

River Ridge Taiko
Student Contract

2014-2015

So, we are formalizing things even more this year. Expansion over the last two to three years, both in scope of the membership of the group and in the performances that the group does, has moved the group from a small collection of very dedicated people to a much larger organization that needs some ground rules and guidelines so that we are all on the same page.

Last year, we formalized expectations as follows:

- **Rehearsal Time:** We only get to rehearse once per week. This is an all-volunteer group and people missing rehearsals without prior contact, consistently being late to rehearsals, disrupting rehearsals, etc. causes a lot of frustration for others who are giving up their time to be there and get the group ready for performances.
 - **Guidelines for Parents:** Please understand that rehearsal time needs to be treated like class time. We had multiple incidents of kids using phones in the past to text people and saying that it was their parent and if they didn't answer right away, they would be in trouble. In other words, they were saying that it was an expectation on the parent's part that rehearsal can be interrupted for any reason. Rehearsals will go from 4-5 PM or 5:30 – 6:30 PM depending on which group your student is in with a group meeting from 5 – 5:30 PM. Please do not plan on contacting your student and getting a response during rehearsal time.
 - **Guidelines for Students:** The following things/behaviors should not happen in rehearsal:
 - **Electronics...**personal music devices, phones, etc. Just think "Off, off, and away" ...like during class at school. We have a "phone box" for those of you who have trouble leaving your phone off...it can live in the box, turned off, during our rehearsals if you can't handle not using it for an hour.
 - **Food...**this is a big no. Eat around our rehearsal time, not during.
 - **Leaving early...**stay and help put stuff away if we end with time to clean up...if we end at 5:25, you owe 5 minutes of cleanup at least, don't just leave early.
 - **Be on time...**enough said...if we wait 20 minutes for enough people to be here to rehearse, we have wasted a third of our rehearsal time.
- **Performances:** It is expected that students show up to help load the equipment and help unload it after we get back from performances. We have had a fair number of performances after which a lot of people disappeared without helping unload anything at all.
 - **Parents** need to understand that the trip is not over until the equipment is unloaded. Some students were citing their parents' demands that they leave "now" as reason for avoiding the unpleasant task of unloading. Emergencies are exempt, but it is hard to

not question what is going on when people consistently have parents who demand that they leave when we start unloading. At performances, it is sometimes necessary to let students do the work, even if you can do it better. For some of the students, the job they are doing is practically the only job they can do because of medical limitations...let them do it.

- **Students** who have a medical condition that limits the amount of weight they can carry should make sure that Mr. Theine is aware of their limitations (in writing from a parent please). There is smaller, lighter equipment as well as some non-carrying duties (bolting or unbolting equipment, small drums, light stands, etc. Those who are more capable of lifting the heavier equipment should focus on that first and not just go for the easy lift.
- **Parents** helping out at events and **students** need to be aware that someone may have a bad shoulder or back and be limited in lifting weight. Do not hold it against a student if they are not lifting heavy equipment, even if they seem capable. Let Mr. Theine know your concerns and if he doesn't have medical information, he can deal with the student.
- **Everyone**...team-lifting heavy items is a must. Spare your back and team-lift the larger drums (Odaiko and up) as well as the big pieces of stands (big bertha & papa kim). Also watch what you say...about other people, performers, etc. Parents helping out represent the school and the group as much as the student performers do and what you say and how you say it (both parents and students) reflects on the group. So be nice, use good language, act appropriately, and represent the group/school well.
- **Performance-wear:**
 - Everyone is expected to have the following for performances:
 - Black shoes (marching shoes...see Mr. Theine if you need them)
 - Black socks
 - Black slacks (cotton/polyester...)
 - Taiko shirt (we will order in October...\$5-\$10 per shirt if you give me a size...depending on the number ordered.)
 - Summer Taiko (for those who choose to do this)
 - Non-descript black sandals
 - Plain black shorts (mid-thigh to knee-length)
 - We will size people for hapi coats and assign a size for you to have during performances.

Calendar of known performances/critical dates:

- 9/21/14: Olympia's 5th annual International Day of Peace (summer folks only)
- 12/6/14: Hawk Holiday Happening, afternoon, weather permitting...outside the building.
- 12/16/14: Pre-concert performance while the band/orchestra concert crowd finds seats. Be at school by 6 PM, perform by 6:40 or so, help move stuff back after the concert.
- 1/17/15?: Oshogatsu, downtown Olympia...***Date not verified but likely***...time TBD, but likely morning or early afternoon.

- 3/8/15: City of Lacey Ethnic Festival, SMU...all-day event, performance time TBD, “petting zoo” as well for those willing to stay for that. Unload in the late afternoon/early evening.
- 3/24/15: Pre-concert performance while the NMS/RRHS band concert crowd finds seats. Be at school by 6 PM, perform by 6:40 or so, performance during the concert with the Wind Ensemble in a new concert piece, help move stuff back after the concert.
- 4/25/15: SMU Dragon Boat Festival...possible performance in the morning, downtown Olympia.
- 5/9/15: Cool Rides Car Show, Huntamer Park, mid-day performance.
- 5/16/15: Lacey Spring Fun Fair...morning performance at SMU.
- 5/26/15: Performance during the concert, be here by 6 PM, help move stuff back afterwards.
- 6/6/15: Duck Dash...performance at 4 PM.
- 6/13/15: Ocean Shores Flag Day?...all day trip, here early, back by 6ish PM...not verified.
- Summer Taiko after that...TBD...if you sign up for it.

Other performances will pop up during the school year. We will commit to those on a case-by-case basis. If you commit to a performance, you need to be there. If you opt out before we commit and we still perform, you are not expected to be there.

Information will be put out in e-mails as well as posted to the taiko Twitter/Facebook feeds:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RiverRidgeTaiko>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverRidgeTaikoWA>

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We understand the above concerns and guidelines.

We will make every effort to be at rehearsals on a weekly basis or let Mr. Theine know of absences in a timely and appropriate manner (in writing, at least a day ahead unless there's an emergency).

We will make every effort to fully participate in the given calendar (spring trip for those in the spring trip group only) and help with loading/unloading at the school. Absences will be communicated to Mr. Theine in a timely and appropriate manner (in writing at least two weeks ahead of time unless there's an emergency)

We will make sure that all needed concert wear is taken care of before the first calendar performance.

Student:

_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Name (printed)	_____ Shirt Size

Parent:

_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Name (printed)	

Contact info (on back)

Contact Information:

Email Addresses:

Student: _____

Parent: _____

Phone Number:

Student Cell: _____

Home: _____