

# SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## BAND HANDBOOK



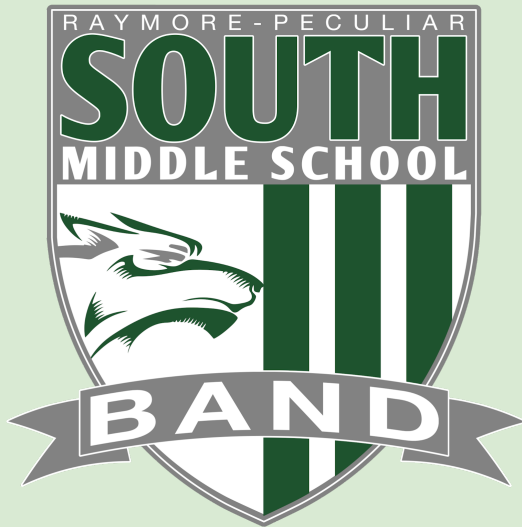
*“Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard.”*

- Kevin Durant

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# Our Mission

The Ray-Pec South Middle School band program is dedicated to helping students become lifelong musicians and productive learners. Music is an essential part of a complete education, and through band, students can develop friendships and life skills that prepare them to become strong leaders.



## Band Emblem

The SMS Band emblem is a traditional crest shape. It includes our school wolf mascot and three vertical stripes representing the three qualities every student should embody:

- ***Musicianship***
- ***Hard Work***
- ***Respect***

## Contact Information

Parents and students are always welcome to contact us with questions or concerns. Due to class schedules, we are able to respond fastest to emails.

Grade/Instrument:	Band Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6th Grade Flutes, Oboes, Bassoons, Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Baritones, and Tubas.</li> <li>● 7th Grade - All instruments (7th grade percussion is taught by both Mr. Jarrett and Mr. Houston. You can contact either of us).</li> <li>● 8th Grade - All instruments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dillon Jarrett</b> dillon.jarrett@raypec.org</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6th Grade Percussion</li> <li>● 7th Grade Percussion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Travis Houston</b> travis.houston@raypec.org</p>

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## Statement of Responsibility

By enrolling in the South Middle School band, you are making a commitment to the band as an organization, and more importantly, to yourself and the other students in band. This commitment includes accepting responsibility for the following:

- Participate as a member of the band for the full school year.
- Attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- Be prepared for class with all needed materials.
- Maintain a positive attitude and strive for high levels of musicianship, hard work, and respect.

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## Academic Eligibility

Students in 7th and 8th grade band attend music festivals separate from our regular band concerts. Students must meet the Academic Eligibility standards set by MSHSAA and the School District to participate in these events.

Student eligibility is based on the previous semester's grades. If a student failed one or more courses in the previous semester, they are ineligible to participate in music festivals occurring in the current semester. You can find details of the eligibility criteria in the school handbook found in front of student agendas.

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## Attendance Policy for Events Outside the School Day

Part of the course description in the middle school enrollment packet states the following:

*"There will be performances and rehearsals outside of the school day, which is required as part of the student's grade."*

### ***After School Band Rehearsals***

After school band rehearsals are required. Most students do not meet as a full band during the school day making additional rehearsals necessary. Students who do not participate in after school rehearsals might not be allowed to perform in the upcoming concert. Teacher discretion will be implemented in each situation.

If a student is not allowed to perform due to missing one or more after school rehearsals, they will still be required to attend and participate in a Concert Assessment during the performance. Completing the Concert Assessment will also give the student the opportunity to complete a Performance Replay at a time specified by the teacher. The Performance Replay is designed as a make up assignment to earn credit for the performance.

## ***After School Band Performances***

Band performances are required. Performances include evening concerts, music festivals, elementary school tours, and any event where the band is playing. Students with an unexcused absence from a performance will not have the opportunity to do a Performance Replay and will receive the appropriate grade. Students with an excused absence from a performance will be allowed the opportunity to do a Performance Replay as a make up assignment to earn credit for the performance.

## ***Unexcused Absences***

Examples of unexcused absences from after school rehearsals and performances include, but are not limited to: non-school related activities and sports, failure to arrange transportation (there are always parents willing to help), special family events with less than one month's notice, forgetting to attend, etc.

## ***Excused Absences***

Examples of excused absences from after school rehearsals and performances include: special family events, such as a wedding, **with at least one month's notice**, verified absence from school, and extreme family emergencies. If you aren't sure if a family event qualifies, please email the band director.

## ***Conflicts with Multiple School Activities***

Conflicts are rare between band and other activities. However, if a conflict occurs, notify the band director as soon as possible. The band director will work with the other activity sponsors to determine a solution.

## ***Concert Assessments and Performance Replays***

*Concert Assessments* are an assignment students complete during a performance in which they are not participating. The assignment includes a detailed written assessment of the performance.

*Performance Replays* are an assignment students complete if they have an excused absence from a performance or if it is required as a part of the concert assessment. The assignment may include playing and writing. The teacher will choose a time (outside of class) after the concert for students to complete the replay.

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## Behavior Expectations

Band is one of the largest organizations within the school district. Each member represents the entire group and must do their part to maintain the band's positive reputation. **Respect** is one of the three qualities strive to embody along with musicianship and hard work.

### ***Rehearsal Skills***

Students learn the fundamentals of how to perform on their instrument and create high quality music during class. Working on these skills is more than just a *class*... it is a *rehearsal*. Rehearsals are the "meat and potatoes" of band class as students begin working together to make great music.

High quality rehearsals require advanced levels of focus and attention to detail. **Students are expected to be prepared for class with their instrument in good playing condition and must have all needed supplies and music.**

Students who fail to bring their instrument to daily class rehearsals more than two times prior to a performance might not be allowed to perform. If this occurs, the student will still be required to attend and participate in the concert by completing a Concert Assessment and Performance Replay as stated in the Attendance Policy. Teacher discretion will be used in each situation.

### ***Concert Etiquette & Attire***

Students should follow all directions during concerts and performances. Students should remain calm and follow all school rules. "Horseplay" and "goofing off" are not acceptable.

Students wear their band polo with black or khaki pants and nice shoes. The polos are worn tucked in with a belt. If a family cannot provide the correct pants or shoes, they should do their best to borrow or wear the nicest clothing they have.

Students are required to attend the entire concert as part of their grade. Leaving before all groups have performed, even if your portion of the performance is finished, will negatively impact your grade.

Family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend band concerts. Please monitor all young children and do not let them run around our school and performance area.

Due to copyright restrictions, audio and video recordings are prohibited. Photographs are allowed.

## ***No Instrument or Supplies Procedures and Consequences***

Students are required to have their instrument and supplies in order to fully participate in each class of band. Each time a student is missing materials limiting their ability to participate and learn, they will be required to complete a form and have it signed by a parent/guardian and returned the following class.

No Instrument or Supplies in Band	
<small>Students must complete this form during class. The white sheet must go home to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned the following class period. The yellow sheet must be turned into the teacher at the end of this class.</small>	
Student Name _____	Today's Date: _____
Instrument & Class _____	
Parent/Guardian Signature & Date X: _____	Date: _____
☐ 1st offense (Warning)    ☐ 2nd + offense (Office Referral)    Director's Initials: _____	
Explain why you do not have your instrument in class today? _____	
Is this your first time not having your instrument/supplies in band class this year? (Circle One) YES or NO	
What Learning Targets have been covered in today's band class? _____	
<b>Student Directions:</b> In detail, write down each activity taught throughout the class.	
5 min.	_____
10 min.	_____
15 min.	_____
20 min.	_____
25 min.	_____
30 min.	_____
35 min.	_____
40 min.	_____
45 min.	_____
50 min.	_____

- First offense - Warning
- Second offense - Contact Parents
- Third offense - 6:45AM Detention
- 4th offense or more - Office Referral

## ***Travel Etiquette***

Students in band travel to music festivals and elementary schools throughout their time in middle school. Students are expected to behave appropriately at all times and represent our band program and school with a high level of integrity.

All school rules and policies apply to band events off campus.

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## **Procedures**

Procedures help keep the band organized and running smoothly.

### ***Instrument Storage***

Students may store their instrument in the band room in designated areas. **Instruments must be labeled with a name tag** that includes the students first name, last name, and school.

Students may drop off their instrument when they arrive at school before reporting to the gym. Students may pick up their instrument after the final dismissal of each day.

## ***Instrument Repair Procedures***

### **Step 1**

Students should let the band director check the instrument. Many repairs are small issues that can be fixed quickly.

### **Step 2**

If additional repair work is needed, we will recommend sending the instrument to Meyer Music. With your approval (email or verbal confirmation through the student), I will send the instrument in for repair with our Meyer Music representative. Contact information, including a phone number to reach a parent/guardian, should be included inside the case.

Meyer Music will contact you with a quote and request approval to complete the work. After the work is completed, Meyer Music will contact you again to request payment. **It is important you pay promptly so that the instrument is returned to school and your child can resume participation in class.** If you are renting through Meyer Music and have the repair plan, you will not be charged additional fees for most repairs.

## ***Music Supplies***

Students must have the required music supplies each class. If you need replacement supplies you can order through Meyer Music online and have the items delivered directly to school. You are welcome to purchase reeds, valve oil, etc. from other retailers, however, it is important to purchase the same brands to avoid low-quality supplies.

## ***School Owned Instruments***

Students using a school owned instrument (usually tubas, some baritones, and some horns, etc.) are responsible for keeping the instrument in good playing condition and must prevent damage. If it is determined a student has abused or neglected an instrument, they may be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement.

The school district requires a fee to use school owned instruments.

## ***Changing Instruments***

Changing instruments is rare and extremely challenging. In most circumstances, requests to change instruments are denied. The pace of learning a band instrument at Ray-Pec is fast. The primary problem with changing instruments is that students can no longer keep up with learning. They are essentially starting over.

In some cases, students who are advanced on their instrument might be allowed to change instruments if an opening is available. If allowed, a carefully planned progression is put in place to allow the student to catch up with new skills as quickly as possible.



## ***Transportation***

If you would like for your child to ride home with you from the event, you must sign out with Mr. Jarrett after our performance.

If you would like for your child to ride home with another family, you must submit your request in writing to be approved by a school administrator two school days in advance of the event. That family must sign out with Mr. Jarrett after our performance. Requests to ride home with another family on the day of the event will not be granted.

## ***Pick-Up & Drop Off***

For band events and rehearsals, students can be dropped off and picked up on the south side of SMS by the band room. If students are waiting for their ride, they should remain in the hallway outside the band room. Students will not be allowed to wait by the front or back entrances.

## ***Parent Volunteers & Chaperones***

Parent volunteers and chaperones are often needed to help the band program run smoothly. We need you! All chaperones and most volunteer positions will require you to become a Screened Volunteer. A Screened Volunteer completes simple paperwork for a background check through the Human Resources department. Background checks are good for two years. Details can be found on the main district website.

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## **Communication**

The band department primarily communicates through email. Please make sure to keep your email address up to date in SIS (Parent Portal).

Seventh and Eighth grade parents/guardians and students are also encouraged to receive our Remind text updates. These updates are used for last minute reminders/notification and are also used when the band travels to music festivals for quick communication. Remind communications can be received through the Remind app, text message, or email.

Important messages sent through email and Remind are posted on our band website.

**[www.rpbands.com/south](http://www.rpbands.com/south)**

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# Grading Procedures

Grading for the 2018-2019 school year will use a traditional points-based system. Students are assessed through homework, participation, quizzes, and tests on the learning targets listed below.

## ***Learning Targets***

1. Students will develop and refine intelligent musicianship skills in a variety of performance settings.
  - 1.1. **Rhythmic Accuracy:** I can play rhythmic patterns.
  - 1.2. **Pitch Accuracy:** I can play pitches correctly.
  - 1.3. **Good Tone:** I can play with good tone.
  - 1.4. **Balance and Blend:** I can listen and play with appropriate balance and blend.
  - 1.5. **Intonation:** I can play with good intonation.
  - 1.6. **Rehearsal Skills:** I can practice positive participation in daily rehearsals.
  - 1.7. **Playing with Expression:** I can interpret and apply terms and symbols to play musically.
  - 1.8. **Performance Etiquette:** I can apply performance etiquette in a concert setting.

## ***Essential Elements interactive***

Essential Elements interactive (EEi) is an online practice system for students. It is included as part of your purchase of the Essential Elements band books. EEi is a great solution to allow students to play a line as many times as needed to get their best recording. This way students are able to submit their best work. EEi will be used for practicing and submitting many assignments, including quizzes.

Students will receive information for logging in from the band director and will set up their account during class. Parents will receive information to log in through email. Parents have the ability to view all recordings made by students and can check in on their child's progress. You can even download recordings to share with others.

## ***Homework***

Homework accounts for 10% of each student's grade. In band, homework is assigned practicing. Practice assignments can change throughout the school year, but typically include two lines from our Essential Elements band book. The two lines are recorded and submitted through EEi.

The lines selected for homework assignments are picked to help students progress through new skills. These lines also help prepare students for upcoming quizzes and tests.

## ***Participation***

Participation in class accounts for 10% of each student's grade. Learning only takes place when students are actively involved in class activities, so participation is required. Students earn 2 points per class if they fully participate in all aspects of class. Students earn 1 point if they participate in most aspects of class. Students earn 0 points if they participate in few or none of class activities.

## ***Quizzes - Playing Assessments***

Playing Assessments (entered as Quizzes in the gradebook) are the most important aspect in grading for band. They account for 50% of each student's grade. Playing Assessments are how students demonstrate their ability to perform new skills. Quizzes will take place in class and/or recordings in EEi. When items are recorded in EEi, students will be allowed to submit their best recording after making as many attempts as needed.

Students will typically submit a recorded Playing Assessment once a week or one every two weeks.

## ***Tests - Performances***

Performances (entered as Tests in the gradebook) account for 30% of each student's grade.

Performances and the full band rehearsals leading up to a performance are included in this grade.

Students will complete a self evaluation of their performance skills using a rubric. The final grade is a combination of the student's self evaluation with teacher input.

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## **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are an excellent way for advanced students to continue learning at a fast pace.

Private lessons are great for students of any level to receive one-on-one support and guidance. To find a private lessons teacher for your child, go to [rpbands.com/lessons](http://rpbands.com/lessons).

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## **Disclaimer**

This handbook is a work in progress. Statements and procedures in this handbook may be updated throughout the school year, if necessary. The current version can be found online at [rpbands.com/south](http://rpbands.com/south).