

## **MARCHING BAND PROTOCOL**

As a member of the Ram Regiment Marching Band, you represent not just yourself; you represent Reidsville High School, all other members of the band, and anyone who has ever worn this uniform. You will be expected to carry yourself with Ram Pride and discipline that will embody the spirit and attitude of Reidsville High School, RHS Ram Bands, and Rockingham County Schools in a positive way. Here are some procedures and protocol for helping you achieve this goal.

### **Class/Rehearsals**

- Come into class/rehearsal with a positive attitude, prepared for the day, and ready to work toward our common goal of musical growth.
- Be a little early whenever possible. We cannot start on time if you are just walking in or walking in late.
- When you enter the band room, you should prepare everything that you will need for the day's/night's rehearsal before doing anything else. This includes your instrument, music, drill, water, sunscreen, shoes, and whatever else you need. Help others; there will be yard markers, podiums, pit percussion equipment, and several other items that we will need help getting to and from the field. Many hands make light work.
- Hustle, not hassle. We can achieve more when everyone has a positive attitude and focuses on the task at hand to reach our goals. Stay positive and motivated forward so our rehearsals will move at a fair pace and will be productive. The item/exercise/work/movement we're doing at the time might not always be the most fun thing to you, but it Will Always be Worthwhile for the band as a whole. In the words of Kevin Hart, "Everybody wants to be famous, but nobody wants to put the work in."
- Rehearsal is not practice. Practice is what you do on your own at home or during sectionals to master your music and drill. Rehearsal is what we all do together to get the performances down by putting all the pieces together and working out the kinks.

### **Football Games**

- Be a little early whenever possible. We cannot start on time if you are just walking in or walking in late. Call time is when we start, not when you are just arriving.
- When you arrive you should prepare everything that you will need for the game before doing anything else. This includes your uniform, instrument, and whatever else you need.

- Remember that you are not a normal spectator at a football game; you are there with a job to do. Yes, we are there to have a good time and cheer on our team, but we need to be attentive and ready at a moment's notice to play something. You should not be socializing in a way that you do not know what is going on and you should not be looking on your phone the whole time. Be there, don't just be present. Non-Band members may not sit in our section with us unless they are helping us.
- We do not play when our Rams are on offense except for certain situations. If we are playing and the game resumes play, we will need to stop. Again, you must be attentive and ready.
- If a player on either team is injured on the field, we will sit down and stay quiet; this is an effort to allow the trainers and EMS (if necessary) to be able to focus and do their jobs as easily as possible.
- It is a school event so all school rules apply. These items will also apply during away games. We will respect everyone and represent the school with pride.

### **Uniforms**

- Make sure your uniform is on properly at all times. WHITE socks only. The jacket is either all the way on or all the way off. The Band tee shirt MUST be worn under your marching bibs and jacket. We may take the uniform jacket off when in the stands and will still need to look uniform. During colder games, long sleeves and other items like thermals and under armour may be worn to keep you warm, but the Band Tee shirt must be on top so it is the visual (uniform).
- Treat the uniform with respect. There will be NO eating with the jacket on. When the jacket is not being worn, it should be turned wrong side out, folded over, and placed neatly. The Shakos are hats, not buckets; they are always to be carried or set down with the top of the triangle up as if it were sitting on your head. If we are not wearing them at a time when we are marching or walking, they will be carried cradled in your left arm. (Jacket folded underneath the Shako)
- After games, make sure that your uniform is put away properly on the correct hanger and uniform rack with the top buttoned and zipped.

### **Competitions/Festivals and Parades**

- Every item above regarding the uniform applies at all away football games, competitions, festivals, and parades that we participate in.
- Be a little early whenever possible. We cannot start on time if you are just walking in or walking in late. Call time is when we start, not when you are just arriving.
- For festivals and competitions where we travel and are not meeting there, all students are required to ride the bus to and from the event unless I have prior

knowledge of an alternate arrangement. If someone is picking you up from an event, I need to see this person with you before you leave.

- We will respect everyone and represent the school with pride.
- When we arrive at competitions/festivals, everyone will be expected to help unload the trailer. We will unload our trailer in the following order:
  1. Pit Percussion equipment and bigger equipment including props and auxiliaries.
  2. All Wind Instruments.
  3. Battery Percussion
  4. Other items.
- All items will have a designated area to be placed when unloaded.
  
- Uniforms will stay on the trailer on the racks. We will go on to retrieve jackets and shakos in the following order:
  1. Front Ensemble/Pit Percussion
  2. Battery Percussion
  3. Drum Majors & Woodwinds
  4. Brass
- **GUARD** - You will be dressed ahead of time.
- Once you have retrieved your items, you will line up in two lines (Boys and Girls) beside the trailer in preparation to go change and/or dress. Do this as quickly as possible so that you can return in a timely manner and be ready to continue our preparations. If you are not helping prepare/load up the props and/or percussion equipment, you are expected to stay with your section in our 2 by 2 formation that we use to move between locations.
- After our performance, we will quickly return to the trailer and bus to change out of our uniforms and reload the trailer as quickly as possible. We will load items on the trailer in reverse order of how it was unloaded. We will then move to the stands to watch the rest of the performances.
- During the festivals and competitions, clapping and cheering are of course encouraged, but we do NOT talk or mess around when a band is performing. We will respect everyone and represent the school with pride.
- During awards ceremonies, all Drum Majors, Section Leaders, and Captains will report to the field in uniform as representatives of our Band program. At the final competition of the year, all Seniors will be on the field. These people will not need to change completely out of uniform after our performance because they will need to be wearing the uniform for the awards ceremony.
- When we arrive back at the school after the event, any and all help unloading the trailer is welcome. Everyone is expected to do their part to help.

## **General**

- If you have any questions or concerns, the daily chain of command will start with your Section Leader/Captain. If they need answers, they will ask or tell a Drum Major. If a Drum Major needs answers, they will come to me.
- Any command or call that comes down from Drum Majors or Section Leaders has been cleared with me first or is directly coming from me or another adult/leader. They are not on a “power trip.” These people are not in these positions to dispense any punishments for anything; that is not their job.
- Everyone is a leader, not just those with titles. Lead from within. We are all working toward the same goal and we should all be willing to put ideas out there and improve the band. We will respect everyone’s ideas and suggestions.
- We are a family. Treat everyone with respect and work hard for each other. There is enough negative stuff happening in the world and we will not be part of it. Let’s work together and accomplish great things.

If you have any questions or concerns, my door is always open and I will always listen. You can email me or send me a message via remind any time. I may not respond right away, but I Will respond in a timely manner.

Pike