



# ROCKVALE BAND

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## **2020 Rockvale Band Handbook**

### ***From the Directors***

Welcome to the Rockvale Band! We are thrilled to have you and your family with us on this journey to establish the traditions that will stick with the Rockvale Band program for years to come. The purpose of this handbook is to inform students and their families about the opportunities, responsibilities, and expectations for membership in the organization.

In addition to the musical benefits, participation in a high school band program fosters responsibility, loyalty, and leadership skills that will transform students as they become our future leaders. Throughout the school year, we as directors will strive to hold our band members not only to the highest standards of musicianship, but also to those of personal character and pride in our school and community. We look forward to working with students and parents alike to build a tradition of excellence at Rockvale High School.

Please read this handbook in its entirety to check the policies and requirements of the 2020-2021 Rockvale Band.

*Alex Sears & Chris Lowry*

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## **Band Membership**

To be a member of the Rockvale Band, students and parents must:

- Enroll in the proper band class period
- Complete all forms and payments by the due dates
- Agree to comply with the terms of this handbook
- Agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Rockvale High School
- Remain in good standing, both academically and behaviorally, with Rockvale High School teachers and administration
- Attend all camps, rehearsals, performances, and other scheduled band functions

## **Materials, Expectations, & Grading**

### **General Materials**

- Instrument, in good working condition
- Pencil
- 3 ring binder w/ page protectors
- Music
- *Foundations for Superior Performance* (winds/strings only)
- Woodwinds only- Reeds and reed case (1 spare reed minimum at all times, preferably 3)
- Brass only- mutes, as needed
- Percussion only
  - Large practice pad (Offworld Invader, 12" Evans ReelFeel)
  - Marching snare sticks (IP- FS4, IP-FSJC, or equivalent)
  - Concert snare sticks (IP-LD, SD1, or equivalent)
  - Marimba mallets (IP-1003 or equivalent)

**Marching Band Materials-** students will have the following items at rehearsal:

- Instrument
- Coordinate sheet (Drill card)
- Music
- Appropriate shorts/athletic pants for the weather
- Low top athletic shoes and socks (no Chacos, Crocs, sandals, etc.)
- Large personal water jug (provided first year of membership)

**Uniform Parts-** In addition to the provided band uniform (shirt, jacket, pants, hat), students are expected to provide the following to complete the uniform:

- All black athletic shoes (every part of the shoe must be black; must be athletic shoe, i.e. no Converse, Vans, etc.)
- Long black socks
- Black athletic shorts
- Black band gloves (1 pair provided, replacements will be available to buy from the band)

**General Expectations**

- Students are expected to keep the band room clean
- No food or drink allowed in the band room except water
- The instrument storage room will be used for instruments only. All other items (binders, school books, rehearsal clothes, etc.) need to be kept in the student's school locker. School lockers are free and will be checked out through the school. These are located immediately outside the band room. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in loss of storage room privileges.

**Uniform Expectations**

- The full uniform shall include: band shirt, black athletic shorts, long black socks, jacket, pants, band hat, all black shoes
- Prior to every game or performance a uniform inspection will occur to ensure this standard is met.
- When in uniform, students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:
  - Band members are expected to keep their uniform in pristine condition every time it is worn
  - Excessive makeup should not be worn in uniform
  - Uniform parts will not be removed in public unless the entire band is instructed to do so by the band directors
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in removal from the event/performance and a lowering of the student's grade.
- Uniform fittings will occur during band camp.

**Grading**

- Students will be at all scheduled rehearsals and performances in order to receive full marks for their grades.
- Student grades will be derived from attendance at all rehearsals and performances, music theory assignments, assessments (playing & written), and daily grades.
- The grading scale will follow the system currently in place by Rutherford County Schools. Grades can be viewed anytime by visiting the school's Skyward portal.

## **Membership Contribution**

**Membership Contribution- \$450** broken up into three payments payable with cash or check (made out to Rockvale High School Band). Contributions are non-refundable. This contribution helps cover the costs associated with operating the Rockvale Band:

- Bus transportation for band events
- Marching band show design (music, drill, etc.)
- Band camp staff and guest clinicians
- Band uniform purchases
- Music and equipment purchases

**School Instrument/Stick Fee- \$50** additionally for all percussionists and anyone using a school instrument (including, but not limited to: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, mellophone, marching baritone, tuba, etc.). This covers regular instrument replacement/maintenance costs and sticks/mallets.

**Sibling Discount- \$50/student** for any family with more than one student in the band.

## **Due Dates**

- 5.15 Band Contribution #1 (\$150)  
       School Instrument/Stick Fee (\$50, if applicable)  
       Medical Form
- 7.16 Band Contribution #2 (\$150)
- 8.18 Band Contribution #3 (\$150)

## **Form and payment drop-off:**

Rockvale High School  
 6545 Hwy 99  
 Rockvale, TN 37153

To drop off forms & payments during the summer, contact the directors at [rockvaleband@gmail.com](mailto:rockvaleband@gmail.com)

## **Camps, Rehearsals, & Performances**

Schedule vacations, appointments, and other events around camp, rehearsal, and performance dates. Additionally, it is required that students set their work schedules around rehearsals and performances. Work is not an excusable reason for absence.

**Contact Us-** When life happens (unforeseen illnesses and emergencies), communication is key. Contact the band directors as soon as possible (24hr notice preferred) if you know your student will not be able to make a rehearsal or performance. **Excessive absences from rehearsals and/or performances will result in a student's dismissal from the band program.**

**Band Camp-** The Rockvale Band performs at all home and away football games in addition to other various performance opportunities locally, regionally, and beyond. In order to prepare properly for the marching band season, **all band members are required to attend band camp** during July (see calendar for dates).

**After School Rehearsals-** After camp is completed, we will have regular weekly after-school rehearsals throughout the fall, and occasional dress rehearsals in the winter and spring (see calendar for dates and times). **Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather unless specifically communicated.** In the event of rain or lightning, we will rehearse indoors.

**Football Games-** students will meet in the band room at the designated call time in full uniform and will stay for the entirety of the game.

**Away games-** students will either travel by bus as a full band (for out-of-county away games) or need to provide their own transportation (for in-county away games). Check the calendar for call times and travel plans for all games. Detailed itineraries for each game will be emailed and made available in the band room each week.

## **Bus Expectations**

Bus sign up lists for the year will occur prior to the first bus trip. Rutherford County Schools' rules and regulations for bus behavior will apply on all band bus trips. Chaperones will supervise each bus on trips.

If we travel by bus, students must return by bus unless **THEIR parent/guardian** signs them out in person. Bus sign out slips will be available on trips and must be signed by the parent/guardian and the bus chaperone.

## **Private Lessons**

In order for our band to reach the highest levels of achievements, every member must seek to improve their individual musicianship. We are very fortunate to have a high-quality private lesson program on campus both during and after school hours. All Rockvale Lessons Staff are vetted through Rutherford County Schools' background check program and are leading professionals on their instrument. All band students are highly encouraged to participate in the lessons program. To enroll, to find more information, or to contact our lessons staff, visit the band website.

## **Courses**

**Concert Band-** Ensemble of the Rockvale Band designed to build solid fundamental musical skill sets through performance of level-appropriate band literature. Participation in Mid-State honor band auditions and private instrumental lessons are encouraged. This is a year round course which requires participation in all marching band and concert band activities and events including but not limited to: after school rehearsals, performances, and field trips that will be used as part of the evaluation process. Marching band will substitute for ½ PE credit.

**Symphonic Band-** Ensemble of the Rockvale Band designed to improve music reading skills and instrumental techniques through performance of level-appropriate band literature. Participation in Mid-State honor band auditions and private lessons are encouraged. This is a year round course which requires participation in all marching band and concert band activities and events including but not limited to: after school rehearsals, performances, and field trips that will be used as part of the evaluation process. Marching band will substitute for ½ PE credit.

**Honors Wind Ensemble-** Ensemble of the Rockvale Band designed to showcase musicianship and instrumental techniques through performance of high-level band literature. Participation in Mid-State honor band auditions and private lessons are expected. This is a year round course which requires participation in all marching band and concert band activities and events including but not limited to: after school rehearsals, performances, and field trips that will be used as part of the evaluation process. Marching band will substitute for ½ PE credit.

**Percussion-** Class for percussionists of the Rockvale Band designed to improve music reading skills and instrumental techniques through performance of level-appropriate band and percussion ensemble literature. Participation in Mid-State honor band auditions and private lessons are encouraged. This is a year round course which requires participation in all marching band and concert band activities and events including but not limited to: after school rehearsals, performances, and field trips that will be used as part of the evaluation process. Marching band will substitute for ½ PE credit.

**Honors Percussion-** Class for percussionists of the Rockvale Band designed to showcase musicianship and instrumental techniques through performance of high-level band and percussion ensemble literature. Participation in Mid-State honor band auditions and private lessons are expected. This is a year round course which requires participation in all marching band and concert band activities and events including but not limited to: after school rehearsals, performances, and field trips that will be used as part of the evaluation process. Marching band will substitute for ½ PE credit.

**Beginning Band-** Introductory class of the Rockvale Band designed to teach music reading skills and instrumental techniques through performance of standard and advanced high school level solo instrumental and chamber music. This is a year round course which requires attendance at after school concert band rehearsals and performances, but does not require participation in marching band activities.

**Jazz Band-** Supplemental ensemble of the Rockvale Band designed to build the skill sets necessary for stylistic performance of level-appropriate jazz literature. This is a year round course, which requires participation in all activities and events including but not, limited to: after school rehearsals, performances, and field trips that will be used as part of the evaluation process.

**AP Music Theory-** Supplemental Advanced Placement level course intended for students interested in majoring or minoring in music at the college/university level. This course seeks to build skills in composition and aural techniques through the study of formal analysis, 18th century voice leading practices, music composition, and ear training exercises. The course is taught over a full school year and students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Music Theory exam at the conclusion of the course.