



## **James S. Rickards High School Band**

3013 Jim Lee Road Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: (850) 488-1783, ext 5035

Douglas Cook, Principal

Jeremy L. George, Band Director

georgeje@leonschools.net

### **JSRHS Band Information Packet**

Greetings Parents,

I am Mr. Jeremy George. I am excited serve as your new band director at James S. Rickards High School. This year we will strive for musical excellence, all while motivating students and maintaining a positive work environment. The following handbook is provided to help insure that the band program will be an enjoyable and rewarding educational experience for all its members. Clear expectations are established at the beginning of each school year and will help make that possible. This handbook contains information about the general rules and regulations of the program along with academic rules, school owned equipment, individual equipment, concert band, band hall policies, uniform procedures, attendance policies and calendars.

Please do not be overwhelmed by the following information, especially if you are new to the program. The band experience should be a positive one, and this can be achieved through cooperative teamwork among directors, parents and band members.

Our organization can only reach its full potential with the active support of the band member's parents. There are several ways in which you can provide support and encouragement for your child: attending performances, encouraging home practice, providing private lessons, and participating in the Band Booster fundraisers.

The Parent and Student signature on the bottom of this form indicates that you have read and are familiar with the contents of this handbook.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Jeremy George, M.M.ed.  
Director of Bands

# **James S. Rickards Band**

## **Mission**

It is the mission of the James S. Rickards High School Band Program to create functionally literate, independent musicians, who continually exhibit the highest level of character as school citizens. This education shall take place through traditional concert band classes, as well as through extra-curricular activities, i.e. marching band, small ensembles, solos, auditions, etc.

## **Performing Groups**

### **Marching Band**

The James S. Rickards High School Marching Band is comprised of the all band students enrolled in band class. Performers need to maintain academic eligibility for participation.

### **Beginning Band**

Students will be selected to best fit the instrumentation needed for this ensemble. Any student selected for this ensemble will be expected to display the highest standards of attaining musical excellence. Students will be required to attend occasional sectionals and rehearsals, and to meet the performance goals of the ensemble. Performers need to maintain academic eligibility for participation.

### **Concert Band**

This ensemble will seek to develop the total musicianship and performance capabilities of each student, as well as prepare students for the higher performance standards set forth by the symphonic band. Students will be required to attend occasional sectionals and rehearsals, and to meet the performance goals of the ensemble. Performers need to maintain academic eligibility for participation.

### **Performances**

We are a performing organization. Students who miss several performances without communicating with Mr. George may be scheduled out of band. We will perform at all varsity games. We will also perform concerts throughout the year. Performances are not optional. Students cannot pick and choose the performances they wish to attend. Students who miss a performance may be given an opportunity to make up that grade by completing an assignment that is relevant to the missed performance (this is specific on a case by case basis). Non-school sponsored activities; teams, organizations or jobs must not interfere with the schedule of rehearsals and performances.

## General Expectations

1. **Conduct:** Band students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. Displays of temper, profanity and/or flagrant violations of school rules will not be tolerated. Any behavior deemed unsatisfactory may result in disciplinary action at the administrative level.
2. **Deadlines:** It is essential for students to comply with deadlines concerning due dates for forms, payments and assignments. Failure to observe deadlines may result in a loss of opportunity for the students involved.
3. **Travel:** It should be understood that the band will be involved in out-of-county traveling. This will result in overnight trips for some events. Fund raising activities will be designed and provided to assist students in earning funds. The fundraisers are not required, but are created to help both the student and Band Boosters.
4. **Band Fair Share:** Students must keep their fair share accounts current in accordance with the schedule of payment dates throughout the school year. The band program pays many costs in advance on the students' behalf for entry fees, music companies, and clinicians, etc. ***For this reason, there will be no refunds due to ineligibility or change of schedule. Parents of any student with financial difficulty must contact a director in advance of any due date to set up a payment plan for an extension.***

## Instruments

As we know musical instruments can be very expensive. For this very reason we have come up with a reasonable way for students to acquire them.

Students who play smaller instruments (flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone) have two options. These instruments can be rented from playground music for \$14.99 per month, which includes insurance (we strongly urge this option).

If you are planning to purchase an instrument for your child offline or from another source, I must warn you to beware of inexpensive instruments; sadly these instruments are usually not bargains. There are a lot of inferior quality instruments that look great at first look, but will not last through the school year. In many cases, the instruments are of poor quality and the parts cannot be replaced and local music stores will often not be able to repair them. Please feel free to ask me about instruments you may wish to purchase, as I am more than happy to help parents find a quality horn.

### **Student Responsibility** (if student is using an instrument from JSRHS)

**Storage:** All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

**Maintenance:** Minor repair (any damage outside of normal wear and tear) is the ongoing responsibility of the student who uses the instrument.

**Damage:** Equipment is to be used, not abused. Damages caused by fire, theft, accident, or abuse will be charged to the student.

## Attendance

Your attendance during class and at performances has a direct effect on your grade. Band is a Co-curricular participation/performance based course. **Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted.** Each band member will be given a calendar of all band activities when received, please be aware of the performance dates, and plan accordingly.

Excused Absences Include:

- Extreme personal illness *with* Doctor's Note
- Family Health emergencies verified by family
- Academic Extra-Curricular School conflicts approved by director *in advance*
- Required Religious observances (with notice)

Again, communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The director should know about any conflicts at least TWO weeks prior to the event in question. The best method of communication would be via e-mail or through phone contact, preferably by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment. *Note:* Even if the director is informed about the conflict with ample time, it does not guarantee that the absence will be approved.

## Grading Policy

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

Participation: 50%

Music Play off: 20%

Performance: 30%

### Participation

Each student will be given a weekly preparation grade (maximum 100 pts.) A student on time, in place and prepared at all rehearsals and events for that week will receive a 100 for the week. Five points will be deducted every time a student is late for a rehearsal. Ten points will be deducted every time a student misses a rehearsal.

### Music Playoff

During class, each student will be given the opportunity to play off excerpts of their music to the band director. The average of all excerpt grades will determine the music playoff grade for that grading period.

### Performances

**ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.** Every student is expected to attend every performance. Mr. George must be notified prior to any missed performance. Students will receive an "Evaluation" grade based on their performance.

These requirements are instituted to help everyone realize the potential of our band and help the band achieve the highest possible musical and educational goals.

## Concert Attire

To maintain an appropriate level of concert etiquette, this dress code will strictly be enforced. This dress code will be enforced along with the dress code the school already has in place. The attire is as follows:

White Dress Shirt (All white)

Black dress bottoms (All black)

Black dress socks and shoes

**Ladies:** Ladies have a choice between wearing black dress pants or skirts. If the decision to wear a skirt is made, the skirt should reach to knee level. Tops should also be in accordance with the school dress code. Black dress shoes are required as well.

**Gentlemen:** The gentlemen in the high school ensemble will wear black dress pants with a belt. Black denim is NOT an option. They are also to wear a white button down shirt and a black tie. Black dress shoes and socks are required as well.

**All:** Our ensemble will wear black on bottom and white on top. Black pants and a white shirt. Dress shoes are also mandatory.

**General Suggestion:** If there is a question about what is appropriate for the concert, chances are that the item is question is not. If there are further questions, please contact Mr. George.

**Enforcement of this policy will happen. If a student decides that he/she does not have to follow the dress code, the student will not perform and their grade will be affected accordingly.**

## Fair Share Program

Funding from the board of education is unfortunately insufficient to run the music program to the best of the Music Directors' and students' abilities. To provide students with the best opportunities, a fair share has been determined for every student involved in the music program. Below you will find an itemized list of the fair share break down.

Fee breakdown:

Florida School Music Association (FSMA) Dues -\$10

Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) Dues -\$10

Sheet music fair share- \$30

Marching, Solo and Ensemble and Concert MPA-\$30

Clinicians Fair Share- \$20

Band Apparel- \$50

Uniform cleaning - \$20

Pre-Game Meal - \$10

Transportation - \$20

**Total- \$200**

Instrument Rental fee \$35 (applied for students renting school owned instruments only)

Please Note: If your child is new to the marching band they will need to purchase their marching shoes, they are \$30 please have those purchased one week before the first game.

**For your convenience we have developed a payment schedule, which is as follows:**

Payments	Amount	Due Date
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Payment</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>Aug. 23<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Payment</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>Sept. 6<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Payment</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>Sept. 20<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Final Payment</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>Oct. 4<sup>th</sup></b>

***We never want finances to be a reason why your child cannot be a part of the band program. Parents of any student with financial difficulty must contact the director in advance to make financial arrangements.***

# James S. Rickards High School

## Band Member Information Sheet

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Shoe Size \_\_\_\_\_ Chest \_\_\_\_\_ Waist \_\_\_\_\_ Inseam \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any health related concerns that we may need to know (asthma, allergies, etc)

---

### PARENT INFORMATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME #: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK #: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL#: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ (this helps us to find ways to for you to help us out during the year)

When is the best time to call you to discuss band business?

\_\_\_ ANYTIME!!!! \_\_\_ A.M. \_\_\_ P.M.

PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

As a JSRHS Band Parent, I am willing to help with the following:

\_\_\_ Serving Water at games, parades, ect.

\_\_\_ Chaperone trips (football games, parades, solo and ensemble, performances, etc)

\_\_\_ Concessions

\_\_\_ Fund Raising Activities

\_\_\_ Band Booster Organization