

A. C. REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAMS
Marching Rockets Band Camp Signature Page

Welcome to the A. C. Reynolds High School Marching Rockets Band! It is offered as an after school extra curricular activity and the purpose of the “Rockets Band Program” is to educate young people through music performance. Our time together will not be limited to simply learning music, although that is our primary purpose. By your involvement in this organization you will mature as a musician, student, and person. The work at times will be very demanding but also very rewarding. My general goals are to teach students to become well prepared musicians; to develop an appreciation of many different types and styles of music; to learn how to properly function in a large group environment; and to learn that each person has a responsibility for the welfare and success of the entire group.

The purpose of this handbook is to clearly define and state the expectations for the ACR Marching Rockets Band. It is hoped and expected that each student and parent/guardian will read it carefully and be aware of the policies for the Marching Rockets Band.

The beginning of each camp week requires updating our student records and ensuring all fees are collected. Fees for marching band are due before or on August 24th (first home game). Your students’ marching band records are complete when I have received each of the following:

- Completed *Marching Rockets Band Google form online*
- Completed *Marching Rockets Band Handbook Signature Page*
- Completed *Medical & Insurance Information Form* (Required to be completed ONCE each academic year)
- *School Instrument Loan Form* (Required only when renting a school instrument) with payment
- Remaining band camp fees remitted ASAP. Please contact me directly if you require payment plans or assistance with your student’s fees.

As ACR’s Director of Bands the attached *Marching Rockets Band Camp Handbook* are my expectations for the coming year. Please read the guidelines over with your student, then complete and return this top page. The remaining pages are for your student’s record and reference.

As a band member in the Marching Rockets Band, I have read the *Marching Rockets Band Handbook* and will follow them to the best of my ability.

Student Name: _____ Yr. Grads: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the Parent/Guardian of the above named band member, I have read the *Marching Rockets Band Camp Handbook* and will help my student follow them. My signature means I understand all parts of the handbook and will except responsibility for my student’s actions. They may travel to any and all events during the marching season.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your time and I look forward to a successful year.

Sincerely,
Sean Smith, Director of Bands
Band Room: 828-298-9554

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A. C. REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAMS
Marching Rockets Band Camp Handbook

General Operation of the Marching Band

Marching Band is an extracurricular class, and regular rehearsals are after the school day. The following are a list of rules in order to remain in good standing with the marching band. Failure to follow these rules may result in being dismissed from the marching band.

1. All students are expected to respect the rights and feelings of one another. TEAMWORK is essential to our success and every person in the band is a member of our team.
2. Mentally mature people do not use profanity. Do not use it at any time when you are with the band.
3. Any student will be subject to school penalties and will be dismissed from the band program by the director of bands if found:
 - a. Smoking or possessing tobacco products.
 - b. Possessing drugs or alcohol or under the influence of the same.
4. Each student is required to turn in a completed and signed *Medical and Insurance Information Form* each academic year. If the student is involved in multiple bands the form only needs to be completed and turned in once. This form can be found on the school's web site under Mr. Smith's staff web page.
5. Marching Band/Color guard has a financial commitment of \$200. Even if you do not attend marching band camp week, payment of the fees is required. Failure to pay marching fees will result in dismissal from the marching band.
6. The director of band's office is private. No student is to enter the band office without the permission of the director of bands.
7. Any student who is failing more than two courses during the school day is automatically ineligible to participate in marching band according as stated by the policy of Buncombe County Public Schools.
8. You must maintain a "C" average or higher in your other classes in order to be eligible for marching band.

Attendance, Rehearsals, and Performances

Attendance is absolutely essential to the success of the marching band. You have been informed of the rehearsal and performance schedule. Study it carefully and adjust your schedule so that you can attend each and every rehearsal and performance of the marching band. The schedule will also be posted on the website and band room door. Please make a note of all rehearsals and games.

1. Be on time for all rehearsals and performances. Stay for the entire rehearsal. Leaving a rehearsal early will be treated the same as a tardy. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the director well in advance if one will be tardy or have to leave early.
2. **Please avoid scheduling conflicts such as medical/dental appointments during scheduled rehearsal/practice times. Looking at your calendar in advance will help make things easier further into the season. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the band director well in advance if an absence will occur. Failure to communicate in this area will result in your expulsion from the marching band.**
 - a. **Excused Absences** are important to be understood. Emergency (last minute) excuses include personal illness or family tragedy for a student. All other absences required pre-approval from the director of bands to be excused. The following questions will be taken into consideration when an absence is submitted:
 - i. What was the reason for the absence?
 - ii. If the absence is for personal reasons, did the parents and student do everything within their power to avoid or prevent the conflict?
 - b. **Un-excused Absences*** are also important to be clear about. Basically, this includes any non-emergency absence that does not receive prior approval from the director of bands. Examples include: missing for work, homework, no ride, club activity or athletic activity are a few.

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- i. *Three (3) un-excused absences will result in removal from the marching band group with no refund of fees.
 - ii. *Two (2) un-excused tardies or leaving early occurrences will result in one (1) unexcused absence.
3. The Band Director and/or the School Principal will determine if a marching band absence is excused or unexcused. Failure to abide by band policy in this regard will automatically result in an absence being unexcused. Unexcused absences cannot be made up and will result in your expulsion from marching band.

Duty Roster

The purpose of the duty roster is:

1. To give band members who have been absent or tardy due to an excused absence a chance to makeup missed time.
2. To help keep the band room, storage room, and activity buses clean. The band director may assign students to the duty roster when needed. The roster will be posted in the band room. Students may also sign up for the duty roster to make up excused absences, for tardiness, or for rule violations. Students assigned to the duty roster will do the assigned task; and then report to the band director or his envoy when the task has been completed.

General Rules of the ACR Marching Rockets Band

1. The key to success in any endeavor is hard work. Come prepared to every rehearsal ready to work and improve.
2. Come to every rehearsal with the following:
 - a. ALL Marching Band music.
 - b. Flip folder and lyre.
 - c. Pencil (keep one in your case or pocket or flip folder.)
 - d. Instrument, mouthpiece, reeds, etc.
 - e. Comfortable clothes and shoes (no sandals or flip flops), appropriate for outside exercise.
 - f. Drill charts if necessary.
3. The Field Commanders (Drum Major) are the student leader of the marching band and are second in command to the band director. All students are expected to follow the directions of the Drum Majors at all times.
4. Students using profanity, displaying a poor attitude, or being disrespectful to the director, drum major, section leaders, fellow band members, or parent /chaperone will be subject to the appropriate discipline, and will be dismissed from the band program.
5. No food, drinks, candy, or gum are to be brought into the band room or onto the band practice field unless otherwise instructed.
6. Students who will not be performing the halftime show with the band due to discipline reasons will be required to attend the performance in full uniform with their instrument. The band member will stand with the director during the performance.
7. Missing a performance is not acceptable unless a true emergency has arisen. Any band member missing a performance without prior approval from the director may be dismissed from the marching band.
8. In order for a student to be eligible for marching band they must be enrolled in a band class (Concert or Symphonic), unless they are a member of the color guard or pit.

Policies Regarding Football Games and Performances

1. All students will assemble in the band room and be seated before games, contests, or parades. This will be done prior to loading the bus, unless otherwise instructed by the director.
2. Only ACR Marching Band members are to sit in the band section at the games. Exceptions will include chaperones, and persons cleared by the director.
3. All band members are to enter and exit the stadium in an orderly and professional manner. We will always march into the stadium, usually to a drum cadence.

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4. The band will sit by instrument sections in the stadium, and must remain in their sections. No moving around is necessary after we are seated. Our job is to be ready to play when needed to do so.
5. Students are not to play on their own in the stands. This makes the band look and sound unorganized and bad. Either the director or the drum major will give instructions for playing. When the band is playing ALL members must play their part. Generally, the band will play at time outs and quarter breaks.
6. **All students will have their flip folders, lyres, and all marching band music at every game.**
7. No band member may leave the band section without the permission of the band director.
8. Third quarter break is a privilege that is determined by the director. When we have this break, you may feel free to visit with your friends. Keep in mind that getting back late from the third quarter break could and will cause the entire band to lose this privilege.
9. It is a courtesy and tradition for certain band officers and student leaders to visit and welcome the visiting band. The following band members will be part of the welcoming committee: Drum Major, and other senior band representatives.
10. Any band member who has missed too many practices during the week of a performance will not be allowed to perform with the band. The band member is still required to come to the performance in full uniform and play in the stands.
11. Public Display of Affection or PDA is not permitted at any time while with the band. It is against school rules, and will be dealt with by either an administrator or the band director.

Policies Regarding Riding the Activity Bus

1. All band members will ride the bus to and from all activities. In emergency situations, the director may allow a student to ride with his/her parents if prior permission is granted from the band director.
2. Only band members and parent/chaperones will be allowed to ride the band bus.
3. Behavior on the bus should be that of an organization possessing pride and discipline.
4. Students are to remain seated when the bus is running. Do not unload the bus until you have been instructed to do so.
5. You may bring mp3 players or phones with headphones. Please remember that the bus cannot be locked, and anything that you bring will be at your own risk.
6. There will be parent/chaperone supervision on each bus. These people have volunteered their time and are to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times.
7. The band director will assign responsibilities for help in loading, unloading, and cleaning the buses. Check the duty roster for assignments.

Marching Band Uniform Information

1. Each band uniform costs approximately \$400. It is imperative that each student treats the uniform with respect and pride. All uniforms must be handled and worn with care. The student responsible will pay for lost or damaged uniform parts.
2. There is an annual band camp fee that each student must pay before being issued a uniform. The fee is non-refundable after the first performance.
3. No band uniforms will be taken home without the permission of the band director. Uniforms will be issued when students arrive for each performance and will be returned before departing the band room.
4. **Only official band shoes will be worn with the uniform. These will be ordered during camp week and delivered before our first ball game.**
5. When the uniform is not being worn, it should be neatly placed on a clothes hanger. If you need help ask your section leader.
6. Uniform inspection will be held at the discretion of the band director. The band director or his envoy will hold the inspection. Uniforms will be checked for cleanliness and evidence of proper care.
7. **Band members will remain in full uniform at all performances. It is not acceptable to be seen at a public event with the uniform unbuttoned or appearing disheveled. Senior band members are expected to set the example and encourage fellow band members to wear the uniform properly.**
8. Any uniform parts left on the bus or in the band room after a performance, will require a \$5.00 fee.

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Regular Practice Schedule

The marching band holds regular rehearsals Tuesday and Thursday, from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday will be used for regular color guard, drum line, and marching band sectional practice. As contests and games draw near we may use some Wednesdays for rehearsals. The band performs at football games, which are held on Friday nights. All practices and performances are required for all marching band members.

