

**Re: 2022 Marching Band Handbook**

Greetings, Gryphon! As Director of Bands, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 season of the Gryphon Marching Band. This handbook is designed to provide you, the student, as well as your parent/guardian, with all the information you need to know about being a part of this organization; therefore, it is necessary that you read this handbook in its entirety. Our marching band consists of 3 "caption" areas: Winds/Hornline; Percussion; Color Guard. While most of the information contained in this handbook will be for the full band, there will be areas that may only pertain to a specific caption. The last few pages of this handbook will be acknowledgment/signature pages that will need to be turned in on the first day of band camp, which is scheduled for Sunday July 31st.

The Gryphon Marching Band is one of the most visible organizations at Rocky Mount HS, and we take great pride in representing our school and community. The band performs at all home varsity football games. Additionally, we travel to select away/playoff games, participate in multiple college/university sponsored events, & participate in several local parades and community events. We are a very active group, and the students really enjoy getting to travel.

One of the key aspects to success for an organization like ours is communication. Schedules may change- football games get rescheduled, parades get canceled, university systems may make an inclement weather decision that K-12 hasn't made, or vice versa. There are a number of reasons- outside of our control- as to why something has changed on our schedule. When anything changes, I will do my very best to communicate in a timely manner. Likewise, when emergencies occur on your part, I ask that you please communicate with me in advance.

It is important for students to remember that participation in the Gryphon Marching Band is voluntary; however, by signing up, you and your parent/guardian are choosing to accept the terms of participation. This means that students will be expected to attend any and all required events of the band, pay the fair share fee, and represent the program with great behavior and a strong sense of pride. Likewise, parents/guardians, will be expected to support their child and the program by ensuring that the aforementioned takes place. Additionally, parents are asked to consider joining our non-profit parent organization to assist with the needs of the program..

I consider it a privilege to have you and your child be a part of our band program at Rocky Mount High School. I look forward to working with each of you.

***Michael Jenkins, Director of Bands***



## **Program Philosophy**

The Gryphon Marching Band(GMB) has a history that is rooted in nationally acclaimed success. Presently, you join us at a time of rebuilding. This is exciting for multiple reasons. You... Yes, You get to help navigate the future of our program. You will be the ones that take our program to the next level. The philosophy of our program is based on two core principles:

**“Do your best to be your best.”** If everyone is willing to commit themselves to this belief, this is going to be an amazing experience for everyone.

**“It’s All About Pride, That Gryphon Pride.”** Our program is a function of our school. Have pride in being a Gryphon. Have pride in being in the band!

## **Three Pillars of the GMB**

The Three Pillars of the Gryphon Band Program are: **Commitment | Musicianship | Character**

### **Commitment:**

Each individual who puts on a Gryphon Band uniform is expected to be “all in.” This includes being committed to each other; being committed to and trusting the process; and being committed to the goals and objectives of the program.

### **Musicianship:**

Practice does not make perfect. If you have poor practice habits, you will not reach perfection. We will teach you fundamental techniques that will help you become a better musician.

The band gets better when each individual decides for themselves to get better. Students within the various sections and caption areas should challenge each other to be better everyday.

Rehearsal is not practice. Students should arrive on time to rehearsal prepared and ready to meet the goals for that day. Students should “practice” outside of rehearsal time. If each student shows up to rehearsal prepared and focused, this will be a wonderful experience for everyone.

### **Character:**

In our program, although everyone may not have a title, everyone is expected to be a leader. All students will be held accountable for knowing the expectations, and doing what is expected of you. Students should consider this statement: ***What are you doing when you think nobody is watching?***



## **Program Overview**

The GMB functions as a non-competing athletics-style ensemble. We perform primarily at our home varsity football games. Additional performances include community events, college/university sponsored events, along with our annual NCPS marching band showcase. As a member of the GMB, your rehearsal time will be spent in two main ways: learning a field show to be performed at halftime and the marching band showcase; and learning pep/stand music (or dance routines) to be played during football games and community events. This may not seem like a lot, but there is a considerable amount of time and preparation that will go into learning everything that will be asked of you. Positive attitudes, and a strong work ethic will be key in reaching our goals this season. The next few sections of this handbook will cover some of the general and specific policies, procedures, and expectations that we will put in place to make sure we are all able to reach our goals and have a successful season that we can all look back on memorably.

## **Policies, Expectations, & Procedures**

**Attendance-** There are specific start/end times for our practice days. I will do everything in power to ensure that we end on time; you need to do everything in your power to arrive on time. On time means present, prepared, and READY TO BEGIN at the scheduled start time. Students should plan ahead and pack an extra snack/beverage on practice days. Students should not attempt to leave campus after school as they likely will not be back on time. Attendance will be covered in more detailed later in the handbook.

**Clothing/Attire-** We begin our season in the summer... IT IS HOT. During the hot part of our season it is important that you wear light colors, bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats, so that you can take care of yourself. Do not wear jeans or sweatpants during summer practices. You should always wear sneakers and socks at marching band practice.

**Hydration-** Water is provided for students during every rehearsal throughout the season. However, during the summer months students will be REQUIRED to have a water bottle that can be refilled that they can have with them on the field during practice. Do NOT drink artificial juices or sodas during band practice.

**Medical Documentation-** A medical form will need to be on file for every student (this is not optional). Students will not begin the marching band camp until the medical form is turned in. Please be prepared to document known allergies, dietary restrictions, medicinal requirements (student must carry epipen, etc.), previous injuries, or any current medical diagnosis the child may be under. Your child will be exerting a lot of energy in warm/humid weather. Students with known cardiovascular, or respiratory concerns need to have this information documented. Please note that a parent or guardian (or with permission from the parent, another adult **relative**) may be asked to accompany the child/band on trips if it is deemed that the child's condition warrants additional supervision.



**Food/Electronic Devices-** Eating food **DURING** rehearsal is not permitted unless there has been a medical emergency (low blood sugar, etc). Lunch, Dinner, Snack breaks are scheduled. Students should plan ahead and bring their meals & snacks to rehearsal (when they are not provided by the band boosters). Just like during the school day, students are not permitted to have food door dashed/delivered to the school. If a parent or guardian would like to bring the child something to eat, that will be permitted. Please understand that every minute of our rehearsal is scheduled, so please be patient- if lunch is scheduled for 12pm and you arrive at 11:40am, your child may not be readily available at that moment. Chewing gum while trying to play an instrument is a safety hazard and is not permitted during marching band rehearsal. There is to be NO cell phone use DURING rehearsal. If you would like to check the time during a break, that is fine. If you check your phone and see that you have missed a call and feel that it is urgent that you return that call, simply ask for permission to do so.

**Be Respectful-** The director, staff, and band boosters/parent volunteers put in a lot of time to help make this an enjoyable experience for you. We cannot do anything without parents that are willing to volunteer their time and money to help get the job done. The last thing we will tolerate is staff or parents volunteering their time, being disrespected. These are all adults, and they need to be treated as such. I will work to ensure that you are never disrespected, but you have to do your part as well. Respect extends also from student to student. There is never any form of hazing allowed in the band and no one should ever be made to feel unwelcome. Bullying, intentionally intimidating others, and violence WILL NOT be tolerated- this includes within our own band and also extends to any encounters with members of other bands. Respect also extends to the uniform. Special care should be used whenever you are wearing the marching band uniform. This includes not eating with the uniform on unless you have received instructions to do so. This means watching the language you use while wearing the uniform. The uniform is to be worn with pride and respect. It is never to be half-worn nor should you engage in any act that could damage it.

**Make Lasting Memories-** You have an opportunity to be a part of a historic program. The RMHS marching band has a rich history of success. There is a lot of hard work involved at the beginning, but the payoff at the end is definitely worthwhile. I do not know anyone that has regretted being in the marching band, but I know several who have looked back and regretted not participating.

# Rocky Mount High School Bands

Michael Jenkins, Director



## FAB (Financial/Attendance/Behavioral) Expectations

Financial Expectation- There is a fee assessed to each student for participation in the marching band. These fees are only a portion of what it takes to operate the marching band. Your fees help offset the cost of number of items, including, but not limited to:

- Staff: We bring in additional staff during the marching band season to aid in the teaching of fundamentals and the learning of the field show. We use a per rehearsal rate for these staff members. Think of this as having assistant coaches on a sports team.
- Meals: We will feed the band students several times over the course of the year; including all home football games. We also provide snacks, drinks to the students when we travel.
- Band Tshirt: Each student is provided a band Tshirt that represents the field show theme for that given year.
- Shoes/gloves: First year marchers will definitely need to order shoes and gloves. Returning students will have the option to keep theirs if they are in good condition or order a new pair.
- Uniform cleaning: The boosters have the full uniform professionally dry-cleaned before each season. Some uniforms may need alterations. This year, the color guard is receiving a special, custom designed uniform.
- Show design: We contract individuals to write our field show music and drill each year. This line item also includes having any props created that would enhance the performance. Additionally, flags and other equipment the color guard may need.
- Transportation: We are required to pay the per hour rate for bus drivers whenever we travel. This cost adds up quickly!
- Registration fees: For example, ECU Band Day will cost \$10/student.
- Miscellaneous: Football/Parade music, emergency instrument repair, etc...

Mr. Jenkins and the Band Boosters take special care to keep our cost reasonable, while also understanding that some families are facing hardships. The band boosters offer alternative payment options for any family that is in need.

## **Fees For 2022 Season**

Color Guard Students: \$300.00

Winds & Percussion- Veteran/Returning Members: \$200.00 (\$225.00 if you will be ordering shoes/gloves)

Winds & Percussion- Rookies/New Members: \$225.00

## **Payment Schedule: Color Guard Only**

Deposit: \$150.00 due on June 16th (this is necessary to make sure your uniform is ordered and delivered on time)

Balance: \$150.00 due on August 1st (first day of band camp)

## **Payment Schedule: Winds and Percussion**

Deposit: \$100.00 due on Thursday, June 30, 2022 (our show designer will need a firm headcount so that the production can be written correctly. Intent to participate/registration documents will need to be turned in at this time as well).

Balance: \$100.00 (or \$125.00) due on August 1st (first day of band camp)

*\*please note that the band boosters only take cash, money order, or cashier/certified check*

*\*please make money order and cashier/certified checks payable to: Rocky Mount High School Band Booster, Inc.*



## **Attendance Expectations-**

In the marching band, every member plays an equally important role. There is no bench- everybody is a starter for their position. Attendance is taken at each rehearsal/event. It is the responsibility of each student to communicate with Mr. Jenkins, in advance, any reason they may be out/late/need to be dismissed early/etc.

Students who are absent from school may not attend after school practices or events. Students who are present at school, but need to be absent from practice need to communicate with Mr. Jenkins prior to the practice being missed. Students should not leave campus after school on practice/game days without permission from Mr. Jenkins. Work is not an excusable reason to miss practice. Please communicate with your employers ahead of time. You will be expected to perform certain tasks- missing a practice during a performance week without a documented excuse may result in "sitting" that week's performance if you are not able to do what we are asking.

## **Behavior/Academic Expectation-**

It is expected that any member of the RMHS gryphon marching band will follow all band, RMHS, and NCPS policies and procedures. Failure to do so will result in the appropriate disciplinary process being followed. We understand that when dealing with students, sometimes "things will happen." We will; however, take every effort to ensure a safe and orderly environment. Bullying or intentionally intimidating another student, defiance or extreme insubordination towards Mr. Jenkins or another staff member/parent, fighting or aggressive/threatening behavior towards others will not be tolerated. Please note that Mr. Jenkins does reserve the right to dismiss any student from the marching band if it is believed or shown that a student is unable to meet our program or school expectations. Additionally, beginning this fall, the RMHS Gryphon Band will adopt the following academic policy:

- Must have passed 3 out of 4 classes (spring 22) to participate (this will be checked with student services)
- Must maintain a 75% average in all currently enrolled classes to perform (Mr. Jenkins will have progress reports and report cards checked).

*\*Please note that all policies extend to travel as well. Additionally, if a student is suspended from school for an issue related or unrelated to the band, they are prohibited from participating in band events during the time of the suspension. Aggressive behavior such as fighting will resulting in suspension from school will also result in disqual from the marching band.*

# **Rocky Mount High School Bands**

**Michael Jenkins, Director**



## **Season Schedule- Summer/Pre-Season**

Color Guard Tryouts: June 6th-9th (9am-1pm)- contact Mr. Jenkins for additional details

New Student Orientation: June 7th-9th (9am-1pm)- This is for Wind & Percussion students who are new to the program, along with the student leadership.

Summer Preview Rehearsal: Thursday, June 30th (documents, deposits due), 3:30pm-6pm

Band Camp Kickoff: Sunday, July 31st : 1:00pm| This is a tentative event with details TBD

Band Camp Week 1: Monday Aug 1st- Friday Aug 5th| 8:45am-3:30pm

Band Camp Week 2: Monday Aug 8th-Thursday Aug 11th| 8:45am-3:30pm

Band Camp Week 3: Tuesday Aug 16th-Thursday Aug 18th| 3:30pm-6pm

Band Camp Week 4: Tuesday Aug 23rd-Thursday Aug 25th| 3:30pm-6pm

## **Regular Season Schedule**

After school rehearsals will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays

- Rehearsals will start at 2:50pm in the Band Room, and will end at 5pm.
- First rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 31st
- **Additional Regular Season Rehearsals**
  - Friday, September 16th, 2:50pm-5pm
  - Saturday, September 17th, 8:45am-3:30pm

## **Football Season**

Varsity football games are typically held on Friday nights, with kickoff @ 7pm. Students will not be permitted to leave campus after school on game day. Dinner will be provided to students courtesy of Rocky Mount Band Boosters, Inc. It is important that any known food allergies are documented so that our boosters are aware when deciding meal options.

## **Football Schedule:**

8/19- Away @ Tarboro

8/26- Home vs Northeastern

9/9- Home vs Goldsboro

9/30- Home vs Nash Central

10/14- Away @ Southern Nash

10/21- Home vs Franklinton (Homecoming)

10/28- Home vs Northern Nash (Senior Night) (This game may also be pink out)

**Playoffs-** Here at RMHS, we expect that our ball team will make the playoffs. GMB students should continue to keep Friday nights open

- Dates: 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25 (this is the day after Thanksgiving), 12/2, 12/10 (State Championship Game)

## **Additional Performances/Travel Schedule**

- Saturday, September 10th: ECU Band Day
- Saturday, October 1st: Pumpkin Festival Parade & Nash County Public Schools Marching Band Showcase
- Saturday, October 15th: Bands of America @ Wake Forest University (TENTATIVE/TBD)
- Saturday, December 3rd: Christmas Parade
- Sunday, December 4th: Christmas Parade
- Sunday, December 11th: Christmas Parade

*\*It is still early for some organizations. Please be advised that additional dates/events may be added*