Rochester High School Bands

8th Grade Welcome Night Information

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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 core of the Rochester HS Bands is the concert band program. It is here that the skills are learned for the students to have success in their musical endeavors. At Rochester HS, there are multiple bands with students placed by ability level rather than by grade level. Most incoming 9th graders will place in the **Concert Band**. Students with advanced abilities and training may place into **Symphony Band** or **Wind Ensemble**. Auditions for RCS middle school band members will be held at the middle schools this spring. Students who do not presently attend one of the RCS middle schools will need to call Mr. Uhrig at the RHS Bands office (248/726-6567) to arrange an audition. 9th grade students should initially register for **Concert Band**, and if they place into **Symphony Band** or **Wind Ensemble**, we can adjust their schedule with their counselor at that time.

In **Concert Band,** we spend a significant amount of time refining skills already learned in the middle schools, so that our students may have success with the more challenging music played at the high school level. Regular playing tests are a part of the evaluation of student skills. The students will perform 5-6 concerts throughout the school year. These occur outside of the school day but are required for attendance and participation for band students.

Falcon Marching Band (FMB) is a class offered "0" (zero) hour during first semester, which means we rehearse for an hour before school for three days a week and for four hours in the evening once a week. 9th graders who participate in the FMB on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments are required to take one of the concert bands for the entire 9th grade year. (A significant majority of our students play in both a concert band and marching band for their entire four years at RHS and can gain admittance to the most selective universities!) **The FMB is also looking for new members of our color guard.** Students are eligible to participate in the color guard regardless of previous musical experience, although a significant number of our color guard members are active in band, choir, or theater. Color guard members use various types of equipment on the field, like flags, air-blades, rifles, and sabers. **Falcon Marching Band** "Pre-Camp" rehearsals are held at Rochester HS from July 23-26 and "Band Camp" is held at Northwood University in Midland from July 29-August 3. Band Camp is one of the most enjoyable weeks of the year for our students and it is essential to learn the large amounts of music and drill necessary for the season's performances. Again, all performances are required unless specifically noted. The **Falcon Marching Band** season generally runs from late July through the Rochester Christmas Parade in early December. A more detailed schedule can be found at our Google calendar, https://tinyurl.com/yckpsekv.

Jazz Band is a class offered "0" (zero) hour during second semester. Because of the popularity of this class, we have two separate jazz bands (Blue Jazz & White Jazz). White Jazz, the younger group, rehearses for an hour before school for three days a week. Blue Jazz, the older group, rehearses for an hour before school for two days a week and an hour after school one day a week. Students who participate in **Jazz Band** on woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments are required to be enrolled in one of the concert bands. The Jazz Bands will perform 2-3 concerts during the semester, which occur outside of the school day, but are required attendance and participation for the students.



The Rochester Band & Orchestra Boosters (RBOB) is our band & orchestra booster organization. A successful band 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 March 16, April 13 or May 8 meetings in the RHS Band Room at 7 pm. 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 for our band & orchestra student activities & endeavors by providing parent coordinators, chaperones & volunteers at every event. Please contact current president Esteban Gaytan at president@rhsrbob.com with any questions.

