr. Foster. This can be done before or after school, but not during class. Scales may be passed-off at any point in the year before they are due.

The daily and weekly grades will be on the **SmartMusic** platform. Students can access SmartMusic on their Chromebooks or home computers. Consistent practice is the best way to learn, but SmartMusic assignments may be completed late for full credit by the end of the grading period. Except for scales, SmartMusic assignments will be graded on completion, not the score given by the program.

## Performance Attire

Performance attire for 6th Grade Beginning Band members is the official light-blue band t-shirt and black pants (or a skirt) with solid black shoes and socks. The light blue shirt is included in your band dues. If you lose or outgrow your shirt at any time, please notify Mr. Foster as soon as possible. Extras for students and parents may be purchased for \$10 each.

Performance Attire Continued on Next Page

You may obtain your black attire from any source, but it must follow the school's dress code policy and these guidelines:

- Pants must be solid black slacks, *not jeans*
- Socks must be crew length or longer
- Socks must be solid black above the shoe and below the pant hem
- Shoes must be solid black (including the soles), close-toed, dress or work shoes
- Skirts must be either floor-length or be paired with full-length, solid black leggings or tights
- Leggings may *not* be worn without a skirt

Pep Band performances normally take place outdoors, so the Pep Band attire is the official light-blue band t-shirt, black shorts (pants and skirts are still allowed, but not required), and athletic shoes. If the weather gets cold, black or Robinson Middle School colored jackets and hoodies may be worn.

When performing indoors, the 7th and 8th Grade Concert Band will be wearing embroidered light-blue SportTek polos instead of jackets this year. Polos are **\$20**, and are yours to keep. Extras for students and parents are available. Solid black shoes and black pants or skirts as described above will also be worn indoors.

## ETSBOA Junior Clinic

Junior Clinic is an event for individual 7th and 8th graders to compete for placement among the best middle school performers in our area. Middle school musicians from all over the upper area of East Tennessee will travel to John Sevier Middle School in January to perform the same prepared music, scales, and sight-reading exercise and then ranked. The top players on each instrument will be selected for membership in the Jr. Clinic honor bands, which will perform at the ETSU Martin Center in February.

The goal of each band is to reward hard-working and dedicated students with an enriched learning experience in a large group of their peers. The honor bands will be conducted by esteemed guest directors who hope that students will return from the event with a greater appreciation for music, their instruments, and players from schools all over the region. Additionally, we want students to learn new and useful techniques to share with their home bands.

Although attendance at the performance is not required, all 7th and 8th graders will audition. The registration fee is covered by the band dues. If you have a conflict with the audition date, please email Mr. Foster before registration in December, so we do not pay for a no-show. The grade may be made up by performing the audition for Mr. Foster at a more convenient time.

## Concert Festival

The Concert & Symphonic Bands participate in East Tennessee's annual performance evaluation in March. The performances occur during the day and the band provides transportation to and from the event. If RNR lunch is missed due to the performance time, that band will have lunch provided by the RNR Boosters. Concert Festival scheduling usually happens in February, so the specific dates and times will be announced at that time.

Concert Festival is held at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Greeneville, TN. Performances are open to the public, so feel free to come cheer us on!

# Solo & Ensemble

*Solo & Ensemble is REQUIRED for ALL STUDENTS.* This event is an opportunity for students to showcase their individual talents in solos and small groups. Every member will perform in at least one event, solo or small ensemble. Students may perform in up to 3 different events. The band pays ETSBOA \$10 per student, per event, and it will pay for the required first event for every student. Students must pay for any additional events by the date of registration to be included in the festival.

Students will receive some materials to perform from Mr. Foster, or they can find other materials from a private teacher or music store. *Everything must be approved by Mr. Foster or Mr. Sequin.* Each work needs to be of musical quality and you must have a score (all parts in one book) for the judge.

Sign-ups will be online in a Google Form. Mr. Foster will use these submissions to sign up students for the event, so *every student* needs to sign-up by the due date.

## Spring Trip

In late April or May, our students will have the privilege of traveling to a regional band competition with an accompanying trip to a nearby theme park. This competition is a way for the RNR band to get experience competing against other students in bands from across the country. It allows us to rate our skills against other groups and schools of top quality. Students look forward to this trip every year as a reward for their hard work and perseverance.

This year the Beginning Band will be traveling to Dollywood on a day-trip. They will perform in the morning and spend the rest of the day at the park. The Concert Band will be traveling out-of-state on an overnight trip. They will perform on Friday evening and spend all day in an amusement park. Further details for both trips will be discussed at the Spring Booster Meeting in January.

Because of the extra cost, these performances are NOT required, but highly encouraged. The payment schedule will be announced at the Spring Booster Meeting. Refunds cannot be given after the final payment is due, because all money at that point will be given to the performance coordinator, the charter bus company, and the theme park.

## Band Events 2022-2023

\*\*\* *All dates and times are subject to change.* Keep updated using our Remind text service and FaceBook. \*\*\*

<b>DATES</b>	<b>EVENT TITLE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>
Saturday August 13	Jump Start Day!	RNR	Beginners starting from scratch.
Thursday Sept. 8	Football Game vs. Greenville	Dobyns-Bennett High School	All 7th & 8th Grade Pep Band
Thursday Sept. 15	Football Game vs. TN Middle	Dobyns-Bennett High School	All 7th & 8th Grade Pep Band

Friday Sept. 23	8th Grade Night DB Football Game	Dobyns-Bennett High School	All 8th Graders
Tuesday Sept. 29	Fall Band Parent Association Meeting	RNR Auditorium	6th Grade Beginning Band <i>First Performance!</i>
Thursday October 13	Football Game vs. John Sevier	Dobyns-Bennett High School	All 7th & 8th Grade Pep Band
Friday October 28	HS Football Game vs. Science Hill	Science Hill High School	All 7th & 8th Grade Pep Band <i>Transportation Provided</i>
Friday Nov. 11	Veterans Day Celebration w/ Choir	RNR Auditorium	7th & 8th Grade <i>Select Band</i> Members TBD
Friday December 2	Basketball Game vs. John Sevier	Dobyns-Bennett High School	All 7th & 8th Grade Pep Band
<b>Thursday Dec. 8</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>RNR Auditorium</b>	<b>All Members</b>
Saturday January 21	Junior Clinic Auditions	John Sevier Middle	All 7th & 8th Graders <i>No Transportation Provided</i>
Thursday January 26	Spring Booster/Trip Meeting	RNR Auditorium	<b>All Parents</b> <i>No Performance</i>
Fri. - Sat. Feb. 10 - 11	Junior Clinic	ETSU <i>Johnson City</i>	For those who made the clinic after auditions.
<b>Saturday March 4</b>	<b>Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival</b>	<b>Chuckey-Doak High School</b>	<b>All Members</b> <i>No Transportation Provided</i>
Thursday March 16	Pre-Festival Concert	RNR Auditorium	7th & 8th Grade Concert Band
March 23 or 24	Concert Festival	Niswonger PAC Greeneville, TN	7th & 8th Grade Concert Band
Fri. - Sat. April 28-29	Spring Trip	TBD	All 7th & 8th Graders
<b>Thursday May 4</b>	<b>Spring Band Concert</b>	<b>RNR Auditorium</b>	<b>All Members</b>
Sat., May 6	Spring Trip	Dollywood	6th Grade Beginning Band

# Student Contract

***Please complete and return this form and dues to Mr. Foster in class or a member of the Booster Board by the First Booster Meeting on Thursday, September 29th***

***Dues are \$40 in cash or check. Make checks payable to the RNR Band.***

Student's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name,	First Name	Middle Name
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Circle One, Current Grade Level:                    **6<sup>th</sup>**                    **7<sup>th</sup>**                    **8<sup>th</sup>**

T-shirt Size:    **YS**    **YM**    **YL**    **AS**    **AM**    **AL**    **XL**    **XXL**    **XXXL**

I, the undersigned, give my child permission to travel and participate in all band trips and performances as detailed in the current Band Handbook.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all rules, policies, and procedures in the handbook, and I will fulfill the expectations to the best of my abilities.

I understand that band is a year-long commitment, and that if I am unable to meet my commitment for whatever reason, I will communicate that to Mr. Foster as soon as possible before a commitment is missed.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please complete and return the form on the Instrument Usage Form reverse if you are using a school-owned instrument and have not already done so this year.***

# Robinson Middle Band Instrument Usage Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Period of Checkout: Full Year 2022-2023

## Agreement

I acknowledge the receipt of the instrument described below. It has been issued in good playing condition. I understand that it is my responsibility to let Mr. Foster know if I discover an issue with the instrument within 48 hours of receiving it. *In the event of loss or damage, I agree to pay for the repair or replacement of the instrument.* I understand it is my responsibility to keep the instrument clean and in proper playing condition. It must also be returned clean and in proper playing condition. My signature below indicates that I agree to pay the usage fee and that I fully understand and accept this agreement.

## Description of Instrument

Instrument Kind: \_\_\_\_\_ RNR Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(sharpie on case)

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(engraved into instrument; not the barcode)

Accessories (ex. Mouthpiece, Ligature, Neck Strap):

Condition Upon Checkout:

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Returned: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument Condition Upon Return: