



2008-2009 Red Devil Marching Band Member Handbook

Rancocas Valley Regional High School
Mount Holly, NJ

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2008-2009 RED DEVIL MARCHING BAND

Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Report
Saturday, September 13	Football vs Moorestown	RV	9:00am
Friday, September 19	Football @. Eastern	Voorhees, NJ	4:00pm
Saturday, September 20	Show at Piscataway HS	Piscataway, NJ	10:00am
Saturday, September 27	Football vs Washington Twp.	RV	9:00am
	Show at Eastern HS	Voorhees, NJ	From Game
Saturday, October 4	Show at Upper Darby HS	Upper Darby, PA	1:00pm
Friday, October 10	Football @ Lenape	Medford, NJ	4:00pm
Saturday, October 11	Show at Shawnee	Medford, NJ	10:00am
Friday, October 17	Football @ Cherry Hill East	Cherry Hill, NJ	4:00pm
Saturday, October 18	Show at Kingsway Regional HS	Swedesboro, NJ	10:00am
Sunday, October 19	Show at TCNJ (Central Jersey Regional)	Ewing, NJ	10:00am
Saturday, October 25	Football vs. Pennsauken – HOMECOMING	RV	7:00am
	USSBA NJ STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	East Rutherford, NJ	From Game
Friday, October 31	Football @ Cherry Hill West	Cherry Hill, NJ	4:00pm
Sunday, November 2	USSBA Northern States Championship	Allentown, PA	To Be Announced
Saturday, November 8	USSBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	Annapolis, MD	11/7/08 – 11/9/08
Fri, 11/14 or Sat, 11/16	RV Football Consolation/Playoff Game	TBD	TBD
Thursday, November 27	Football vs. Pemberton	RV	8:30am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Monday, May 25, 2009	2008 Memorial Day Parade	Lumberton, NJ	11:00am
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Rehearsals Dates: *Tuesday, May 19th & Thursday, May 21st, 6-8pm*

***** There may be additions and/or omissions to this schedule throughout the course of the season and school year. Advance notice will be given to allow all members to plan and adjust schedules as needed. *****

PREFACE

The information provided in this handbook is for both students and parents. The purpose of this handbook is to:

- Provide students and parents with insight as to how the band operates
- Explain what is expected of the individual and entire group
- Serve as a reference for the policies, rules and regulations

Every member is expected to follow the policies, rules and regulations contained within this handbook. These rules along with the rules and regulations of Rancocas Valley Regional High School are in force AT ALL TIMES that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by Rancocas Valley Regional High School and/or RVRHS Red Devil Marching Band.

The band director has the authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time when it is determined to be in the best interest of the overall instrumental music program.

2008 RVRHS RED DEVIL MARCHING BAND STAFF

- **DIRECTOR** – David Britton
- **PERCUSSION HEAD** – Scott Daley
- **PERCUSSION INSTRUCTION** – Antonio Padron
- **VISUAL DESIGN & INSTRUCTION** – Brad Donaris
- **COLOR GUARD HEAD** – Kelly Pruden
- **COLOR GUARD INSTRUCTION** – William O'Brien
- **MUSIC INSTRUCTION** – Susan Silvani
- **MUSIC INSTRUCTION - TBA**
- **MUSIC/VISUAL** – Mark Graves, Nate Knauss
- **PERCUSSION ASSISTANT** – Aaron Allen
- **COMPOSER** – John Meehan

A WORD TO THE STUDENTS

When you become a member of the Red Devil Marching Band, you are entering into a community that is compassionate, encouraging and friendly while also being rigorous, demanding and (sometimes) stressful. Being a member of the 2008 Red Devil Marching Band will require a full-on COMMITMENT from you.

Band is an activity where a very high level of performance excellence is demanded! Frankly, we are only as good as our weakest or most unprepared member. Could you imagine if your entire math class was graded based on the weakest student?!?!?! The RV band experience will require you to rehearse and perform to achieve the highest level of excellence. When we all do this, our success will not be an accident. It will be earned!

A WORD TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The Red Devil Marching Band is part of all-encompassing instrumental music program. In addition, RV offers Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, String Ensemble, Indoor Color Guard, Indoor Percussion Ensemble and other smaller performing ensembles...to name a few!

Your child is now part of an exciting organization! He/she will make memories that will last a lifetime! The Red Devil Marching Band offers a unique opportunity for students to learn with each other and from each other. Over time, they will grow closer to one another.

We happily boast one of the most gifted band staffs in the region! This group of dedicated instructors provide invaluable guidance and instruction for our talented members.

There are so many individual success stories from current and previous band members. Many times, students who initially thought they were not interested in band have gone on to become some of the most dedicated members. The RV band experience is one that so many students and parents feel passionate about.

Parents are encouraged to be active supporters of the band's efforts by becoming involved with the Instrumental Music Boosters. We are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, chaperoning, equipment crew, hospitality and other roles as they are needed.

Rarely do you ever see such a great group of students, parents and instructors assembled in one group with such a strong focus on achieving excellence! Get to know everyone involved in the RV band program and be a part of our success.

ATTENDANCE POLICY – Effective 9/1/08

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Attendance is **MANDATORY** for all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Any one member's absence from a rehearsal or performance greatly impacts the entire group. Please strive to always stay healthy and be very careful when performing physical activities. Please do not underestimate the impact an illness or injury can have on the entire group.

PLEASE NOTE: The director must approve all conflicts before they are considered excused.

Authorized

- Illness (see below for policy)
- Death in immediate family
- Immediate Family Emergency (case by case)
 - Approved religious holidays
- MAJOR family events previously scheduled
- Standardized Tests (SAT, ACT, PSAT)
 - College Placement Tests

Unauthorized

- Homework/Projects
- Parties/gatherings
- Concert Events
- Sporting Events
- Transportation Issues
- Forgetting we have rehearsal
 - Work

Conflict Notification & Verification Policy

The schedule is provided to all members and parents far enough in advance that most, if not all, conflicts can be avoided. However, if there is a conflict with a scheduled rehearsal or performance, it is imperative that the director be notified as soon as possible. **This communication is extremely important.** This preliminary notice should be in the form of a signed note from the parent/guardian(s). Students should notify their *section leaders* as well to make sure all bases are covered. Notification should include the following information:

- *Student name*
- *Date of absence*
- *Reason for absence*
- *Parent Signature*

Please notify the director immediately if there is an **emergency** situation that prevents the student from attending rehearsal or a performance. Such examples may be (but not limited to) sudden illness (requiring doctor care) or death in the family.

Contact the director at the EMERGENCY contact number (609) 267-0837 x.3557 and/or e-mail at red_devil_band2k3@yahoo.com.

Students should also make a follow-up call to his/her section leader.

Upon a student's return, a signed note must be turned in to verify the absence (if not done so prior to the conflict). If a student has been attended to by a physician for illness or injury, please provide a copy of the physician's note as well.

The Working Student

A copy of your band schedule must be provided to your employer in order to avoid conflicts. Students will **not** be excused from any rehearsal or performance for work. Nearly all employers understand what they are getting into when they hire high school students. Here are some tips:

- **ALWAYS keep your employer informed of your RV Band commitments**
- **ALWAYS give adequate notice (AT LEAST 2 weeks) to your employer of your schedule**
- **NEVER wait until the last minute to hand in your "requests off"**
- **ALWAYS follow up with your employer to make sure you are not scheduled**
- **NEVER bury your head in the sand and hope that it all just works out. YOU have to make it happen!**

Seniors

To all senior students and parents/guardians... We understand the rigors of the senior year and the 'pressure' many feel they are under from so many different camps to get so many things done. As we enter this band season, we are asking for your commitment and cooperation to avoid conflicts with the band schedule when it comes to scheduling additional prep classes, college visitations, open houses or any other potentially conflicting activity. Thank you very much.

The Student Athlete

You must be present at all rehearsals and performances. You may, however, be excused for a late arrival to rehearsal **ONLY** if you have a game. Before this situation occurs, you **must** notify the director of this type of conflict well in advance. You are expected to schedule any upcoming try-outs and physicals around the BAND SCHEDULE. Provide your coach with a copy of your fall band schedule and work out any conflicts you have. If you need special consideration for a certain conflict, seek it out with the director and your coach to work out a possible resolution.

For All Members

** A **REHEARSAL** is any scheduled after-school, evening or weekend practice.

** A **PERFORMANCE** is any scheduled football game, competition, parade or other public engagement.

GOLDEN ATTENDANCE RULE:

COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION

1. **ALL** absences must be verified with a **SIGNED** note from your parents/guardians. This should be done prior to all absences when possible. Any conflicts with performances must be handed into the director at least **two weeks prior** to the rehearsal or performance.
2. **Lateness policy:** A member is late if he/she is not in his/her assignment at the rehearsal's start-time or performance report time. Please refer to the calendar for rehearsal and performance report times. Members are expected to avoid conflicts with the band schedule and other school activities. ALWAYS contact your section leader and staff if you are going to be late.

UNAUTHORIZED LATENESS POLICY

How late?	What's the end result?
Up to 30 minutes	<i>Meet with the director. Stay after rehearsal to make up the time. May include laps, clean-up, extra rehearsal, etc...</i>
30-60 minutes	<i>Meet with the director. Conference with parents. Stay after rehearsal to make up the time. May include laps, clean-up, extra rehearsal, etc...</i>
60+ minutes	<i>Deemed as an <u>unexcused absence</u>.</i>
Any 2 Unauthorized Latenesses = 1 <u>unauthorized absence</u>	

3. **Absence policy:** ALWAYS contact your section leader and staff beforehand if you are going to miss a rehearsal or performance. Please do this giving as much advanced notice as possible. If you are absent from school the day of a rehearsal due to illness, you are not expected to attend that evening's rehearsal. A hand-written note from parent/physician must be handed in upon the student's return (see above for policy).

UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE POLICY

Absent from...?	What's the end result?
Rehearsal (first offense)	<i>Suspension from that weekend's activities. Student/teacher conference.</i>
Rehearsal (second offense)	<i>Suspension from that weekend's activities. Student/Parent/Teacher conference. Probation</i>
Rehearsal (third offense)	<i>Removal from the ensemble for the year. No recognition of participation for the year.</i>
Performance (one and only offense)	<i>Removal from the ensemble for the year. No recognition of participation for the year.</i>

4. If you miss the rehearsal before a performance (Thursday evening or Saturday morning), you may not perform that weekend. This is not necessarily a punishment but for your own safety and the safety of those around you on the field. The director does reserve the right to make a performance-day decision on this matter. You still must attend the weekend's activities in their entirety.
5. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds once a rehearsal or report time has started without the permission of the band director. This includes days when there is a rehearsal followed by a lunch or dinner break before departure for a performance. Students must bring everything they need for the day at the start of rehearsal. You are OUR responsibility at this point.
6. Your attendance record will be reviewed when being considered for awards, appointments, promotions, recommendations and scholarships. Again, in case of emergency, contact Mr. Britton at (609) 267-0837 x.3557 or red_devil_band2k3@yahoo.com and your section leader.

7. Please keep in mind that participating in the Red Devil Marching Band is a **YEAR-ROUND COMMITMENT**. There will be events during the winter & spring months that require all members to participate where the attendance policy will still apply. In these instances, plenty of advance notice will be given. Signing the form at the end of this handbook acknowledges your understanding & commitment to this.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Students must follow all Rancocas Valley Regional High School policies regarding appropriate student behavior. How you handle yourself is a reflection of not only you but of your family, band, school and community. Take **pride** in what you do and how you do it! Whenever you are with the group, the following guidelines are expected of each and every member of the Red Devil Marching Band in addition to the policies of RVRHS.

1. All members will arrive to rehearsals and performances **ON TIME** with all needed materials.
2. All staff members and fellow students are to be treated with the utmost respect and courtesy at all times.
3. Follow all directions from the band director, staff and chaperones. If you question a directive, you may discuss it with the issuer at a later time.
4. Give your maximum effort during rehearsals and performances. Do your personal best!
5. All members are expected to represent themselves in the best possible light promoting a positive image.
6. No gum, food, candy or drinks are permitted on the field or while you are in uniform unless given permission by the director.
7. The use of profanity is strictly prohibited.
8. The possession or use of any controlled substance (tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc.) will result in the immediate expulsion from the ensemble for the remainder of the season. Any student who violates this rule is also subject to disciplinary action by the RVRHS administration.

REHEARSAL PROTOCOL

RULE #1: PLAY/SPIN & MARCH YOUR BUTT OFF!!!!

RULE #2: KEEP YOUR MOUTH ZIPPED!!!!

RULE #3: Re-read Rule #1

RULE #4: Re-read Rule #2

RULE #5: Repeat the above rules

...AND THEN SOME MORE...just to be sure

- Be on time – arrive AT LEAST 15-20 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal
- Be prepared and KNOW YOUR MUSIC & WORK...inside, outside, forward & backward
- Make sure your instrument & equipment is in proper working order.
- Bring your water jug...filled with water (of course)
- Make sure all music & drill is in a 3-ring binder
- Have at least one sharpened pencil available at all times
- All CELL PHONES must be turned OFF for the duration of rehearsal
- Always work to improve yourself
- Be organized...plan ahead

A CLOSER LOOK AT REHEARSALS

It is during the scheduled rehearsal times (6:00-9:00pm, etc...) that the actual rehearsing occurs. We spend the majority of our entire season in rehearsal. This is a critical time for everything to come together. At the end of each rehearsal, the staff will give the members a number of tasks to improve upon. Each member is to work on these tasks and come to the next rehearsal prepared and ready to go. When this happens...simply put, we get A LOT done.

The scheduled rehearsal times indicate the actual time of rehearsing. So, for example, when 6:00pm rolls around – you should be in your designated area at that time warming up, stretching, spinning or performing whatever tasks you should be partaking in. In that same evening, when 9:00pm chimes – you will have finished rehearsing (playing, spinning, running through the show, etc...). Even though rehearsals begin & end at those times – the REALITY is you will be arriving to rehearsals prior to the start time (maybe 5:40-5:45) to get your gear & prepare for rehearsal and leaving from rehearsal between 9:15-9:20pm after packing up, cleaning and getting your stuff together. While this “reality” has existed since the beginning of time ☺, we’ve again decided to go ahead and put it in writing! Thank you.

LOST & FOUND...the Reclaim Fee is BACK!

Beginning at the September 2nd rehearsal and continuing through the entire season, we will once again be implementing the \$1.00 reclaim fee for each item left behind following rehearsals or performances. This is again implemented so we can maintain a more clutter-free environment since band facilities are used so much during the season. The \$1.00 will go directly to the band's scholastic account.

UNIFORM CARE & MAINTENANCE

While you are in uniform, you are constantly being observed. Your personal appearance and your actions are representative of you, your band, your school and your community. Your uniform is the single-most visible symbol of this band. You are responsible for its care and maintenance. If your uniform needs any repairs or adjustments, please report it to Mr. Britton or any member of the Uniform Committee. Your uniform is to be treated like your finest suit or dress.

As we continue to establish a tradition of excellence, we must realize that the manner by which the band represents itself will either leave a positive or negative impression on the observer. Care of your uniform and your behavior while in uniform leads to establishing that tradition. The following guidelines should be followed with regards to your uniform:

The following are "No-No's" while you are in uniform:

1. Eating any food that can stain the uniform fabric. This is at the discretion of Mr. Britton only.
2. Drinking soda or juices. WATER ONLY!
3. Sitting on dirty surfaces. Be sure the area is clean of anything than can stain or damage the uniform.
4. Spitting – Aside from being just nasty, it presents a poor self-image and is improper while in uniform.
5. Swearing – This creates an irreversible negative impression and will lead to serious consequences.
6. Running – Aside from performing your show, running can damage the seams of the uniform and projects a lack of control and dignity.
7. Screaming & Disruptive Behavior – This also presents a negative image.

RAIN/MUD

1. Pant cuffs should be rolled up
2. Move slowly as to not splash your uniform or others'
3. Wear the band raincoat as directed by the staff

SHOES

1. SHOES ARE TO BE **POLISHED** BEFORE EVERY PERFORMANCE!!!
2. If you think they are shiny enough, they aren't. Make this a habit!

The Shako (Hat)

1. Worn square on the head. NOT TILTED in ANY DIRECTION.
2. The plume must be straight up.
3. The strap rests gently against your bottom lip...**NOT** under your chin or in your mouth. This may feel odd at first but you will get used to it and it will feel natural.
4. When you are not wearing the shako, it must be carried the one and only proper way: held squarely in the LEFT HAND with the index and middle fingers and thumb gently clasped on the brim. ALWAYS carry the shako this way when not wearing it.
5. Never where your shako indoors.

Other "Uni"formalities

1. For uniformity, **longer hair will be pinned up**. No hair should touch the back collar nor should any bangs be seen beneath the brim.
2. No rings, earrings, nose rings, bracelets, or watches in uniform. Necklaces must be removed or tucked into your undershirt.
3. ALWAYS fold your pants along the crease.
4. ALWAYS keep your jacket on a hanger when it is not being worn.
5. Make sure your shako is properly and safely stored when not in use.
6. Once in uniform, you are in FULL UNIFORM until we return to the band room.

The FULL BAND UNIFORM includes:

black pants, red jacket, sequin vestee, shako hat (w/plume), gauntlets, white gloves, black socks, black band shoes

YOU must provide: black socks
black band shoes (ordered at Camp for @\$35.00)
band gloves (issued at Camp for @\$5.00)
guard shoes (color guard only, price TBD)

RV will provide: black pants gauntlets
red jacket shako & plume
sequin vestee garment bag

SECTION LEADERS are responsible to ensure the highest standard of uniform maintenance and presentation through the course of the season.

INSTRUMENT CARE & MAINTENANCE

You are solely responsible for the care and maintenance of your instrument regardless of if it being owned by you or the school. Do not leave your instrument unattended.

If an instrument is not in working condition, it is much more difficult to play. Always inspect your instrument before playing. If there is a problem that can be fixed on the spot, do it if you know the proper method! If you're not sure how to fix the problem, see your section leader for a solution. If still no remedy, consult with the band director. If you have to take your instrument into the shop for repairs, it is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to secure a working loaner instrument from that shop. Instrument repairs do not come cheap!

Instruments may be stored in the band room instrument storage area during the school day. RVRHS is not responsible for the loss or damage of privately owned instruments. Musical instrument insurance can usually be purchased through your own private insurance broker. Ask your broker for details.

INSTRUMENT CARE DURING REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES

Here are a few more instrument guidelines:

1. Polish and clean your instrument before EVERY performance – football and competitions.
2. Always inspect your instrument before heading to the field for rehearsal or leaving school for performance. We don't want any last minute surprises.
3. **ALWAYS line up your instruments side-by-side in a straight line** during breaks in rehearsal and performance.
4. Always be conscience of your surroundings and always be on the lookout for that random instrument sitting around.
5. Always carry your instrument properly.
6. Clarinets and saxes...**ALWAYS HAVE EXTRA REEDS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
Reeds are available for purchase through Mr. Britton
7. Brass players...**ALWAYS HAVE VALVE OIL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

FOR THE PERCUSSIONISTS

1. Always inspect your equipment – instrument, harness, stands, wheels, etc....
2. Do NOT try to tune your drums (battery). This is the responsibility of the staff.
3. Always check for loose lugs and loose cymbal straps.
4. Always have at least 2 pairs of working sticks. If your stick breaks, it's done.
Sticks are available for purchase through Mr. Britton
5. Tape your sticks in white electrical tape (battery)...prevents splintering.
6. DRUMLINE members are responsible for their own sticks & mallets. We keep a supply at the school and can be purchased directly from the director.

MUSIC & DRILL...Keep it organized!!!

All show music (*FEAR*) is to be memorized. Stand music will be performed using flip-folders. Flip-folders will be issued to each student with a set of music prior to the start of the football games. Following Thanksgiving Vacation, all flip-folders will be collected and checked. Lost music must be compensated for by the student (\$1 for each tune)

During the marching band season, all music AND drill is to be kept in a **3-ring binder with plastic page protectors**. All members need to have a **pencil** to mark any changes in your music or drill. Even though your show music will eventually be memorized, still keep your music with you and a pencil handy.

As you get new drill, immediately enter the necessary information into your DOT BOOKS! We covered this at the August Mini Camp. Only those members who are prepared with their DOT BOOKS will be permitted to rehearse on the field.

CLASSROOM & FACILITIES

Strict care and maintenance of the band room, practice areas, building/grounds areas, music library and surrounding hallways is essential for an effective learning environment. Excessive clutter and disorganization can distract the mind and inhibit learning.

Empty instrument cases must be **closed and placed carefully back into the storage cabinets**. This allows the floor of the band room to be free of clutter that can be a safety hazard. Percussion cases will be placed in a designated area as well.

Each evening, at the end of rehearsal and after performances (and after all instruments are neatly put away), one section of the band will be given the duty of sweeping the band room, making sure it is clean and making sure the surrounding rooms and hallway are clean.

We must also be sure that the outdoor facilities look even BETTER than they were after we are done using them. This is a strong gesture of respect, care and pride. Remember, performing on a football field is not the only place we can show what we are all about!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are a number opportunities for members of the band to display exceptional responsibility and leadership.

Appointed Positions

DRUM MAJOR(S) – The drum major (DM) and assistant drum major (ADM) are the head student leaders of the band on the field. Off the field, they may represent the band in a number of public and private settings. They are responsible for individual and group performances. They will represent the band director with his/her leadership, showmanship and teaching ability. They will oversee the set up and breakdown of mobile practice equipment. He/She will lead the band in stretches, warm-ups and music rehearsals. They will be responsible for knowing the “ins & outs” of the show both musically and visually.

SECTION LEADER – Section leaders (SL) are selected on the basis of musical ability, leadership skills, experience and attendance. The SL will be responsible for taking attendance of the section, conducting sectional rehearsals and contacting members. The SL will help the staff and DM as needed. Woodwind and brass SL's will be responsible for tuning his/her section prior to each performance. Percussion SL's will also be responsible for overseeing the loading, unloading, moving and storage of all percussion equipment.

COLOGUARD CAPTAIN – The colorguard captain (CC) represents all guard members. The CC is responsible for taking attendance of the guard. The CC will aid the band director in activities regarding the colorguard. The CC will assist with the teaching of work and choreography. The CC will be responsible for overseeing the loading, unloading, moving and storage of all guard equipment.

COLORGUARD LIEUTENANTS– The color guard lieutenants will assist the CC with all duties and procedures.

TRIPS & FUNDRAISING

The highlight of any season is a trip either taken in the fall, winter or spring. Trips will be planned in coordination with the various music festivals or musical activities throughout North America.

Trip costs will be determined by a variety of factors. Accommodations, length of stay, transportation, destination and planned activities are just a few of those factors. It will be possible to defray the total cost of such a trip by fund-raising. Ample time and sufficient fund-raisers will be planned well in advance of any trips.

The decision to take a lengthy trip will depend on performance opportunities, time of year and overall band member conduct. Trips will be an EARNED opportunity!

Fund-raisers will be planned in accordance with the onset of a band trip. It will be to your benefit to raise your money for these opportunities.

Members should keep in mind at all times that they receive individual profits from their own personal sales. An itemized account will be set up and kept at all times recording each member's credits. This money will be raised and used for band activities ONLY.

MORE FOR THE PARENTS

Parental support and encouragement make the success of any music program come full circle. Here are a few suggestions on how to lend support at home.

- Become active in the RV INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS!

- Establish a proper attitude towards music. Whether it is pop, rock, classical, hip-hop, country or any of the many styles of music out there, it all has its musical merits. Exposing your child to fine music will only have a positive effect on him/her
- Encourage practice. Many students often complain that they can't practice at home for a number of reasons. Please realize that if musical growth is to take place, the student must have time to practice and refine his/her craft. 30-60 minutes per day is encouraged. This is easier than it seems. Simply set aside **short practice sessions** throughout the day focusing on one goal during each session. The benefits are priceless!
- Speak well of the organizations your child performs in. Showing that you respect his/her efforts and the efforts of the group validates the student's decision to become involved. Show your child that you understand that being a member of a musical organization is serious and demanding.
- Take interest in his/her music and instrument. Asking the right questions about the music and his/her experiences with it shows genuine interest and care. Ask about his/her instrument too. There's more to it than you may see.
- Attend activities in which your child will be participating, when possible. Having a family is a full-time commitment, and scheduling for the whole family can be difficult. A student likes to know that his/her parents are out there listening for and watching them. They are mostly concerned about what YOU think about the performance.
- PLEASE consider private instruction for your child. However, I understand that private lessons are commitment of time and money. Generally, students who have the most performing success in high school music programs are those who study privately. Keep in mind, whether or not a student studies privately is not factored into ANY decisions made by the band director. Please ask the Mr. Britton if you have any more questions.
- **Please consider the Fall Schedule when planning events & trips as to avoid potential conflicts.**
- Please stay in constant communication with the instructional staff. Parents often gain valuable insight from those who spend countless hours teaching their children. Ask questions!
- Please communicate any and all schedule conflicts to Mr. Britton as soon as possible. Last minute notice can have a large impact on the plans for rehearsal.
- Please make every effort to get your child to rehearsal before rehearsal starts. If this is not possible, your child may contact his/her section leader or fellow band member for a ride that will get them there on time.
- If your child shows an interest in a possible career in music, take time to meet with Mr. Britton for potential colleges, vocations, entrance requirements and scholarship opportunities. Encourage him/her to pursue the many opportunities RVRHS has to offer in & out of the classroom.

THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS (IMB)

It is the goal of the RV Instrumental Music Boosters to provide both moral and financial support to the Marching Band and the RVRHS Instrumental Music Department through cooperative and organized efforts. Within the Band Boosters there are a number of committees interested band parents can join. They are:

<u>Band Camp:</u>	Provide support with meals and refreshments for students attending Band Camp.
<u>Chaperone:</u>	Provide parent/guardian support for field trips and activities as needed.
<u>Communications:</u>	Responsible for contacting students and families about upcoming band activities.
<u>Equipment:</u>	Working with student managers to set up, break down and move equipment before and after performances. Members will also share in transportation.
<u>Fund-Raising:</u>	Raise funds as needed to meet the financial goals of the RV Band Boosters
<u>Public Relations:</u>	Responsible for informing the public of upcoming Band Booster and Instrumental Music Department
<u>Scholarship:</u>	Provide guidelines for the Band Booster Service Award and assist with selection of recipients as needed
<u>Special Events:</u>	Provide coordination of special events as requested by the department

Uniform: Responsible for the inventory, maintenance, distribution and collection of uniforms and related equipment for the marching band and color guard

Video: Being available for videotaping of band performances and other events

Visit the IMB website at www.reddevilmusic.org for all of the latest band news!!!

Should you have any questions regarding the Instrumental Music Department, the Red Devil Marching Band, this handbook or any other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Britton at (609) 267-0830 or e-mail at red_devil_band2k3@yahoo.com

**David B. Britton
Director of Instrumental Music**

TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Please read through the contents of this material VERY carefully. Questions or concerns regarding the enclosed material may be directed to Mr. Britton. If there are no questions, please read and sign the statements below indicating that you have read and understood the content of the *2008-2009 Red Devil Marching Band Member Handbook*.

Detach this sheet and return it to Mr. Britton no later than **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008** ...our first rehearsal after Band Camp. Thank you!

STUDENT STATEMENT

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the contents of the 2008-2009 Red Devil Marching Band Member Handbook. I understand the rules and regulations by which I may participate in the Red Devil Marching Band. I understand that I am accountable to these rules and regulations and that I must uphold them in order to participate as a member during the 2008-2009 school year. I am aware of both the positive and negative impact of my behavior and actions as a member of the Red Devil Marching Band

Student Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT STATEMENT

I hereby certify that I have read and fully understand the contents of the 2008-2009 Red Devil Marching Band Member Handbook. I understand the rules and regulations by which my child may participate. I acknowledge that he/she is accountable to these rules and regulations and must uphold them during his/her membership throughout the 2008-2009 school year. I will do my part to support my child in his/her participation with the Red Devil Marching Band.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____