

Augusta Raa Middle School Beginning Band Syllabus

Director of Bands - Mr. Lonnie Bodiford

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Course Description

This year-round course offers new students an opportunity to learn to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. This course is open for all grade levels - 6 through 8. The student and the teacher will collaborate to choose one instrument from the woodwind family (flute, oboe, clarinet), saxophone, brass family (French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba), or percussion (drum and mallets) for the student to study. Physical characteristics, prior musical experience, instrument availability, student interest, and the need for ensemble balanced instrumentation within the band will all be considered in instrument selection.

Course Materials

1. Instrument and accessory items (clean supplies/reeds).
2. Require Music book – *“Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician”* (Green book)
3. Supplies – Pencil, Highlighter, reeds, cleaning kit, percussion sticks, etc.
4. Band Fee \$30 – *This fee covers future band supplies, supplementary music, and most materials that are used in class daily. Please refer to attached letter on band fee.*
5. Performance Attire – All black dress attire

**Instruments and music supplies can be purchase or rented through our local music shops, Music Masters, Playground Music, & Beethoven and Company.*

Course Objective:

The goal of the beginning band is to provide students with the fundamental skills needed that will allow them to be able to explore and create in the musical world. Students are responsible for their musical development by creating practice habits that will ensure they have mastered a specific technique in class. This allows students to continue their growth in concert/symphonic bands in the future. Each student in the beginning band will be held to a high standard in their music education.

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.

Band Lockers

Band lockers will be assigned during the first week of school. Musicians must bring their own combination lock and provide Mr. Bodiford with the code to secure the locker. **Lockers are designated for band supplies only.** Students are strictly prohibited from storing sports clothing, food/lunch, or any non-musical equipment in the lockers. It is absolutely imperative that the lockers remain clean throughout the academic year.

Events for Next Year:

- Quarter 1 & 3 Fundraisers: World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser (September 2025)
- Fall Concert – **November 2025**
- Tallahassee Winter Parade (with Raa Dance Company) – **December 2025**
- Community Performances
- Spring Concert – **April 2026**

****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.

Rams Beginning Band Practice Record

Name _____ Instrument _____ Period _____ Week # _____

What is your goal this week as you practice at home? (Please write specific goals that are meaningful to your learning)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Time Spent Practicing <i>(in minutes)</i>							
What did you practice? <i>(the name of the songs, exercises in book, scale, etc..)</i>							

Parent Signature _____

Date _____