

# Rossview Middle School



## Student/Parent Band Handbook 2018 – 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Rossview Middle School band program! I am excited to see the new faces this year, as well as all the returning members. We are looking forward to an exciting year, and I am very glad to see you as a member of our band family!

Band is more than a series of performances developed through an ongoing rehearsal schedule. It may appear we are simply completing one event and immediately starting to prepare for the next. Although we do maintain a busy schedule, there is a higher learning taking place that will benefit your child in all of life and discipline.

We all know young people possess unlimited potential for learning, achievement, and personal success. Every individual's self-worth is based on turning potential into accomplishment, and that requires a healthy measure of discipline. Band is a metaphor of life because it is a training ground for developing a solid pattern of personal discipline habits. Band is a collection of artistic values clearly defined and ultimately achieved. This process unlocks the power of commitment, puts human will in action, develops a positive attitude, controls negative thinking, encourages success, and deters failure.

The study of music is a link between inspiration and value achievement; it is a bridge between thought and accomplishment, between ideas and results. This explains the impressive correlation between music study and academic achievement. Our band members are clearly experiencing the value of discipline driven by inspiration, enticed by desire, tempered by reason, and guided by intelligence. Band is grooming them for successful living.

Your child's participation in band is so much more than performance preparation; it reinforces the importance of self-discipline as the fundamental of healthy self-esteem, group pride, personal satisfaction, and aesthetic joy. Being in the band is teaching them how to master the circumstances of life by putting ambition and skill into action.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support. Thank you for understanding music education is a groundwork strategy for the development of more capable minds. Thank you for demonstrating the value of persistence and discipline as we meet the challenges associated with our program's growth. Thank you for being an active parent in our band!

With warmest musical regards,

Vanessa Cobb, Band Director, Rossview Middle School

"The art of music is so deep and profound that to approach it very seriously only is not enough. One must approach music with a serious rigor and, at the same time, with a great affectionate joy." -Nadia Boulanger

## **PURPOSE:**

This handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standards of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations and procedures of the band.

## **PHILOSOPY:**

The purpose of the Rossvie Middle School Band Program is to develop within students a love and appreciation for music that will last for the rest of their lives. This is achieved through several program goals:

1. By grade 8, every student will develop a sound musical technique, including soloistic playing, musically sensitive phrasing, and superior technical skill on his or her instrument.
2. By grade 8, every student will be able to discern quality in a musical performance.
3. By grade 8, every student will have a process through which to evaluate his or her own practice and skill level, and be able to correctly identify areas in need of improvement, as well as methods to correct those areas.
4. Students will develop a sense of professionalism and appreciation for their art.

## **BAND CLASS:**

The band class is a class in which students learn the fundamentals of playing a band instrument. No prior experience is needed for students entering 6th grade band. The class starts at the most basic level. All students must enter band in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Instruments:**

All band students are expected to provide their own instrument, through a reputable music company (Amro Music). The only instruments provided by Rossvie Middle School are oboe, bassoon, tuba, euphonium, and French horn. Players for these instruments are chosen on the instrument testing day at the beginning of the sixth grade year. Amro Music will be present at the meeting to help facilitate the purchase of a good, quality instrument for your child.

### **Attendance:**

Each band class will perform a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. Members of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band class are also eligible to participate in various extra-curricular groups and events. Participation at the concerts is part of your grade as this is a performance based class. Students who miss a concert will be expected to write an essay on the history of their instrument. It is easier to show up and perform!

Students can participate in band at Rossvie and still take part in all of the sports programs and other after school activities. Many band students play soccer, softball, baseball, basketball, etc., and still are key players in the band program. After school rehearsals will occur for Symphonic Band. Symphonic Band meets after school on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. beginning in November and going through May. This group is a very special group of students. Students are chosen by audition and only the best players in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be allowed to participate. Attendance to these after school rehearsals is mandatory for the ensemble to be

successful. If you are asked to be in the Symphonic Band group, you are expected to be at all rehearsals after school.

The band class is the backbone of the instrumental music program. The vast majority of musical knowledge is gained through participation in this class. For this reason, membership in extra-curricular musical ensembles requires membership in band class.

### **Band Class Rules:**

- 1) Upon entering the band room, each student is expected to get any materials and equipment needed for class.(music, book, instrument, etc..) The student is then expected to be seated, warmed up and ready to play 3 minutes after the bell rings.
- 2) Everyone must participate.
- 3) Respect toward the director, your peers, and equipment is expected. This means **NO TALKING** during class unless asked by the teacher unless the teacher gives you permission. This also means you keep your hands to yourself and you do not leave your seat. You should get everything you need **BEFORE** class begins. There are no restroom breaks during band class unless there is a doctor's note.
- 4) There is **NO GUM** or food in the band room. Only water is permitted as we have carpet in our room.

**THIS IS YOUR BAND, YOUR REHEARSAL TIME, AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS THE BEST BAND POSSIBLE!!**

### **Performances:**

Each band class will perform a Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. Extra rehearsals may be necessary to polish the bands before performances. These rehearsals usually occur during class time. Attendance at these rehearsals is required (see grading procedures and attendance policies). Members of the Band Class are also eligible to participate in various extra-curricular musical groups. The band classes and the extra-curricular groups may attend concert festivals in the Spring. These extra-curricular musical group performances frequently occur after school hours. All group performances are required attendance for all members of the group.

### **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

#### **Daily Participation:**

Daily participation grades are given (20 points per day). Students must have their instrument, supplies for the instrument like reeds, mouthpiece, oil/grease, a pencil, their music book, and any sheet music. Students must also fully engage during class. Students who talk or disrupt the class will lose their participation points for the day. Students who are prepared for class and participate in a positive manner will receive these points. Students unprepared or not participating in a positive manner will lose these points.

#### **Playing Assessment:**

Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of what is taught in class by performing on their instruments. These tests will take place in google classroom. Students will be shown how to complete a playing assessment and submit it for a grade. Most playing

assessments will occur outside of class time (i.e. complete at home). Playing tests account for 70% of the final band grade. Each student will have a chance to retest. It is the student's responsibility to ask for a second chance. Some written tests are taken in band and count as a playing test score. Playing tests will be recorded in Power School. It is the responsibility of the student to record the test and submit to the teacher on time. **Concert performances and rehearsals count as a playing grade.**

### **Homework:**

Band homework is individual practice on the instrument. Each student is expected to practice their instrument at home. This unguided practice is necessary to become a good performer. Practice sheets are available at the front of the band room. They are due on Fridays. The practice grade counts for 30% of the final band grade. Students must have a parent signature and must turn in the practice sheet that is given to them. No handwritten sheets will be accepted.

They are graded as follows:

3 hours per week	=100%
2 hours and 55 minutes	= 99%
2 hours and 50 minutes	= 98%
2 hours and 45 minutes	= 98%
2 hours and 40 minutes	= 97%
2 hours and 35 minutes	= 97%
2 hours and 30 minutes	= 96%
2 hours and 25 minutes	= 95%
2 hours and 20 minutes	= 94%
2 hours and 15 minutes	= 94%
2 hours and 10 minutes	= 93%
2 hours and 5 minutes	= 93%
2 hours and 0 minutes	= 92%
1 hour and 55 minutes	= 91%
1 hour and 50 minutes	= 90%
1 hour and 45 minutes	= 90%
1 hour and 40 minutes	= 89%
1 hour and 35 minutes	= 89%
1 hour and 30 minutes	= 88%
1 hour and 25 minutes	= 87%
1 hour and 20 minutes	= 86%
1 hour and 15 minutes	= 85%
1 hour and 10 minutes	= 84%
1 hour and 5 minutes	= 83%
1 hour and 0 minutes	= 82%
55 minutes	= 82%
50 minutes	= 80%
45 minutes	= 79%
40 minutes	= 78%
35 minutes	= 77%
30 minutes	= 76%

Less than 30 minutes of total practice, or a practice sheet that is unsigned=65%.  
Failure to turn in a practice sheet results in a grade of 0%.

**Attendance Policies:**

All members of the Symphonic Band are expected to attend afternoon rehearsals. More than 3 absences in one year will result in dismissal from the group. Doctor's visits, etc. should be made on a day other than our 2 rehearsal days.

**Concert Dress Code:**

Proper attire for all students playing in any performance of any Rossvie Middle School ensemble is dress black slacks, dress black shirt that is tucked into the trousers, black socks and solid black shoes. Any student not dressed properly will not be allowed to perform and their grade for that performance will be lowered accordingly. If this attire is a problem (religious or other) please contact me well in advance so we can make arrangements.

**After-school group lessons:**

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students who pay the \$10.00 audition fee for the Middle TN Mid-state band or the Gateway Honor band may participate in group lessons after school. Days and times will be determined at the start of school in August. Students will work on scales, sight reading, and the audition materials during group lessons. The cost of group lessons is free and the availability/longevity of the group lessons will be determined by our cookie dough fundraiser.

**HONOR BANDS:**

**Mid-state Band:**

Middle Tennessee State Band and Orchestra Association sponsors the All Middle Tennessee Honors Bands each year. Auditions are held near the end of November on a Saturday at a school in Nashville, TN. The band rehearses usually at MTSU or one of the Murfreesboro high schools on a Thursday night, all day Friday and Saturday morning in January. They will give a performance on the Saturday for parents and family.

Students wishing to audition for Mid-State Band must first pass a screening with Mrs. Cobb. They then must attend group lessons after school to hone their skills on the prepared music, scales, and sight reading. Students who participate in Mid-state band, or any honor band, increase their chances of college scholarships!

Students are required to provide their own transportation to and from auditions. Students without transportation can usually find rides with other parents going. Audition fee is \$10.00. Students are expected to pay this fee prior to the audition date. A date and information letter will be sent home as soon as possible. Students selected for participation in the Mid-State band may have to pay for their hotel room, transportation cost, and meals. We usually try to room 4 students per room to lower the cost. Transportation to Mid-state rehearsals will be provided. CMCSS students will ride a school bus together to the event. Each student is expected to be picked up by their own parent at the hotel after the Saturday rehearsal. Parents will be responsible for getting their child lunch, to the warm-up time, and concert. Students and parents

are to check in with Mrs. Cobb prior to leaving the concert venue.

Mid-state students are expected to follow all instructions and rules set forth by the band director and chaperones. Failure to do this can result in the student's parents being called to come and take their child home (i.e. dismissal from the Mid-state Band).

**Gateway Music Association Honor Band:**

The Gateway Music Association band directors (directors from Montgomery, Cheatham, and Stewart County) sponsor an honor band in March of each year. Any student wishing to be selected for participation in this group must demonstrate proficiency on the audition music to Mrs. Cobb before the audition deadline. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from the auditions. By auditioning a student is committing to the rehearsals and performance, if selected. There is a \$10.00 audition fee. An information letter will be sent home prior to the audition date in February. If you can't be at a rehearsal or the performance, don't audition.

Students selected to participate in the GMA band are expected to be on time for all rehearsals and the performance. Failure to do this can result in dismissal from the group. No excuses! Transportation to the Friday rehearsal will be provided. Parents are expected to pick students up after the Friday rehearsal and transport the student to and from the Saturday rehearsal and performance.

Students participating in GMA Band are expected to follow all rules and instructions of the band directors and chaperones. Failure to do this can result in the student's parents being called to come and take their child home (i.e. dismissal from the Gateway Honor Band).

**Solo and Ensemble:**

Each year in February, students can attend the MTSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival. This festival is held at Northeast High School in Clarksville, TN. Students can perform in small groups or solos. Mrs. Cobb will meet with students interested in this event late fall and help them plan for this event. The goal of this event is to have 75% of the band program participating in this event with students achieving superior ratings. The cost is \$7.00 per performance.

**FUNDRAISING:**

Due to the high cost of maintaining a band program, fundraising is a necessary evil. This money is used to maintain the equipment currently in service in the Rossvie Middle School band program and to purchase new equipment and supplies. Also, from time to time, professional musicians are brought in to give students private lessons after school. To give you an idea of the cost of running the band program a few sample prices are shown:

- An inexpensive student line tuba.....over \$4500.
- A good quality double French horn..... \$3500.
- Repair done to instruments at school expense.....\$1500.

One piece of music for the band.....\$50 to \$120.

To defray these costs, the Rossview Middle School Band needs to raise about \$15,000 for one year. This comes to about \$60 per student. This may be done by participating in fundraising activities provided by the band program or donations. Information about fundraisers will be sent home in a timely manner.

### **SYMPHONIC BAND:**

The Symphonic Band is a select group of the best concert musicians at Rossview Middle School. This group exists to provide students an opportunity to perform in an ensemble of exceptional musicians and play more difficult music at a higher level of accomplishment. The Symphonic Band rehearses two days after school each week. They play at the Winter and Spring Concerts as well as performances at concert festivals and other functions representing the Rossview Middle School band program. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Missing rehearsals or performances can result in dismissal from the group. Each member of the Symphonic Band is expected to learn all music played by the ensemble and demonstrate appropriate behavior during rehearsals and performances. Failure to do so can result in removal from the group. Each member of this group is responsible to the group. This is a small group and each person must be in attendance and performing up to expectations for the group to play well. A member missing a performance hurts the whole group. Rehearsals for this group are on Tuesdays and Fridays 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **TRAVEL POLICY:**

The Symphonic Band will travel to events away from Rossview Middle School throughout the school year. We represent not only the band program but Rossview Middle School as a whole. Undignified conduct or reckless behavior may result in dismissal from the group, parents being called to come and take their child home, and/or disciplinary action from the school administration. Any student traveling with the band must return a parent permission slip that will be sent home prior to the event. Any student traveling on school transportation must ride to and from the event. Parents can give written permission releasing the school system and Mrs. Cobb from liability should they choose to transport their child to and/or from the event.

### **USE AND CARE OF SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS:**

The Rossview Middle School band program owns some of the larger, more expensive instruments necessary to run a concert band. Select students may use school owned instruments at the discretion of the director.

A student using a school owned instrument will not be charged any fee. In the case of loss or damage, the student's parents are responsible for the repair or replacement of said instrument. In addition, the student is responsible for any maintenance the instrument may need.

**Instrument Storage:**

Students will be given an instrument storage locker to store their instrument. This locker is ONLY for their instrument and music. This is not a locker for textbooks, folders for other classes, or personal items. Items that are not for the band class will be removed and put in lost and found. Students will need a lock for the locker. Mrs. Cobb will ask for the combination to this lock in case a student forgets or Mrs. Cobb or an administrator needs to get in the locker. Please get combination locks only!

**Private Lessons:**

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band.

Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. Mrs. Cobb will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible...SO START NOW!!!

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Students wishing to attend any extra-curricular band event (like All County Honors Band, Mid-State, North Tennessee Festival, Solo and Ensemble, etc.) or participate in Symphonic Band must have no more than 1 F on their report card in a given grading period. Failure to maintain this academic average will result in the student's loss of eligibility until the next report card. Receiving an F in band, even if it is their only F will also result in loss of eligibility.

**AWARDS:****Symphonic Band:**

Members of the symphonic band will receive a medal for their participation.

**Honor Bands:**

Students selected to participate in the Mid-State Honor Band and the Gateway Honor Band will receive an honor band patch.

**Perfect Practice:**

Students who have a grade of 100% on every practice sheet all year long will receive a medal.

**Varsity Band Letter:**

This is the most prestigious award given by the band program. It is given to each student participating in a variety of ensembles "beyond the call of duty". Varsity letters are awarded to each student who compiles a total of 90 or more points based on the following scale:

Symphonic Band.....	50 pts
Audition for Mid-state Band.....	25 pts
Attend Mid-state Band.....	50 pts
Audition for Gateway Honor Band.....	20 pts
Attend the Gateway Honor Band.....	30 pts
Taking private music lessons all year.....	25 pts
Attend all after school rehearsals.....	25 pts

**Director’s Award:**

The student with the highest number of points at the end of the school year will receive the Director's Award trophy.

**Communication:**

Mrs. Cobb will communicate each week with a weekly update and in the following ways:

By email: [Vanessa.Cobb@cmess.net](mailto:Vanessa.Cobb@cmess.net)

Band Website: [www.rossviewmiddleschoolband.weebly.com](http://www.rossviewmiddleschoolband.weebly.com)



Band Facebook Page: Rossview Middle School Band

Remind App: Class code: @34g737

Please check all three places to stay up to date on the Rossview Middle School Band Program!

## **BAND CONTRACT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent) have read the handbook and understand that my child and I are in committed to meet the demands outlined. I will do my best to assure that my child is responsible concerning all issues discussed in the handbook. I know that the policies will increase the band's professionalism and level of excellence. I also understand that if my child cannot adhere to the rules and policies of the program, then my child will be subject to removal from the program. I also agree to be held responsible for any damages/repairs necessary to instruments or all other equipment used by my child that has been issued by the Rossvie Middle School band program.

I agree to meet this obligation to the best of my ability. I also agree to contact the director if any problem arises that needs discussion.

FAILURE TO RETURN THIS DOCUMENT SIGNED DOES NOT EXCLUDE  
PARENTS/STUDENTS FROM THE REGULATIONS CONTAINED HERIN.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date