River Ridge High School Band
Marching Band Schedule
2021-2022

Marching band is a very time-consuming, yet rewarding experience. When done normally, we have weekly practices in the Fall (Tues. & Sat.) and do more performing in the first 6 to 7 weeks of school than middle school programs do in a year! (Not to mention close to or more performing in the same short time frame than the other performing arts programs do at the high school in a year.)

This type of activity is really an all-or-nothing thing. If we want to really do marching band and put on a large field show for competitions, we need to be all in. The summer marching band camp is crucial for us to get the field show off the ground and mostly pre-learned before school starts. Class time is used to practice and perfect our own parts of the show while outside-of-class rehearsals are used to put the parts together between the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band sections of the field show and practice with props out on the field. We combine the classes for the field show competitions and performances and both band classes are doing marching band through the end of October. Students are not able to “opt out” of marching band because they would be sitting idle for basically the first quarter of the school year.

There are many benefits to doing marching band including:

- Getting to know everyone...incoming/new students get brought into their sections and have immediate access to older students who have been here and care that their new section members have a good introduction to high school and band here at RRHS.

- Life-expanding experiences...getting to travel and compete and see other band programs put on their shows...we know that we are definitely not the best out there (our goal is to improve ourselves, not beat the other bands). It is neat to see what other schools bring to the competitions as well as bonding as a group and making some great memories while on the road. In a typical year, we do as many or more trips in Sept-Oct alone than many non-sports groups do in a year (or across several years)...obviously, athletics with away games for half of their schedule end up doing a lot of traveling too.

- Feeling a huge sense of accomplishment when we go to a competition, put on our show, and have a stadium full of band people cheering for us!

That said, this activity can cause stress for a busy students. There are ways to flex your band commitment when you have school-sponsored activities or commitments to outside-of-school groups (not work though). A lot of that involves making sure that the director (Mr. Theine...aka, me) is aware (in writing) ahead of time and can plan around your absence. Emergencies are a whole other issue and we deal with and flex around those as they come up, but letting the director know of your absence the day of when you have known about the conflict for weeks is not good planning on your part. Using the excuse system in place, a student may get excused with credit for the following:

- A marching band practice that directly conflicts with a practice for another group activity on or off campus (school related or not...not work related).
- A marching band practice that directly conflicts with an event/competition/game for another group activity on or off campus (school related or not...not work related).
- A marching band performance that directly conflicts with an event/competition/game for another group activity on or off campus (school related or not...not work related).
The student is expected to attend marching band performances that directly conflict with a practice for another group activity on or off campus (school related or not).

The excuse system applies to marching band and pep band activities...not to the three formal concerts. Students are expected to make a concert their priority (barring emergencies of course...I have had students miss a concert for a death in the family, final chance to say goodbye, or for a car accident in the past).

To be clear, “I have work” is not an excuse that can be used to miss band events. Students who work are expected to be student workers...students first, workers second. It is expected that you arrange time off from work based on the included schedule. Changes to the schedule that cannot be communicated three weeks or more before the change in schedule occurs, will not be required.

Here’s the planned schedule looking ahead to this summer and next year. (This is all subject to change and depending on what we are allowed to do next year.):

- **Summer:**
  - July 27, 9 AM – 4 PM: Band Camp - Student Leadership Day
  - July 28, 9 AM – 4 PM: Band Camp - Percussion & Color Guard Day
  - July 29-30, 9 AM – 8 PM: Band Camp - Basics Days
  - August 2-6, 9 AM – 8 PM: Band Camp - Drill Week

- **Fall:**
  - 9/8/21: 1st day of school assembly
  - 9/9/21: Football Game, 5:30 PM in the stands at the stadium (game starts early at 6 PM).
  - 9/11/21: Marching Band Practice
    - Color Guard & Percussion: 12 – 1 PM
    - Full Band: 1 – 4 PM
  - 9/14/21: Uniform fitting night, 7-9 PM
  - 9/18/21: Marching Band Practice
    - Color Guard & Percussion: 12 – 1 PM
    - Full Band: 1 – 4 PM
  - 9/21/21: Marching Band Practice
    - Color Guard & Percussion: 6 – 7 PM
    - Full Band: 7-9 PM
  - 9/24/21: Football Game, 6:30 PM in the stands
  - 9/25/21: Leavenworth Parade, full day event
  - 9/28/21: Marching Band Practice
    - Color Guard & Percussion: 6 – 7 PM
    - Full Band: 7-9 PM
  - 10/1/21: Football Game, 6:30 PM in the stands
  - 10/2/21: Marching Band Competition (Everett)
  - 10/5/21: Marching Band Practice
    - Color Guard & Percussion: 6 – 7 PM
    - Full Band: 7-9 PM
  - 10/9/21: Marching Band Competition (Tumwater)
  - 10/12/21: Marching Band Practice
    - Color Guard & Percussion: 6 – 7 PM
    - Full Band: 7-9 PM
  - 10/15/21: Football Game, 6:30 PM in the stands
  - 10/16/21: Marching Band Competition*
- 10/19/21: Marching Band Practice
  - Color Guard & Percussion: 6 – 7 PM
  - Full Band: 7-9 PM
- 10/21/21: Football Game, 6:30 PM in the stands
- 10/23/21: Marching Band Competition*
- 10/26/21: Final Marching Band Practice
  - Color Guard & Percussion: 6 – 7 PM
  - Full Band: 7-9 PM
- 10/30/21: Final Marching Band Competition (Sumner)
- 12/6/21: Lacey Parade of Lights & Park Lighting @ Huntamer Park (evening...in the dark!)

* - one of these will likely be skipped due to Homecoming activities. Right now, it is an educated guess that leads me to think it will be 10/16/21 that we do not go to a competition, but for now reserve both dates and we’ll find out when homecoming dates are announced. For all I know, the Activities Director for the school could choose a totally different date...but it will be one of the five football games.

Aside from these dates, the band could be called upon on any day to perform for a school assembly (during school hours which is not a big deal for scheduling as long as you remember to bring your instrument to school every day) and if we do our traditional homecoming activities, we will have an on-campus parade during the day either Wed. or Thurs. of Homecoming Week that the band will participate in. The only scheduling issue with the parade will be to remember to have your uniform at the school on that day...and take it home with you after school! (Running start students will use the academic excuse system for the homecoming parade or in-school assemblies if they have to be in class at SPSCC or transitioning to SPSCC during that time.)

We will likely transition over to concert music sometime in late October so that we are in full concert music mode as we enter November. Class times during that time period could be used for cleaning up the field show or for concert music on any given day, depending on the weather and what the field show needs.

The Fall is our busiest time of the year...after October, we get a lot of slack in our schedule...a little more intense again during basketball season (Dec-Jan-early Feb) when we play at 10 home games, but nothing even close to the marching season schedule. We don’t have to have practices outside of class, need to worry about competitions, etc...we just show up in jeans and pep band shirts and play in the stands (as well as cheer the team on). It’s pretty easy and relaxed compared to the Fall. The spring is our lightest time for commitments with most outside of school events optional...like the Oceans Shores Flag Day Parade (and beach trip!) on the second Saturday in June.

Now that you have the schedule, it would be smart to get these dates on the family calendar ASAP. “I didn’t know about this.” Is not a good excuse to use in the Fall when you have the dates in hand in June. Please plan ahead so we can have the best Marching Band Season ever!!

Thanks,

John Theine, Director
River Ridge High School Band