

September 1st, 2016



Greetings Parents and Students!

Welcome back to another year of music at Rosemont Ridge! If you have not received my welcome letter, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ronnie LaGrone and I am the director of bands here at Rosemont Ridge. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you. I spent my summer with my daughter Katie, writing and arranging percussion music, and traveling on the road visiting family and friends.

All the information you need for a successful year of band can be found in this handbook, so please read it carefully. A few highlights for the upcoming school year:

- 1.** The Band Website is the best way to stay informed! This website will be updated regularly. There will also be reminders about assignments, resources for private lessons, and more. Please bookmark the following link:
<http://www.rrms.wlww.k12.or.us/Page/2069>
- 2.** Communication Home: As per the last few years, I will be using confidential email lists to keep parents connected to the band program, so please keep your email address updated with both the Rosemont Ridge office and with me. There is a spot on the band contract (the last page of this packet) for you to fill in your correct email address.
- 3.** ID Tags: All instruments are REQUIRED to have an ID tag (like a luggage tag) attached to their case. Students will not be allowed to store their case in the band room without one. The tag should include full name and phone number. Use other identifying tags, such as TAPE and "bling" to assist in identifying your instrument.
- 4.** Eighth Grade Overnight Trip. Last year, we had a wonderful and rewarding trip to Seattle. As of right now, we are slated to go either there or somewhere else for a weekend of music and fun. 8th Grade students and parents who would like to attend this trip will need to be ready to send in deposits at the first of October.
- 5.** Band permission slips! Please fill them out as soon as you receive them. Return by the due date.

As always, feel free to contact me at ANY time with questions or concerns. Email is definitely the best way, but please don't hesitate to call or even drop by. I look forward to great year of music making! Be sure to complete the contract located in the back of this handbook.

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Ensembles at Rosemont Ridge Middle School

Large Ensembles

In the three large ensembles, we will work on all aspects of music performance: music literacy, posture, breathing, tone, blend and balance, music theory, ear training, music appreciation and music history. Students in every grade will also have the opportunity to perform solos and small ensemble pieces. Every ensemble will give several performances throughout the year. All large ensemble performances are mandatory. Anticipated performances are as follows:

6th Grade Band

Winter Concert
5th Grade Concert
Final Concert
Parade (tba)
Additional Performances TBA

7th Grade Band

Winter Concert
Final Concert
Parade (tba)
Additional Performances TBA

8th Grade Band

Winter Concert
OSU Middle School Band Festival
Overnight Trip
Parade (tba)
Final Concert
Additional Performances TBA

Jazz Band

Since 2000, I have had the pleasure of working with some of the finest middle school jazz musicians in my short career. With the pool of talent we have here in our school and community, I feel that we should continue the existing tradition here at Rosemont Ridge. ***Rosemont Jazz Band*** is open to all 7th and 8th grade band students, as well as select 6th graders who have had one year of experience. This group of young musicians who explore the musical styles of Jazz/Swing, Funk, Rock, Pop, and Latin. We will be performing at community events and playing at festivals with other middle school and junior high Jazz bands in our area. "Rosemont Jazz" is a great opportunity for students to improve on their instruments, learn about the uniquely American art form of jazz, and have a great time playing fun music. **Select members of the Jazz Band will compete at local festivals.**

You must be a member of a large ensemble to participate in jazz band (certain rhythm section instruments are excluded from this policy). **All interested students will attend the first two weeks of school for rehearsals. The official Rosemont Jazz Roster will be generated the last Friday of that two week period.** The first official ROSEMONT RIDGE JAZZ rehearsal will begin the following Monday after auditions. Rosemont Jazz Instrumentation is limited to saxophones, trumpets, trombones, rhythm section instruments—which include bass guitar/upright bass, drumset/percussion, piano, and guitar. All performances by the Jazz Band are mandatory.

If you are interested in one of our jazz bands but would like more information, please contact Mr. LaGrone.

Please note that jazz band is a huge, but very rewarding time commitment.

Jazz Band Performances

Winter Concert, West Linn MS Jazz Fest, Skyview Jazz, U of Portland Jazz, Mt. Hood Community College Jazz, Spring Concert, others tba

ROSEMONT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND CLASSROOM RULES:

1. Enter and leave the music room in an orderly, quiet manner.
2. Come to every class prepared! This includes your instrument, accessories, music, and a sharpened pencil(s).
3. No gum chewing, eating, or drinking in the music room. **Water is approved.**
4. Respectful and appropriate behavior is expected of all students at all times. This includes band equipment.
5. It is expected that all students treat substitute teachers with respect.

- **“if it’s not yours, leave it alone...”**

No student may play any instrument, including all percussion instruments, unless assigned to the instrument or with permission of the owner or Mr. LaGrone. Percussion instruments can cost thousands of dollars and must be treated with care.

- **“if you use it, take care of it...”**

All instruments, chairs, stands, accessories, etc. should be treated with care. Do not lean on stands, lean on backs of chairs, mistreat any equipment, or use equipment in a manner for which it is not intended.

- **“if you take it out, put it away...”**

All instruments, sticks, percussion accessories, etc, must be put away at the end of every rehearsal. All percussionists must help put away ALL percussion.

- **“if you move it, put it back...”**

All instruments must end up back on the shelf, NOT on the floor.

A colleague put it well and I agree wholeheartedly: *“I require what I call “situational maturity” of all my students. Band can get very silly at times, and I believe that this is part of the natural band process. However, I also treat band as a very serious class, so I have very high expectations of my students. When the task at hand is serious, be mature. When the task is silly, go ahead, you’re only young once.”*

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:

It is important that students practice their instruments/music three to five days a week. For 6th Graders, practice journals are to be filled out by every student every two weeks. For all band students: find a good place to practice, free from interruptions. Standing during practice is excellent. When sitting during practice, a chair with a straight back is preferred. Both help with proper diaphragm support, breathing, and posture. Practice journals are to be signed by parents and turned in at the end of the designated period. BE PREPARED FOR PLAYING TESTS! ☺

Grading Policy

Grade Distribution

50% = Participation and Performances
15% = Written Assignments
25% = Playing Tests and Related Documents (7th/8th Grade)
10% = Practice Journals

Grade Scale:

90%-100% = A
80%-90% = B
70%-80% = C
60%-70% = D
Under 60% = F

ATTENDANCE:

If you have a legitimate conflict with a performance date, you must submit a request to miss that performance AT LEAST TWO WEEKS prior to the performance in order to have it excused.

In addition to official school policy, attendance at all rehearsals and concerts is REQUIRED. Band is a TEAM ACTIVITY and we all suffer the consequences if our team members miss a performance. Unexcused absences will result in the lowering of an end-of-term grade. Not all conflicts will be considered a valid excuse for missing a performance. Concerts can be compared to cumulative final exams in other classes. However, concert performances cannot be made up after the fact. If a student must miss a concert, a make-up assignment is required. Several of our activities require students to be at Rosemont Ridge before and after school hours. Parents will be informed of these times in advance. Band is a performing art, and concerts and performances are an extension of the classroom. Our ultimate goal in band is to perform, so it is essential that students be present at all performances. That being said, if there is an emergency that prohibits concert attendance, please make every effort to contact Mr. LaGrone before the concert. Be sure to be on the lookout for "band class" handouts and E-mails.

SUPPLY LIST

All Bands: Please make sure that you have the following items: Music Folder and a supply of #2 pencils with good erasers

Method Book:

6th grade beginning band members only: *"Measures of Success, Book 1"* for your instrument

7th grade band members only: *"Measures of Success, Book 1 & 2"* for your instrument

8th grade band members only: *"Measures of Success, Book 2"* for your instrument

I highly recommend that all students purchase the play along CD to these books—these have proven to be outstanding practice help! *Also, purchasing a small tuner, metronome, and a portable stand are GREAT tools to purchase for ALL young musicians!*

Flute: cleaning cloth and cleaning rod

Clarinets and Saxophones: At least 4 reeds (a whole box is less expensive than buying single reeds) and a multi-reed holder. Clarinets: the reed should be hard enough to allow you to play easily in the upper register. In general, first year players play on size 2 or medium, second year and beyond are 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 or Medium Hard. Clarinets need a cleaning swab. Saxophones should use a "Pad Saver."

SUPPLY LIST (CONTINUED)

Brass Instruments: Valve Oil, tuning slide grease and cleaning snake. Trombones need slide oil and a small spray bottle to water your slide

Percussion: Drumsticks (Vic Firth SD-1), keyboard mallets (hard and rubber), timpani mallets, bell kit or keyboard, and a *stick bag*

Optional, but RECOMMENDED items for All Band Students:

1. High quality mouthpieces, reeds, ligatures, or instruments: See Mr. LaGrone or Mr. Egan at the high school for their recommendations for you and your specific instrument
2. PRIVATE LESSONS FROM A PROFESSIONAL

CONCERT/PERFORMANCE DRESS:

To establish our sense of pride in our band program, we strive to present an excellent appearance before the public.

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Attire:

- Black bottoms (pants for gentlemen, pants or a floor length skirt for ladies—or dresses)
- Black top (must have sleeves - no tank tops, no writing)
- Black shoes
- Black socks

Jazz Band Attire

- Black bottoms
- Jazz band shirt (provided)
- Dark undershirt (short sleeved)
- Black shoes
- Black socks

If you need assistance with finding performance attire, please contact Mr. LaGrone.

Where to go to get musical accessories?

Wally's Music
607 Washington St.
Oregon City, Or. 97045
(503) 656-5323
<http://www.wallysmusic.com/>

Beacock Music
1420 SE 163rd Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98683
800-729-7134
<http://www.beacockmusic.com>

Tigard Music
11579 SW Pacific Hwy
Tigard, OR 97223
(503) 620-2844
<http://tigardmusic.com/>

Practice Tips and Ideas

In order to improve on an instrument, practice is required outside of class. There is no way a student could significantly improve by simply playing within the band class.

To achieve the maximum results from your practice experience, follow these guidelines:

1. Set up a routine: Practice the same time every day, in the same place
2. Create a practice space free of distractions (no TV, siblings)
3. Set a goal/learning target for each practice session
4. Follow a model to structure your practice time:
 - * Warm-Up (5-10 Minutes)
 - Start Slow, work on breathing and a good sound
 - Brass – long tones, lip slurs, scales
 - Woodwinds – long tones, finger exercises, scales
 - Percussion – stretch hands, arms, wrists. Bounces, single strokes, rudiments, scales on mallets.
 - * Technical Practice (5-10 Minutes)
 - Practice with a metronome AT ALL TIMES
 - Start slow and gradually work up speed
 - Range studies and scales
 - Technical parts of band music and solos
 - Practice specific trouble spots (paper clip/penny technique)
 - * Performance/Band Music (5-10 Minutes)
 - Play as if you are performing in public
 - Mark problem spots to practice later
 - * Sight read/Fun Stuff
 - Get a new method book... Mr. LaGrone has many you can borrow
 - Get a book of songs you know... every music store has these
 - Feel free to borrow books from friends
5. Other good Practice Ideas: • Play with friends (duets are AWESOME) • Perform for friends, family, the dog, whoever will listen • Take it one measure at a time, and as slow as you need to • Always think about what you are doing – practice deliberately • Practice in front of a mirror to watch your hand position and embouchure • Listen to your sound – record yourself, you'll be amazed!

Practice Journals – 6th Graders

Students will turn in bi-weekly practice journals to document their home practice. In order to receive full credit, students will practice at least 3 days a week for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. Students will be given credit for each day that they meet the minimum practice requirements, not the total number of minutes practiced. Practicing 3 to 4 times a week for 20 minutes is so much more effective than practicing once a week for 2 hours. Practice journals have a short written component helping students reflect and goal set for their practice sessions.

How Parents Can Help

One of the wonderful aspects of being a band director (of which there are many) is the opportunity to work with all the terrific parents who are so enthusiastic and supportive of their kids and of the band program. These parents help out in many ways, like coming in occasionally to help sort or file music, organizing fundraisers, chaperoning on trips, and even assisting in band instruction! In so many ways, the band program could not do as well as it does without the continued and supportive involvement of so many dedicated parents.

Your child will be much more successful in band/orchestra if they have your support. Some small ways to help your child succeed include:

- Show an interest in your child's musical study
- Help your child arrange a regular time to practice
- Provide for private lesson instruction
- Listen to your child practice and encourage them
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time
- Provide for private lesson instruction
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important
- Please notify me (via email) if your child must miss an event outside the normal school day.
- Provide for private lesson instruction - sensing a pattern? ☺
- Come to all performances and support your kids. They are awesome!

ROSEMONT RIDGE Band Boosters

We are always on the lookout for parents who are willing to give their time to help the band program.

We are looking for assistance in the following areas:

- A committee: consisting of a lead coordinator or president and others to assist
- Chaperoning
- Set-up/Take-down help for concert performances
- Assisting with individual instruction (on a specific instrument)
- Fundraising
- Publicity
- Assisting with Music and Arts Partners
- Band Library Organization (if available during the school day)
- Any other skills you are willing to share (e.g. Construction, CPA, etc)

Private Lessons

The single best way to progress on your instrument is to take private lessons. Private lessons allow students to work one on one to improve tone, technique, and musicality. Private lesson instructors can also help prepare students for auditions and performances at Solo and Ensemble festivals, as well as exposing students to music written specifically for their instrument.

Below is a list of local adult private lesson instructors. All are experienced working with middle school aged students and come highly recommended. If you would like more information on specific teachers, please see Mr. LaGrone.

A list of private teachers can be found at the following link:

<http://www.wlwg.k12.or.us/cms/Workspace/Section/Section.aspx?DomainId=779>

Rosemont Ridge 2016-17 Band Contract

Return This Copy by Friday, September 26th, 2016
(first band assignment)

For the Student:

I, _____, have read this band handbook, and understand the rules and guidelines set forth in it. I will do my best to stay within all of the course expectations, including:

1. Treating my instrument, my classmates, my teacher (and substitute teachers), and myself with respect,
2. Participating to the best of my ability in each band class, and
3. Attending all performances and rehearsals unless prearranged with Mr. LaGrone. I understand that failing to comply with these basic expectations will result in consequences.

I also understand that this year will be a blast, and I am ready and willing to be a part of it!

Signature

Date

For the Parent:

I, _____, have read this band handbook with my student, and understand the rules and guidelines set forth within it. I understand that I may contact the band director with any problems that arise.

Signature

Date

Parent Email Address (confidential)

Secondary Email (confidential) – optional

I am interested in volunteering to help with (check all that apply):

- Chaperoning Publicity
 Set-up/Take-down for concerts Fundraising
 Band Library (if available during the school day) Graphic Design
 Helping with Music and Arts Partners Individual Instruction
 Instrument
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