

Riverdale High School Band Camp Information 2022

- **Optional Band Camp (9-3): July 7 - 8**
(Optional Band Camp are days that I'll be at the band room getting ready for the year. Students are welcome to come in at any point to help out with organizational tasks, practice/work on music together or hold sectionals before the official start of band camp)
- **Drumline Camp/Opt. Band Camp cont. (9-3)**
(required for all drumline/percussion students): July 11 - 15
- **Leadership Camp (9-3)**
(required for all leaders): July 18-20
- **Leaders+Freshmen/First-Year Orientation Days (9-3): July 21-22**
- **Full Band Camp (8:30-4:30): July 25th - July 29th**
- For the incoming **9th graders** (except drumline) their first days of band camp will be **July 22nd+23rd**. These will be 2 days to introduce the freshmen to our student leadership, and spend a lot of quality time introducing the marching techniques and new music they will be learning before full band camp the following week. Band camp is **required** for all band students, please communicate with me if there is any conflict. **Anyone who is not at band camp will not have a spot in our field show for the fall.**
- Specific daily schedules will vary, but generally we will be outside in the mornings to work on marching fundamentals, Lunch will be ~12 - 12:30, and we will have sectional and full ensemble music rehearsals in the afternoons. We will have plenty of snacks available, but students need to bring their own lunch. It will be hot, and we will be active. It is vitally important that students are hydrating, eating breakfast, wearing athletic shoes/sneakers, wearing sunscreen etc.
- To get on our email list, please fill out the google form at this link:
<https://forms.gle/cnZX9ryACcotXD4x9> (can also be found on the website, riverdalehighband.weebly.com)
- If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to email me at benjamin.bucholtz@jpschools.org

Thank you,
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Joining Band as a Beginner:

Unfortunately since JPSchools has shifted to the K8 model, they have not maintained access to band and music programs for all 6-8 students. Before this shift, every middle school had a band program, so every student who joined band in high school had the opportunity to learn an instrument ahead of time. While the school board assured that students would have equal access to activities and curriculum at all K8s, this has not been the reality for our music programs. At Riverdale High, we now receive students from Jefferson, Dolhonde, Hazel Park, and Harahan - ONLY Jefferson has a music or band program.

Myself and the other directors have been organizing and advocating to the board and central office leadership to offer and seek solutions to restore access to music for all of the students in the district. If you are a parent/student at a K8 school with no band or music program, please take a moment to email or call your board member or the Superintendent to ask why there is no band or music program at your school when it is offered at other K8s and Middle Schools. All of the board members' emails and numbers can be found at

www.jpschools.org/Page/251

That being said, you can absolutely still join band and be successful at the high school level if you have never played before. As an example, we have a former student playing Horn and Mellophone in the Southeastern Marching band and Wind Ensemble who didn't start playing in our band until his Junior year of high school. It will require more work to get caught up, but we have great leaders on every instrument who will help. If you already know what instrument you want to play, I would highly recommend visiting Michon's or Guitar Center (they have a new Music&Arts representative, so their band/orchestra services are much improved) to look into renting an instrument and getting a beginner book so you can get a head start, they will also be able to direct you to private lessons as well. If we have your contact information, I can make sure our section leaders reach out to offer help learning your new instrument as well. We also have school instruments that many of the students use. If you email me towards the end of the school year (~last 2 weeks of school), we can probably check out the school instrument they will be using ahead of time so they can start practicing in the Summer. Let me know if you have any questions -

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