

## Augusta Raa Middle School Percussion Syllabus

### Director of Bands - Mr. Lonnie Bodiford

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#### Course Description

This course is designed to provide year-round instruction that effectively introduces and develops the essential techniques of percussion playing and music reading. Students will master the five major percussion instruments: the snare drum, bass drum, mallets (including xylophones and bells), timpani, and auxiliary instruments (such as cymbals, triangles, tambourines, and more). We will accommodate beginning, intermediate, and advanced level students, ensuring that each group hones their percussion skills with precision and focus.

**Students with a minimum of one year of band experience must audition for either the Concert Band (intermediate) or Symphonic Band (advanced).**

#### Course Materials:

- Percussion Fee: \$30 (*This fee covers future percussion supplies, supplementary music, and most materials that are used in class daily.*)
- **Required Books:** A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum, Mallet and Timpani (3 books), Author: Mark Wessels (3 books)
- 1 inch 3 ring binder & lined, 3-hole punched loose leaf paper
- Drum sticks and mallets with stick bag
- Portable practice kit with a practice pad and optional bell

**\*\*Course materials can be purchase at Playground Music or Music Masters**

#### Course Objective:

Our mission is to confidently develop foundational skills and a profound understanding of music through the dynamic study of various percussion instruments. Students will expertly master essential techniques, significantly enhance their music literacy, and cultivate critical ensemble skills. This solid preparation will empower them for future participation in a band and instill a lifelong passion for music. They will confidently engage with instruments such as the snare drum, mallet percussion, timpani, and drum set, while also gaining a strong command of music theory and notation. This comprehensive approach ensures that students are not only ready to meet musical challenges head-on but are also inspired to fully embrace the world of music.

#### 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.



## **Behavioral Expectations**

During the first week of school, the students will collaborate in creating class behavior expectations. Together we will decide how we will treat one another with a social contract agreement between the students and the teacher.

## **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. 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/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.

## **Music Applications**

Two essential applications for band students are Bandmate Chromatic (a tuner app) and Pulse (a metronome app). These educational apps are beneficial for their musical development. There are also other free apps that can be used as alternatives to the ones mentioned above.

## **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.
- 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.

## **\*\*25-26 Raa Rams Drumline Auditions\*\***

Auditions for the **new Rams Drumline** will be held during **Quarter 2**.

**Spots are limited** due to instrumentation needs, so interested students should prepare thoroughly.

All members must be able to demonstrate:

- **Leadership** — positive attitude, teamwork, and responsibility
- **Musical skills and knowledge** — solid technique, reading ability, and rhythmic accuracy
- **Commitment and dedication** — consistent practice, punctuality, and strong work ethic

More details about audition dates, required materials, and expectations will be published as the school year progresses.

## **Events for Next Year:**

- Quarter 1 & 3 Fundraisers: World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser (September 2025)
- \*All State Auditions – **September 2025**
- \*All-District Auditions – **November 2025 @ Leon H.S.**
- Fall Concert – **November 2025**
- Tallahassee Winter Parade (with Raa Dance Company) – **December 2025**
- Community Performances
- \*District 3 Solo and Ensemble – **February 2026 @ Montford M.S**
- Tallahassee Springtime Parade (with Raa Dance Company) – **March 2026**
- \*Concert MPA – **February/March 2026 @ Leon H.S.**
- Spring Concert – **April 2026**
- End of Year Band Trip – **April 2026**, Universal Studios Music Festival, Orlando, FL

**\*\*Additional rehearsal dates may be required depending on the scheduled performances.**

## **Grading System**

Grades are carefully computed based on the following criteria:

### **60% - Assessments (Part Assessments/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 (Bi-weekly Part Checks/Written Assignments)**

- ❖ Musicians are expected to complete weekly homework assignments which are in the form of written tasks and practice records.

- ❖ “Part Checks” are informal assessments used to gauge musicians’ progress on specific musical pieces or techniques. Check will take place every 2 weeks.