

Rochester High School Orchestras

8th Grade Parent Night Information

Mr. Joe Harmsen, Director of Orchestra
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Your child's high school career will be enriched greatly with their continued participation in music! The College Board lists the Fine and Performing Arts as one of the six basic areas of academic preparation needed for success in college. Additionally, the College Board has documented students who take music in high school score significantly higher on the SAT than students who do not.

The Rochester High School Concert Orchestra is the foundation of the Orchestra program at RHS. It is a full-year course that meets for one hour each day during school. For the 2022-23 school year, it will feature students in 9th & 10th grades. As the program continues to grow (this will only be the 2nd year of Orchestra at RHS!), we will continue to add grade levels to the class. Eventually, the RHS Orchestra will split into two and potentially even three separate classes based on grade level and achievement. Students that were in Orchestra in middle school are welcome and encouraged to continue on in high school! We have a variety of exciting experiences and opportunities for the RHS Orchestra students this coming school year, including but not limited to:

- 4-6 concerts per year (4 main concerts, and a few other performances at events)
- Participation in RCS Orchestra Festival
- MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival
- Small and large trips— possibilities include: Nashville/Memphis, Chicago, New York City, Disney World/Universal, and much, much more!
- Meeting new friends
- Deepening your musical knowledge and instrument skills
- Learning new and increasing interesting and challenging music
- Having fun and making memories that last a lifetime!

There are also extracurricular opportunities for RHS Orchestra students, including Chamber Orchestra, playing in the Pit Orchestra for the annual RHS Musical, Music National Honors Society, the upcoming Jazz/Rock/Pop/Fiddling/&more Orchestra, and the RHS Falcon Marching Band. Orchestra students may concurrently be in Marching Band and Orchestra, as Marching Band is a Zero Hour course. Orchestra students may be in the Color Guard, or learn a new/secondary instrument to participate. For more information or if you have any questions on Marching Band, please contact RHS Director of Bands, David A. Uhrig at duhrig@rochester.k12.mi.us



Rochester Band & Orchestra Boosters - RBOB

The Rochester Band & Orchestra Boosters (RBOB) is our band & orchestra booster organization. A successful orchestra program needs the support and involvement of parents. We invite each of you to get involved in the program. Visit the link to the RPMS website, which can be found at rhsrpms.weebly.com, for additional information or attend our April 5 or May 3 meetings in the RHS Band & Orchestra Room at 7:30pm. While the district does provide adequate supplies & support of the instrumental music program, the band & orchestra boosters supplement this by financially supporting the purchase of music, instruments, uniforms, student scholarships and clinicians, just to name a few. We also provide support of our band & orchestra student activities & endeavors by providing parent coordinators, chaperones & volunteers at every event. Please contact current president, Kathy Young at yoannidesyoung@hotmail.com with any questions.

**I look forward to the possibility of working with you and your students in high school
Orchestra!**

