

Raa Middle School Percussion Course Syllabus

Director of Bands - Mr. Lonnie Bodiford

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Course Objective:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic percussion performance skills on a selected instrument in a solo or small ensemble setting using varied band literature.

Course Description:

This year-long course is designed for students with no percussion experience or previously played percussion instrument, promotes the enjoyment and appreciation of music through performance of high-quality, beginning to advanced percussion literature. Rehearsals focus on the development of critical listening/aural skills; rudimentary instrumental techniques and skills, music literacy, and ensemble skills; and aesthetic musical awareness culminating in periodic public performances.

Course Materials

1. Practice Drum Pad
2. Vic First Fresh Approach Starter Pack including SD sticks, mallets (soft and hard), and timpani mallets (soft)
3. Percussion fee \$30. This fee covers future percussion supplies, supplementary music, performance registration fees, and daily class materials.
4. Performance Attire – All black dress attire
5. Band Shirt (TBA in September/October)

Expectations:

In addition to the rules stated in the student handbook, the following rule is paramount in the band program:

“Do not do anything that is detrimental to your success as a person and as a musician in our band program.”

- Be in your assigned seat with your instrument, music, and pencil no later than THREE MINUTES after the bell rings.
- Do not chew gum during class.
- Respect the facilities, equipment, and musical abilities of your peers.
- Take responsibility for your behavior and performance in rehearsal.
- Do not leave personal belongings & food in the band room, lockers, or practice rooms.
- All Raa Band Students are assigned a locker to store their instrument.
- The Leon School District & Raa M.S. Band program does not claim responsibility for items removed from a student locker that does not have a lock on it.
- Raa Band Students are expected to remain in the band room during rehearsal unless directed to a practice room by the director. Students must sign out to use the water fountain.

Classroom Consequences & Discipline

- ❖ First Offense: A verbal warning will be issued, which includes a reminder of the rules, a restatement of the expectations, a reminder of consequences, and a polite request to stop the undesired behavior.
- ❖ Second Offense: Seating may be changed, and students will be counseled after class regarding necessary behavior modification. The event will be recorded in the behavior log and updated with each additional step. Daily participation points will be deducted from the grade. There will also be a repetition of procedures, giving the student a chance to redo their actions correctly. Loss of privileges, including playing the instrument for that day, may also occur.
- ❖ Third Offense: A parent contact (phone or email) will be made, and the student may be asked to pack up their instrument and given an alternative assignment. Daily participation points will be deducted from their grade.
- ❖ Fourth Offense: A student/parent conference will take place, which will include a Raa administrator. The aim will be to create a solution that will prevent the behavior from reoccurring.
- ❖ Fifth Offense: Office referral. Consequences may include lunch detention, ISS (in-school suspension), or OSS (out-of-school suspension).
- ❖ Serious Offense: As outlined in the Raa Middle School Student Code of Conduct, serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral with school consequences.

Cell phones and Other Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other electronics are for appropriate classroom use only. Because students may need to use their electronics for personal/group practice time, they will be told when they are allowed. Students are caught off task during these allowed electronics usage times, students may be asked to put their electronics away resulting in a lowered participation grade.

Bathroom Use

- Please note that bathroom visits are not permitted during the first and last 10 minutes of class.
- Each student is allotted 2 bathroom passes per week.
- To utilize a pass, please sign the bathroom form on the teacher's desk and take the pass with you.
- Only one student can leave for the bathroom at a time, and you will have 3-5 minutes for your visit.

Illness and Injury

Your health and well-being are our priority. In case of illness or injury, a doctor's note is required to be excused from playing your instrument in class. Most illnesses or injuries should not hinder your ability to play your instrument if you can maintain proper posture, embouchure, and breathing techniques.

Grading System

Grades are carefully computed based on the following criteria:

60% - Assessments (Part Checks/Written Test/Performances)

- ❖ Musicians will be evaluated based on their comprehension of new music concepts and their performance ability.
- ❖ Quizzes on playing will be documented and assessed, with constructive feedback provided to highlight areas for improvement.
- ❖ For concerts, musicians will be graded on the following criteria: attendance, preparedness, concert attire, and performance. **There will be no opportunities for making up a missed performance.**

30% - Class Participation (Class rehearsal/Supplies/Behavior) 9-weeks Participation Grades

- ❖ Musicians are expected to be prepared for daily rehearsal and demonstrate readiness to learn.
- ❖ Supplies (instrument, music, pencil, etc.) must be brought daily to class.
- ❖ Classroom behavior will impact the musicians' participation grade.

10% - Homework (Music Part Checks/Scale Review/Written Assignments)

- ❖ Musicians are expected to complete weekly homework assignments which are in the form of practice checks and written tasks.
- ❖ "Part Checks" are informal assessments used to gauge musicians' progress on specific musical pieces or techniques. Check will take place every 2 weeks.

Augusta Raa Middle School Percussion Agreement

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

I kindly ask for your attention to this band syllabus and welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

My aim is to provide your child with a comprehensive musical education. Your support and encouragement at home will greatly contribute to your child's success in my classroom. Please signify your acknowledgment of this syllabus by signing below.

Thank you for your cooperation. I eagerly anticipate your support and participation throughout the school year!

_____ I have paid the annual percussion dues of \$30.

_____ I have joined the Remind app.

_____ Yes, I give Raa Middle School Band Program permission to videotaped or photographed my child during the academic school year for the band archives or educational purpose that may be publish on social media and our school webpage.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Child's Name

Parent/Guardian Email (for future updates)

Child's Shirt Size (in adult)

Adult Shirt Size (list size/s)

Parents, sign band agreement, pay band fee, and return form for 1st Homework grade by 8/23/25