

*Fine Arts Department
Ragsdale High School*

**Course Syllabus
Ragsdale High School Band
Andrew Oldham, Director**

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General Purposes and Objectives:

Students will learn and demonstrate their knowledge of music through notation, terms, skills and performance.

Class Details:

Students must be registered for a section and a level of band at Ragsdale. This is a requirement for those interested in participating in events/ensembles such as All County Band/Orchestra, Ragsdale Marching Band, etc.

Students will be registered for band at either the "beginner", "intermediate", "proficient", or "advanced" levels. These levels will determine your assignment type and workload.

Two very different classifications to know:

Class Level = beginner, intermediate, proficient, advanced (for transcripts and GPA)

Band Section = Marching Band, Concert Band or Wind Ensemble (Application/Audition/Director Placement to determine ensemble)

Students who are in the beginner and intermediate sections of band will receive CP credit and students in the proficient and advanced levels will receive honors credit. Students should discuss their goals with Mr. Oldham early to help determine the best course of action while preparing for more advanced levels of band such as proficient/advanced level band or acceptance into the Wind Ensemble. Mr. Oldham will use a number of indicators when considering the best level and section of band for each student (e.g. Daily Performance, All County Band audition scores, etc.)

Students in the proficient or advanced levels must audition for the All County and All District Band. Students in Honors Band need to score at over 100 pts at each of these events. In addition, these honor level band students should complete the extra honors assignments completely and on time. The guidance department will not approve level changes for students who were unable to keep up with their assignment schedule or those who have come to a realization that they have underestimated the rigor of Honors Band. A good way to safely gage your ability to handle honors level work is to audition for All District Band in the year prior and take those scores to Mr. Oldham for advice. Highly self-motivated students do best in classes that involve a high level of rigor.

Participation:

All levels of Band will have multiple rehearsals and performances outside of school hours. Please refer to the website www.ragsdaleband.org for a calendar of events. (or to import these dates to your google calendar) These rehearsals will focus on MPA and Concert preparation and the experience of full ensemble musicianship. Rides should be prompt for pick up.

Participation during rehearsals and performances is mandatory. I cannot stress this enough. Every member's participation is vital to the shared ensemble experience. When you miss a rehearsal or a performance, it not only hurts your grade, but it also hurts the learning experience, performance, and the judge's scores for the entire group. Since missing Band events will affect many people, signing up for Band and not committing to the schedule is completely unacceptable. Perfect attendance is expected. Students should come to class and rehearsal on time.

Grading:

Grades will be a reflection of the student's work during a single semester. There will not be a yearly average although a full years work will be considered for student awards honors and solos.

During the fall and spring semesters:

Grades will be collected from the following:

(Approximate percentage factored in depending on the amount of performances.)

50% (40% for honors level) Daily Performance

Students will lose 5% for every variation on our expected daily performance. (Honors students will lose 10%)

25% Concert Performances/rehearsals

25% Tests – Tests are taken during class time. Retests are usually available. See Mr. Oldham for details.

Performance Testing (apx. 90%)

Written Testing (apx. 10%)

10% Honors Project (honors level band students only) – The Honors Band students should see Mr. Oldham during the first 2 weeks of the semester to request an honors project. After this project is approved the student should begin work right away. See the calendar for the submission dates. Marching Band and Jazz Band participation can be used in place of the honors project (see below). Marching band and jazz band will have a grading rubric for rehearsals and concerts. All Students will participate in parades.

- A+ 100% = No unexcused absences from rehearsal or performances
- A 93% = one unexcused absence from rehearsal
- B 88% = two unexcused absences from rehearsal – or - one unexcused absence from a performance
- C 81% = three unexcused absences from rehearsal
- D 74% = four unexcused absences from rehearsal – or – two unexcused absences from performances
- F 69% = more than four unexcused absences – OR – three unexcused absences from performances

NOTE: Any student missing 15 minutes of any rehearsal will be counted as absent.

Marching Band:

During the fall semester, students may substitute their honors projects (not including the regular playing and written tests, honors level audition scores, performances, and daily performance grades) for their marching band attendance grade. They should make this decision before band camp. It is not acceptable to request a switch back to standard ensemble grading after students have failed to meet their attendance requirements.

Students should always *do what they say they're going to do*.

Marching Band meets for band camp, after school Tuesday/Thursday 3:45 - 5:30pm.

We'll also meet on a variety of dates(See website for dates) for football games, and for various fall performances.

Jazz Band:

During the spring semester, students may substitute their honors project (not including the regular playing and written tests, honors level audition scores, performances, and daily performance grades) for their jazz band attendance grade. They should make this decision before the first rehearsal. It is not acceptable to request a switch back to standard ensemble grading after students have failed to meet their attendance requirements. Students should always *do what they say they're going to do*.

Jazz band meets spring semester after school 3:45 - 4:30pm Monday - Wednesday.

Preparation:

Come to Band with all needed equipment in good working order and with all other items as needed for the day. Some examples might include Concert Dress (every detail correct), field trip items such as lunch money/ fees/ paperwork or Daily Supplies such as pencils (no pens), folders, music, instrument maintenance supplies, and a tuner.

Students who don't have all of the items needed for performance are not "uniform" may not be permitted to perform and will have a reduction to their performance grade.

Allowing an unprepared student to participate is unfair to all who have worked hard to create a "uniform" ensemble. I can offer help to students who cannot afford the needed items. If you are unable to obtain some of the items for financial reasons please let Mr. Oldham know with at least two weeks time before the needed date.

In addition to the needed material items, students should practice, bring their knowledge of the instrument and of the music back to class. Good daily exercises include studies in flexibility, technique, sight-reading, and scales. You may also see Mr. Oldham for a list of private tutors.

Required Materials:

1. General items:
Instrument, music, pencil, tuning device/electronic tuner
2. Concert Dress:
Women – Black or white blouse/sweater, black pants. Black dress shoes.
Men – White dress shirt (collared), solid black long neck tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.
**Wind Ensemble will be issued a uniform to be collected after each performance. Students should bring long black socks and closed toe dress shoes to each performance.*
3. Marching Band: Marching Band has it's own list of required material. See Mr. Oldham for this form.

Behavior:

All Band functions are school functions. Therefore, the bus and the places that the Band may travel are an extension of the classroom. Rules and consequences will be measured according to the guidelines contained in the Ragsdale Student Handbook. Students may also be denied permission to attend future events if the quality of their participation does not meet Mr. Oldham's standards and the standards of the school.

Transportation and Supervision:

Students are expected to arrive and be picked up on time. When rehearsals dismiss, students disperse in many directions for parking and in such a way that makes supervision very difficult. For this reason, it is important that students are picked up on time. Failure to do so may jeopardize future participation in after school activities.

Community Service:

Our ensembles have a variety of performances. In most cases, I will have information posted about them on the website. However, during certain times of the year, students have the opportunity to participate in community service activities and performances. (Small ensembles playing at nursing homes, around salvation army buckets, for special events, etc.)

Two things to remember: First, There are so many events that sometimes they overlap. Because of the amount of events, there will not be teacher supervision at every community service event (parents should attend). And secondly, students can use these events to complete their service learning goals. Community Service is not only important to our town but it is recognized by GCS at graduation and valued by colleges.

Care of School Property:

The Band has a very limited supply of instruments and music. Great care should be taken with these items so that future classes may have them in good condition. Students taking Band must take responsibility for the materials that are issued to them. Damaged or lost materials will be added to the school's "fees owed" list.

Lockers:

Students will be issued a band locker. This locker should remain clean and well maintained. Keep locker free of food, garbage, clothing, etc. Locks will not be provided but you are encouraged to bring in your own personal lock. It must be a combination style lock and Mr. Oldham will need to keep a copy of the combination in his database.

I have read and support class syllabus:

Student: _____

Parent: _____

Parent's home phone number/s _____

Parent's cell phone number _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Student's Email Address _____

PS. We are always needing volunteers. If you have any skills that you can offer or are willing to learn, please let me know. (e.g. willing to get a CDL and drive a bus or truck, woodworking, welding, sewing, preparing snacks for students, helping with pit crew, helping with band finances, fundraising, etc.)

Let me know here!:

