

Spring/2018

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!!... Band Camp starts in less than 3 months!!!!

July 30 - August 3, 2018!!!!

Please read carefully and go over this information with your son/daughter. It is important that everyone understands the expectations for the upcoming season.

Mini Camp Music Camp – mark it on your calendars...

Once again, we are holding a mini camp that would take place the on June 26, 27, 28 Tuesday-Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Check the marching band schedule carefully. Although this camp is not mandatory, we are hoping that it would work out that your son/daughter could attend

Marching Band Has It's Own Page....

1) All of the information that you will need will be available on line -rthsbands.weebly.com

2) **Camp fee - \$70.** Each student will be required to pay \$70 to help with the cost of band camp. This fee includes a band camp T-shirt. It is worn for the Friday performance – see schedule, and after we finish with our performances throughout the season.

If you have more than one child in marching band, the cost will be \$65 per student. If the band camp fee causes a financial burden at the deadline of the band camp form, send me a note with the return of the form. I will be happy to make any arrangements that work for you.

3) **Additional Cost** - Due to our uniforms each student will be required to wear a black performing T-shirt worn under the coats. If returning students have their black T-shirts from last year, these are acceptable. Performing T's will be available at a cost of \$7.00. In addition, students will need black socks – not footies, and black gloves. You will purchase gloves from Mr. Duval. Cost for gloves is – wind players, \$3, guard, \$7. Black marching shoes are required and are available for your child from the inventory of shoes that collected from year to year. If you would want to purchase a pair for your child, orders these will be available in August before the first performance, which is usually the first football game.

RTHS On-Line Store

Paying for registration fees, **Band camp**, school lunch programs is a mouse click away.

RTHS is once again offering the service for you to pay your child's band camp fee through the Geneva IL based company called **PushCoin** to streamline payments through the RTHS website.

<https://store.rthsd212.org/> PushCoin is very similar to Amazon.com and other on-line shopping sites. You simply click on the items you want to purchase, whether its registration or band camp, add them to your cart and then you are ready to check out. The exciting feature is that parents can pay for items on the web store or add money to their PushCoin account totally FREE if they use the e-checking option. There are no fees or service charges for the e-checking option. I would strongly encourage you to use this convenient service to pay RTHS fees.

Members of the Marching Band...

It is extremely important for all students involved in the marching band including drum majors, guard/alternates, wind players, and all percussion including front ensemble instruments know that their role in the marching band is extremely important. Each student is responsible to know their music/drill/choreography to the best of his/her ability. There is no section more important. All members of the marching band need to

work together as a unit to learn, help, and strive to do their very best.

A Request from Our Band Camp Workers...

We are always so pleased for the hard work that our music boosters do for us during band camp ie., provide snacks/treats, keep water supplied, provide “go-for” services between the practice field and the building, measure and fit uniforms, prepare the Friday picnic, etc. *We are once again asking each band member to bring a water bottle for drinking during breaks. Water coolers are available for student water bottles to be re-filled.*

Show Music Is “Salute to America’s Finest”

Due to the honor being the marching band representing the State of Illinois this November in Washington DC for the 75th Anniversary of WWII and the Parade of Heroes, this year’s show is a musical salute to our veterans. Selections include, The Patton theme, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, A Veterans Salute, Taps, Battle Hymn of the Republic and Stars and Stripes Forever. Craig Harms of Woodland Park CO writes our drill.

Letting You Know Ahead Of Time!

All students who rent or use school owned instruments are required to pay a rental fee of \$35. This includes all percussionists and those students who do not own the instruments that they play. There is one exception – If a student plays a school-owned instrument for the sake of improving the balance of the sound he/she is not required to pay. This fee is due in the main office anytime during the 2018-2019 school year, but the deadline is before the end of the second semester. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me.

General Overview of Rehearsals During The Fall

6:50 a.m. - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays – Early morning rehearsals

6:30 – 9:00 p.m. - Monday Nights - Guard rehearsals

6:30 p.m. – Wednesday evenings – Drum Line

Sign Up For Marching Band Live Calendar

The full marching band calendar are linked on the marching band web page or you can sign up to be a guest on the marching band live calendar if you currently have a Gmail account. Simply email Mr. Duval with this request (rduval@rthsd212.org).

For All New Members of the Marching Band

There will be a meeting for you and your parents on Thursday evening **August 9** at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to answer any questions you may have concerning marching band, music department at RTHS, etc. There will be booster/s on hand to also answer any questions that I am not able to answer. Please try to attend. It should be very informative for all.

Incoming Freshmen And All Members Please Read Carefully!

If you are new to the high school, Marching Band is an integral part of our department. It is the most visible of all our ensembles; we have 12-14 appearances from August through October. We are very proud of the fact that the marching band display our fine musician’s right from the beginning of the school year. The band performs not only in Rochelle and surrounding communities, but also in several other towns and universities when we go to marching band competitions.

Since there are more demands made on the student in high school marching band as opposed to junior high marching band, ***Our Band Camp Is Essential*** to developing the new students and maintaining a high quality-performing ensemble. The more a student can learn in the summer the less he or she will have to deal with

when school starts. We realize that when school starts so do extra-curricular activities and homework.

New students will learn skills in band camp, which are brand new to them. These skills are required as long as the student is in Marching Band. Our camp is a time for concentrated learning and reinforcement of new concepts. It is also a great way for freshmen to get a head start on meeting people and becoming acquainted with their new school. I hope that you have seen and enjoyed our band's performances at some time. The reason they sound and look the way they do is that our students work hard and sacrifice some free time to make their band better.

Because marching band camp is so important –

ALL MARCHING BAND MEMBERS NEED TO ATTEND BAND CAMP. Members who miss camp play catch-up throughout the marching band season. They are consistently the people who need the most attention and are the farthest behind. Frequently, these students become frustrated and their experience in band is not what we want them to have. We also do not want to put the students who have attended camp at a disadvantage by having our performances affected by those students who are behind. We are glad to help the students who need extra help, but the simple fact is that **we rehearse about 35 hours during band camp.** Extra rehearsals are not possible once school resumes. We also cannot change our school rehearsals for those students who were unable to be at camp.

BAND CAMP IS SCHEDULED FROM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY JULY 30 - AUGUST 3RD.

STUDENTS WHO WILL BE MISSING FROM CAMP NEED TO CONTACT MR. DUVAL AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Attendance is important for a very simple reason: students who do not attend rehearsals do not improve and our band performs below its capabilities. We have put in place the following criteria in order to address this problem while still developing a quality program.

- 1) This fall's music is on the RTHS Bands web page and students will be responsible for working on it this summer on their own. We work exclusively on the music at the mini camp in July.
Freshmen/New Members - There will also be a freshmen/sophomore marching rehearsal **Sunday, July 29** from 3:00-7 p.m. Coming prepared to camp will make our performances much better and make rehearsals easier.
- 2) Absence from camp is possible only if you speak to Mr. Duval no later than the due date of the camp enrollment form. Leadership positions in the marching band are not possible if a student misses camp. We had many students playing catch-up all season and we cannot afford to have the same ones miss again. Incoming freshmen that miss camp will be at a serious disadvantage all season. Because of the amount of new material introduced, this week is far too valuable for them to miss.
- 3) **We strongly urge parents and students to refrain from scheduling doctor appointments, dentist appointments, school physicals, and picture sitting appointments, etc. during the band camp hours.** Because of the intense concentration, that band camp is these distractions do hurt the success of our band camp. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation.
- 4) Students missing camp are placed in the show as time and circumstance allows. Players first must be playing the music at a standard that will allow them to add to a performance rather than detract.

The time in which they are inserted into the drill is dependent on the band's performance and rehearsal schedules. One of our primary goals is to prepare for upcoming performances. Taking rehearsal time to insert players who were not at camp inhibits this goal and slows the band's progress. The needs of the entire band take precedence over getting a few students caught up.

These procedures that are in place, are not designed to punish those students who are taking family vacations or are going on special trips with youth groups. However, the ensemble is held back whenever someone misses rehearsals or performances, whether they are excused or not. Our program and our students need to constantly move forward and develop and these procedures will allow us to better address the needs of all of our members.

Please Call If You Have Questions!

If you have any questions regarding this letter or anything concerning the band department, please call. If something arises during the summer, leave a message at extension 6111 specifically for Mr. Duval. There will be weekly checks of any messages throughout the summer. If you need immediate assistance leave a message with the school, secretary and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Mark Your Calendars!

Finally, we encourage you to attend the Friday evening performance of the marching band, as you will be able to see the progress made during the marching band camp. That performance will take place at 6:30 p.m. at The RTHS Football Stadium on Friday, August 3. We are once again planning a picnic between the end of Friday's rehearsal (4) and the evening show.

Sincerely,

Ron Duval
Band Director
Rochelle Township High School
(815) 562-4161 extension 6111

Band Camp Enrollment Form

Please return entire form by May 25.

The camp fee is non-refundable

Make all checks payable to "RTHS".

Send to:

Ronald Duval

Rochelle Township H. S.

1401 Flagg Road

Rochelle, IL 61068

Do Not Write In This Space

Check/Cash Received: _____

Check Number: _____

Received by _____

Students Name: _____

Circle Grade in 2018-2019 school year: 9 10 11 12

(Circle Assignment Below)

Winds - Flute/pic Clarinet **Saxes** – Alto-Tenor-Bari Trumpet Melo (Horn) Trombone Baritone Tuba

Drum Major Guard (Flags) **Percussion** – Front Ensemble (FE) Cymbals Snare Quad Bass

Parents name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Home phone: _____

Band Camp T-shirt size: (circle one) S M L XL XXL

Fees:

Camp (required with this form and non-refundable) ----- \$70.00

Family with more than one child (required with this form and non-refundable)----- \$65.00

Performance T – Black----- \$ 7.00

Marching Band Picnic on Friday (all are encouraged to attend, fun food.... ----- \$ 5.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I have read this informational letter and I understand that if I have any questions or concerns I can call the Music Department at 562-4161 ext.6111.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

-----*(Cut below this line for your receipt)*-----

Date _____

Student Name

Fees:

Camp (required with this form and non-refundable) ----- \$70.00

Family with more than one child (required with this form and non-refundable)----- \$65.00

Performance T – Black----- \$ 7.00

Marching Band Picnic on Friday (all are encouraged to attend, fun food.... ----- \$ 5.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____ (Circle One) Check/Cash Check Number _____

Received by _____ Date _____