

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Riverwatch Band Program! We are looking forward to getting to know each of you throughout the next three years. 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is a very exciting time – 97% of the students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band have never played a band instrument before!

We will have our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Instrument Tryout night from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on **Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**.

*Note: This is a drop-in – please come whenever best fits your schedule during the three-hour block.*

More information on Tryout Night can also be found on the back of this form and on the band section of the RMS website.

Please take a moment to review the Riverwatch Band Handbook and Calendar posted on the band section of the RMS website (go to the “Academics” tab and click on “Connections”). **Then**, please complete and turn in the bottom of this form by **Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** to acknowledge that you have read the RMS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies set forth therein.

Every student in the band will receive their own RMS Band polo shirt. Students are asked to contribute \$20.00 to cover this expense. This fee needs to be paid through **SchoolPay**. Students will also receive a method book, folder, and many pieces of sheet music throughout the year, all of which are covered by instructional funds.

*Note: the RMS band polo shirt does not change from year to year, so you may want to choose a size which allows your child to use the same shirt for multiple years.*

We communicate with parents throughout the year based on the email addresses listed in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Please make sure your email address is up-to-date on Parent Portal so that you will receive band emails.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions or concerns (email is always the fastest way to reach us). We are looking forward to a great year with the Riverwatch Bands!

Sincerely,

Mr. Hunter McGee  
Director of Bands  
[hmcgee42@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:hmcgee42@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

Ms. Katie Larkin  
Associate Director of Bands  
[klarkin@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:klarkin@forsyth.k12.ga.us)

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I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms outlined in the Riverwatch Band Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.

Parent Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE BY FRIDAY, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## **2023-24 Riverwatch Band Calendar for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> – **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrument Tryout Night** (drop-in between 5:00-8:00 p.m.)

Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – **Band Rock-a-thon!** (Bus Lanes, 4:30-8:30 p.m.)

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Preview Concert** (Gym, students report at 6:40 p.m., starts at 7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – **Winter Concert** (Gym, students report at 6:20 p.m., starts at 7:00 p.m.)

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – **District Solo & Ensemble Festival** (optional opportunity for all band students)

Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – **Spring Concert** (Gym, students report at 6:40 p.m., starts at 7:00 p.m.)

### **Questions about Instrument Tryout Night?**

Instrument Tryout Night is an opportunity for 6<sup>th</sup> graders to tryout the instruments at different stations. Each station will have a professional musician who is proficient on that instrument giving each student a numerical score. The score has nothing to do with effort, work ethic, or intelligence. The score is only a measure of each student's natural aptitude based on the physical characteristics of their face. Most students prefer to learn an instrument where they will be able to excel and play challenging, fun music. After trying all four instruments, the student and parents will meet with Mr. McGee, who will make recommendations based on the student's interest, the band's needs, and physical characteristics of the student. All students are encouraged to participate with an open mind ☺

During Instrument Tryout Night, a representative from an instrument rental company will be available for your convenience. Most families choose to rent at the beginning of the band experience rather than purchase. Typical rental fees are a few dollars for the first few months and then various plans afterwards.

We encourage parents to shop around as much as they feel comfortable.

It does not matter where you rent from. It **does** matter that your student has a quality instrument. Please check with the directors if you are getting an instrument that is not an approved brand as listed on the Riverwatch website. Much like any other product, some instruments that are very cheaply made cannot be fixed once they break.

**Visit the Riverwatch Band Website for more information. Go to the Riverwatch Middle School home page, click on the “Academics” tab, then go to “Connections” and click on “Band.”**

#### **Message from Forsyth County Schools:**

Due to the real-world, applicable project and performance-based learning environment of Performing Arts education related to a student's unique interests, supplies and equipment/instruments may be needed for student's own possession and use/performance. If you have specific questions or concerns, please reach out to your student's Performing Arts teacher.