



Robert C. Byrd High School Marching Band  
Handbook and Syllabus



From the Director,

Welcome to the Robert C. Byrd High School Marching Band! I am thrilled to have you as a member of this award-winning program. In this handbook you will find the basic policies, procedures, and traditions that make this one of the best band programs in the state of WV.

You are a part of a long history of multiple bands. The Robert C. Byrd Bands were established in 1996 and prior to that, this band consisted of members from the Washington Irving High School Band and Roosevelt-Wilson High School Band. As a member, you are now the caretakers of what came before and what is yet to come. You are a member of the “Band Family.” “Family” doesn’t mean that you have to like everyone, but it does mean that you take care of each other and build life-long bonds.

Being involved in a music ensemble like this is something you will remember for the rest of your life. I’ve never met a person who said, “I’m glad I quit band,” but I have heard many people who have said that they regret not doing band, quitting band, or that they miss it. It is the hardest work and MOST FUN you’ll have in your high school career.

I will support you in any way I can and I am genuinely thrilled to have you as a part of our award-winning program.

Musically,

*Tom Myers*  
[trmyers@k12.wv.us](mailto:trmyers@k12.wv.us)  
304-326-7229

\*Please check the band website for updates, announcements, and forms\*

## Band Policies and Expectations

### Mr. Myers' Class Expectations

- 1.) Be Prepared – *Be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment, and the right attitude. DO THE RIGHT THING. Be a responsible student. **PENCILS ARE REQUIRED ALL THE TIME. MUSIC IS REQUIRED ALL THE TIME.** Woodwinds must always have at least 3 working reeds. Brass must always maintain their valves and slides. Percussionists must always maintain a quality pair of sticks/mallets and keep their instrument in working condition. Basically, DO THE RIGHT THING.*
- 2.) Be Respectful – Treat others as you would want to be treated. Leave your drama with your mama!
- 3.) Have an OPEN MIND – Just because something is different, does not mean it's wrong. Be open to new ideas, be open to new people, don't judge something before you give it a chance.
- 4.) No Gum, candy, etc. – Water is the only thing allowed during rehearsal. Everything else will damage your equipment. Don't have it.
- 5.) HAVE FUN AND BE POSITIVE. Music is hard work, but it's also the most fun you'll have doing "work".

### Marching Band

- 1.) **ALL students in marching band** must be in the band class. Not A band class, THE band class. 7<sup>th</sup> period. Freshman are required to take the 5<sup>th</sup> period band class. Exceptions will be made ONLY with approval from Mr. Myers on a case by case basis. It is important to have everyone in class so communication is more efficient, so proper credit can be given, and so after school practices can be limited so those who participate in sports or other extra-curricular activities can do so with little to no practice schedule conflicts. *There is a major change to the school schedule this year, so it is understood that there will be unforeseen issues that arise.*
- 2.) **All communication** about the band will come from the band office. No student is to have a director or an instructor phone number or may communicate with them via social media. Students (even those in leadership positions) will NOT be in the first line of communication. The first line of communication will be the *band director or assistant band director*. Leaders and students are encouraged to remind each other of upcoming band events, schedules, etc. But, primary information should come from a director.
- 3.) **Band is a *co-curricular* class.** Instrumental and vocal music are curricular, academic classes. They are *co-curricular* because they require performances and rehearsals that directly apply to the academic class outside of the normal school day. Marching band is **NOT** extra-curricular; it is co-curricular. Therefore, you will earn a grade for marching band and concert band. Students in marching band can also earn ½ a PE credit due to the physical nature of the class.

## *Rehearsals and Performances*

Members must be present at all rehearsals and performances. If a student needs to miss a practice or performance, **prior notification is required**. There will be rehearsal excusal forms and performance excusal forms. Students involved in an extra-curricular activity that has practice at the same time as marching band will be excused as long as the director is aware and has prior written notification. However, it is the student's responsibility to make up anything missed during rehearsal and to remind the staff that they have practice (there are a lot of "you" and only one "me"). Director approval is necessary for the absence to be excused. If the absence is excused, a suitable make up will be given. If the absence is unexcused, the student will receive a 0 (zero) for that rehearsal or performance.

Performances will not be excused for doctor appointment, vacations, hair appointments, extra-curricular games, work, etc. The only acceptable reason to miss a performance is severe illness, death in the immediate family, or "acts of God." Every student is vital to the success of the band. The band schedule will be put out many months in advance so arrangements can be made to schedule around performances.

From the *Harrison County Schedule and Policy Guide*

"10. In co-curricular classes (i.e band, theater, CTE business, and show choir) attendance at performances may be considered as a percentage of a student's grade. A written explanation approved by the school administrator before distribution to parents to explain performance attendance requirements and opportunities to make up missed performance grades for excused absences, will be communicated to the students and parents at the beginning of the year/semester. Performance make up assignments for excused absences, as assigned and administered by the teacher, will be of an equivalent nature to the original performance grade. "

It is virtually impossible to recreate a live performance. However, students who are *excused* and miss a performance can make it up by playing their show music, stand tunes, scales, warm up music, or sight-reading for a small panel consisting of at least one of the following: the band director, the assistant band director, OR the choir director. A performance rubric will be used to determine the student grade.

### **Tardies**

Students who are tardy more than 4 days will receive a grade equivalent to an unexcused absence. \*Please see expectation # 1\*

## ***Grading Policy***

50%	Participation and Effort (rehearsals)
25 %	Performances
15%	Playing Tests
10%	Written Assignments

# Uniform Procedures

While you are in uniform, you are constantly being observed. Your personal appearance and your actions represent not only you, but also your band, school, and community. The uniform assigned to you is a valuable asset to the band. You will be responsible for its care and maintenance. If something needs to be fixed or adjusted on your uniform, simply report it to the instructor.

The manner in which the band represents itself can leave either a positive or negative impression on its audience. The care of the uniform and the band member's behavior while wearing it, goes far toward creating pride and continuing tradition.

- The specific uniform will be determined by the instructors and Band Director. This will likely require you to purchase accessories for your uniform. Please discuss monetary concerns with the band director, and if a payment plan is needed that can be worked out.
- All portions of your uniform including shoes should be kept clean. This includes cleaning and/or polishing shoes as well as regularly inspecting your uniform.
- Hair and makeup designs will be determined by the band director and instructors. All students must comply with the look to the best of his/her ability for the purpose of uniformity. Please follow the instructions of the auxiliary staff to their exact specifications.
- A student in violation of any of the uniform procedures will not be permitted to perform.

YOUR UNIFORM IS A SYMBOL OF DIGNITY, PRESTIGE, AND STATURE.

WEAR IT PROUDLY!

***FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, JOIN THE BAND APP!***

## **RCB BAND APP**

<https://band.us/n/a7a09fr4Ga05A>

**Harrison County Board of Education  
Emergency Medical Treatment**

School Copy

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Father Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Father Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Is student allergic to any medicine or drug? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Has student had tetanus shot? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_ Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicines being taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Physician Office Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for emergency medical treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

For the parent/guardian: I hereby grant permission for the above to participate in extra-curricular activity. In the event of accident or medical illness, permission is granted for any such medical and/or surgical treatment as may be necessary. Every effort will be made to notify me before any major treatment is undertaken.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

**Harrison County Board of Education  
Emergency Medical Treatment**

Chaperone Copy

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Father Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Father Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Is student allergic to any medicine or drug? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Has student had tetanus shot? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_ Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicines being taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Physician Office Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for emergency medical treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

For the parent/guardian: I hereby grant permission for the above to participate in extra-curricular activity. In the event of accident or medical illness, permission is granted for any such medical and/or surgical treatment as may be necessary. Every effort will be made to notify me before any major treatment is undertaken.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

# MEMBER INFORMATION SHEET

(Due the first day of band camp)

FULL LEGAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

REMINDE TEXT? Y/N

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF YOUR BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt size:

Athletic Short Size:

Glove size (if applicable):

FATHER

Name

Address

City/St/Zip

Phone:

Email:

MOTHER (\_\_\_\_ Check here if address/phone is the same.)

Name

Address

City/St/Zip

Phone:

Email:

IF YOUR PARENTS DO NOT LIVE TOGETHER, WHO SHOULD RECEIVE INFORMATION?

FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ or MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name and full phone number)

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_