

A. C. REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAMS
Concert/Symphonic Bands Signature Page

Welcome to the A. C. Reynolds High School band programs! The concert and symphonic band are offered daily as a regularly scheduled academic class. The work at times will be very demanding but also very rewarding. My general goals are to teach students to become well prepared musicians through the study and performance of band literature; to develop an appreciation of many different types and styles of music; to develop an understanding of how music is created and its many different components; 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 beginning of each academic year requires updating our student paper records and ensuring all fees are collected. Fees for concert/symphonic bands are due before or on September 20th. Your students' concert/symphonic paper records are complete when I have received each of the following filled out documents:

- Completed *Concert/Symphonic Bands Commitment Contract*
- 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

As ACR's Director of Bands the attached *Concert/Symphonic Bands Guidelines* 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.

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

Sincerely,
Sean Smith, Director of Bands
Band Office: 828-298-9554
richard.smith@bcsemail.org

A. C. REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAMS
Concert/Symphonic Bands Guidelines

Purpose and Philosophy:

The purpose of the 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 program, you will mature as a musician, student and person. The curriculum is cyclical in nature; while there is similarity from year to year, the comprehensive program encompasses four (4) years of study. Individual development of character, esteem, teamwork and group accomplishment can be additional rewards of participation in the band program at ACR.

It is hoped and expected that each student will develop a “we/us” philosophy in place of the prevalent “I” philosophy in today’s society. This simply means that the welfare and good of the group should be placed ahead of selfish individual wants and desires. The values of self-discipline, hard work, teamwork, responsibility and respect for others are strongly emphasized in the ACR program. The expectations in our band program are extremely high. I trust that each of you will strive to always do your best to meet the expectations.

General Rules of a Quality Band Program:

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. So do not use it at any time when you are with the band.
3. Any student will be subject to school penalties and may 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 “Staff” and by clicking on “Smith, Sean (Director of Band).”
5. The director of band’s office is private. No student is to enter the band office without the permission of the director of bands.

School Instrument Loan Program:

If a student wishes to borrow one or multiple school instruments from the band program, then a *School Instrument Loan Form* must be completed for each instrument. The appropriate fee shall be paid at the time the instrument is turned over to the student.

1. If borrowing more than one instrument speak with the director of band for total loan amount.
2. The loan amount covers only general instrument maintenance upon return. The student assumes all responsibility for a loaned instrument while it is in their possession. The director of bands will periodically check the condition of the instrument. The student will pay for any repair of damages that occur while the instrument is in the possession of the student and that are above the noted damages recorded on the *School Instrument Loan Form*.

Rules Regarding Band Classes/Rehearsals:

1. Be on time for class. When the tardy bell rings, your body must be completely inside the band room, or you are tardy. Students experiencing tardiness will be given detention, writing assignments and/or grade deduction.
 - a. If you are held over by an ACR staff member, have them write you an admittance note.
2. It is imperative that students attend every rehearsal and performance. Absences will be broken down into two (2) categories and are clearly defined under “Concerts and Performance” below.
3. Come prepared for class with all needed materials. Do not ask to leave the room to get materials after class/rehearsal has started. Materials needed daily are:
 - a. Your instrument.
 - b. A pencil for your folder.

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- c. All band music, folders and books.
 - d. Appropriate accessories (reeds, oils, sticks, etc.)
4. Each student in band class is expected to play every day. If you are too sick to participate, then please stay home. If your instrument is broken, get a loaner. Students not playing in class will be given a written assignment and their daily grade will be lowered.
 5. The only thing allowed in the band room is water. There will be no gum, food, candy, snacks or other drinks brought into the band or storage rooms. If this privilege is abused, it will be suspended at the discretion of the director of bands. Any band member found in violation will receive detention, grade reduction, and/or suspension from the band room.
 6. There is to be no nonessential talking or other disruptions when the director of bands is teaching, or any student is asking a question. Not only is this extremely impolite and rude, but it is also a serious disruption of the class, rehearsal and learning process.
 7. Keep the band room clean and neat. Put trash in the receptacles provided. Take care of all band equipment. Any mistreatment of school facilities or equipment should be reported to the director of bands.
 - a. At the end of each class, rehearsal and performance put all things away in their proper storage area. Do not leave folders on the music stands. Return all instruments, sticks and mallets to their proper storage location.
 8. Good bands have good posture when playing. Always sit with proper posture when playing your instrument.
 9. Only percussionists are allowed in or near the percussion equipment.
 10. No student is to leave the band room during a class/rehearsal without the permission of the director of bands.

Individual Practices:

Band members are expected to practice assigned and suggested exercises and music outside of class. In other classes this is called homework. In band, it is called practice. Student practice time will be monitored by the director of bands and will be factored into the nine (9) week grading period.

1. At the discretion of the director of bands you will be given a practice chart in which to record your practice time.

Concerts and Performances:

All performances of the bands or other ensemble groups are **required** for its members. The success of any musical group depends on the responsible actions of its members. Each member is expected to be responsible in the area of concert and performance participation.

1. During each nine (9) week marking period band members will earn 25% of their grade through active concert and performance participation. If there is an unavoidable student conflict with a date, the director of band is to be notified two (2) weeks in advance. Students granted excused absence from a date, will be given the opportunity to do a 7-page typed make-up assignment to recover the grade lost.
 - 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:
 - What was the reason for the absence?
 - 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.
2. Dress Code for performances are as follows:
 - a. Concert Band: Everyone shall wear black tuxedo shirts (loaned from the school) and bottoms in black. Girls' pants or skirts shall adhere to the school dress code and be worn

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with flat, black, close toe shoes. Boys shall wear solid color black dress pants and black dress shoes with black socks.

- b. Symphonic Band: Girls shall wear uniform outfit as purchased through school band program with flat, black, close toed shoes (please no jewelry) Boys shall wear black tuxedos, white tuxedo shirt with black studs and black bow tie. Boys' shoes shall be black dress shoes with black socks. (Please no jewelry/pocket squares etc.)
3. **Please avoid scheduling conflicts such as medical or dental appointments during class, rehearsal and practice times. Looking at your calendar in advance will help make things easier further into the academic year for the student.**

Grading Policies for the Band Programs:

Students' grades will be determined by the following factors:

1. Student attendance, cooperation and effort during classes/rehearsals.
2. Improvement in musical skills and knowledge as demonstrated through teacher observation during daily classes.
3. Grades from evaluations (playing and written tests).
4. Practice outside of regular band classes (homework).
5. Participation in scheduled concerts and performances.
6. Students that have a "D" or "F" as their current grade in band class may not be allowed to perform with the other students at concerts and other events. They will also be removed from band at the conclusion of the semester at the directors discretion.

School Policies and Student Handbook:

All band students are expected to follow all A.C. Reynolds High School "Student Handbook" rules, bus policies, and attendance policies. These policies are in effect for all band classes and performances. All students should read the student handbook and become familiar with all school rules and regulations. An electronic version of the student handbook is available on the school's web page under "Policies."

Academic Calendar:

Attached is a list of performances to be given by the band programs this academic year. These dates are subject to change if conflicts or inclement weather should arise with the school calendar. It is possible that additional performances will be added. Students will be notified as soon as possible and well in advance of any calendar changes or additions.



A.C. REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL
BAND PROGRAMS
Concert/Symphonic Bands Commitment Contract
(Please print clearly)

Enrollment in the band programs is a full academic year commitment. Completing this contract is your agreement to fulfilling this commitment and understanding all of the guidelines in this document.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Instrument _____ Do you own your instrument? Yes No**

** If "No," ACR has school instruments for rent from the school for a fee of \$15.00 per semester. Please complete the School Instrument Loan Form including signatures and return with payment. You may pay for the year in full.

Student Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

I agree to the conditions stated in this commitment contract and further agree that should my attendance or behavior jeopardize the success of the band, the Director of Bands has the right to withdraw me band.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

I have provided the information below on my student's marching band commitment contract. Skip to signature below.

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Preferred Email: _____

(I do not have an email address. Please send information to the home address indicated above.)

Cell Phone (1): _____ Cell Phone (2): _____

Work Phone (1): _____ Work Phone (2): _____

ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IS FOR THE EXPRESS COMMUNICATIONS OF THE BAND DIRECTOR OR THE ACRHS BAND PARENTS ASSOC., INC. THE DATABASE WILL NOT BE SOLD OR DISTRIBUTED TO ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION OR COMPANY.

I support the commitment my student has made to the A.C. Reynolds Band. I understand this includes a responsibility on my part to ensure my student has transportation to/from each rehearsal and performance. I will also take an active part in guiding my student's time management to guarantee this commitment is fulfilled.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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