

## RIVERWATCH SYMPHONIC BAND LETTER

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome back! We had a great year in band last year, and we know this year will be our best yet!

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"). The calendar is also copied on the back of this letter for your convenience. **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 needs a black RMS band polo shirt. These will be worn for the "Grade Level Concerts" in the Fall and Spring. If you do not have the band polo, or if you would like to purchase a new shirt, please log on the MyPaymentsPlus to contribute \$20.00 to cover the cost. **If your band polo still fits from last year and is in good condition for concerts, there is no contribution needed.**

Students in the Symphonic Band will also be provided with the **Symphonic Band Uniform** – a black dress shirt and black clip-on tie. They will need to provide their own **black dress pants, black belt, long black socks, and black dress shoes**. They will wear this uniform for **Symphonic Band ONLY** performances.

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

We will hold **Symphonic Band** chair placement auditions at the end of August during class. This "chair list" will last throughout the entire fall semester. Students should be prepared to play the GMEA Middle School All-State 4 Major Scales & Chromatic Scale, as well as the Chair Placement Etude. Scales do not need to be memorized for this audition. Students may play additional major scales and extended ranges. Extra scales/range will only increase student's score if they are correct and with characteristic tone quality. Mistakes will not negatively affect students' scores, but scales should be learned if student plans to attempt them (no sight reading, please).

We are looking forward to a great year with the Riverwatch Bands! Please feel welcome to contact us with any questions or concerns at [hmcgee42@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:hmcgee42@forsyth.k12.ga.us) and [klarkin@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:klarkin@forsyth.k12.ga.us).

Sincerely,

Mr. Hunter McGee  
Director of Bands

Ms. Katie Larkin  
Associate Director of Bands

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I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms outlines in the Riverwatch Band Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. **DUE BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

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

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

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

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

# Riverwatch Band 2024-25 Important Dates

*Updates to the calendar will be posted on the band page of the RMS website and communicated to parents via email. This calendar does not include rehearsals.*

Events required for band members in specific grades/classes are indicated in plain font.  
Many of these events are optional opportunities indicated in *italics*.

<i>Tues., Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pep Band Night at Lambert High School (After school, students picked up from Lambert HS Stadium by 8:15 p.m.)</i>
<i>Friday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Band Rock-a-thon! (4:30-8:30 p.m. in RMS Bus Lanes)</i>
<i>Monday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>All-State Mock Auditions (after school @ RMS)</i>
Friday, Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Concerts (7 <sup>th</sup> Grade at 6:20 p.m. in Gym, students report at 6:00 p.m.) (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade at 7:30 p.m. in Gym, students report at 7:15 p.m.)
<i>Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> round All-State auditions (Otwell MS)</i>
Wed., Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Symphonic Band Winter Concert (7:00 p.m. in Gym, students report at 6:20 p.m.)
<i>Saturday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Final round All-State auditions (Union Grove MS)</i>
<i>Jan. TBD</i>	<i>District Honor Band (Location TBD)</i>
<i>Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> -Mar. 1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>All-State Band (Athens, GA)</i>
Mar. TBD	State Performance Evaluations (Location/Date/Times TBA, during school day)
<i>Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>GMEA Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival (hosted at Riverwatch MS)</i>
Thurs., April 24 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concerts (7 <sup>th</sup> Grade at 6:20 p.m. in Gym, students report at 6:00 p.m.) (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade at 7:30 p.m. in Gym, students report at 7:15 p.m.)

**There will be additional performances for the Symphonic Band this year, pending applications that we have submitted.** We will communicate these to you as soon as we know about them! Thank you!

## 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.