

RJEMS 7th grade band



Important information:

- For updates on all the latest band activities check the website:
GR Bands www.grbands.org
- Band and Choir are year-long courses at RJEMS. No schedule changes will be made after the first week of the school year. One of the best things a music class can help teach is perseverance or grit. Research shows that students that demonstrate grit are more successful in school and also in life.

7th Grade Band Concert Dates for the 2023-24 school year:

Location: Reif Center

Monday, November 20, 1st hour 6:30

Tuesday, February 13, 1st hour 7:30

Monday, May 13, 1st hour 6:30

Concerts are an extension of the curricular day, and attendance is mandatory.

Please mark the concert dates on your calendar so we avoid any potential conflicts.

Concert attire:

All middle school students need to wear all black for their concerts. Please try to dress formally, as these are formal events. No athletic shoes, t-shirts, jeans, etc. The black clothes are not intended to be a hardship on family budgets. We have some donated black clothes in our "Concert Black Closet" at the middle school; just talk to one of the music teachers if the need arises. If you have black clothing that your child has grown out of and would like to donate, they are greatly appreciated!

School-owned Instruments students:

Please remember to pay your \$100 instrument usage fee for this school year. There is an online payment option available on the ISD 318 website, under the Pay Online link. Here is a direct link:

<http://tinyurl.com/RJEMSSchoolhornfee> or scan the QR code:



Checks should be made out to ISD 318 and can be sent to school with the student, or mailed to the middle school.

This fee is tax-deductible. We strongly encourage all students using school instruments to purchase their own mouthpiece. Talk to your band director about recommendations and ordering information.

Goals for the year:

Have FUN, learn some new skills, better understand the building blocks of music, increase an appreciation for the importance of music in our lives, and be a part of the awesome and tremendously successful Grand Rapids Band program!

Grading:

Band is a performance-based class and grades will reflect individual musical progress as well as the ability to perform benchmarks at grade level. Students will be asked to demonstrate skills and improvement throughout the year. A basic proficiency level will be expected of ALL students, and opportunities to demonstrate more advanced skills will be given as well. In addition to basic skill assessments, students will receive a weekly grade based on their rehearsal performance. This grade will include being responsible, respectful and ready to learn during rehearsals. Concerts are a significant part of our performance grades, so please put them on the calendar as early as possible.

Home Practice:

Students will not be graded on the amount of time spent practicing outside of school, but will be asked to do a self-assessment of their practice sessions/music skills twice a unit. The goal is to have all students increase their awareness of their own playing ability, and promote independent learning. There will be various practice incentives throughout the school year.

SmartMusic is a digital/on-line home practice tool that can be used on computers as well as iPads. SmartMusic is a yearly subscription; you can find more information at: www.smartmusic.com. Essential Elements, book 2 will be the primary learning text for 7th grade. Percussion students use Alfred Drum Method book 1, and Fresh Approach to Mallets. Home practice should be out of

lesson books, concert music, and any online music students are interested in playing. There are many sites that have free sheet music, often for popular songs that the kids might find fun to try!

Supplies:

If your child needs reeds, valve oil, cork grease, drum sticks, 1" 3 ring binder, etc, those items can be purchased at the school store. You can also ask your band director for other supply sources.

Requirement for class:

1. Students are required to have a 1" 3 ring binder to hold all of their music. It is their responsibility to take care of and bring this to class everyday.
2. Bring your instrument daily to class!
3. Wind students need to purchase the Essential Elements book 2 for daily use in class.
4. Percussionists must purchase Timpani and Yarn Mallets.
Timpani = Vic Firth T1 Mallets = Mike Balter Blue Medium Yarn Mallets

Recommendations for Reeds:

- **Clarinets:**
La Voz, Mitchell Lurie, Vandoren are all good brands.
Should be playing on a med. soft (2 1/2) to medium (3)
- **Alto Sax/Tenor Sax:**
La Voz, Vandoren, Hemke are all good brands.
Should be playing on a med. soft (2 1/2) to a medium (3)
- **Bari Sax**
Bari brand plastic reeds are longer lasting and more durable for bari players. A medium works well for most students.
(These may need to be ordered on-line) The brand is "Bari"
- **Bass Clarinets:**
LaVoz are fine; a 2 or 2 1/2 works best.
- **Oboe/bassoon:**
The best bet is to find someone that makes their own reeds, and will make them for you. Here are a few that you may want to contact:
 1. *Midwest Musical Imports*
2021 E. Hennepin Ave.
Suite 374
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Toll Free: [\(800\) 926-5587](tel:8009265587)
Local: [\(612\) 331-4717](tel:6123314717)
Fax: [\(612\) 331-4718](tel:6123314718)
Email: mimi@mmimports.com
www.mmimports.com
 2. *Karen Currie:* <http://www.curriereeds.com/index.shtml>

Recommendations for valve/slide oil:

- **Trumpets, Baritones and Tubas:**
Blue Juice valve oil: One bottle should last for a couple of years if used properly. Put your name on the bottle with a permanent marker. Petroleum Jelly works fine for tuning slides. Commercial tuning slide grease is fine, too.
- **Trombones:**
Yamaha slide oil works very well, and should be used sparingly. It costs about \$10 per bottle, but if used properly should last at least for a year. Put your name on the bottle with a permanent marker. Yamaha slide cream works well, but students need to make sure they are using the water misting bottle to keep the slide moving. Tuning slide can be greased with petroleum jelly. Commercial tuning slide grease is fine, too.
- **French Horns:**
Holton rotor valve oil works well. Tuning slides can be greased with petroleum jelly or slide grease. Commercial tuning slide grease is fine, too.

Contact information:

If you have questions throughout the year, please feel free to contact me:

Mr. Myers, 7th grade band director (1st hour)
Email: dmyers@isd318.org Website: www.qrbands.org

I am extremely excited to work with you this year and look forward to having an awesome year!

