

James H. Binford Middle School Band  
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(804) 780-6231 | <https://www.rvaschools.net/BMS> | (804) 780-6057 (fax)

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## CONCERT BAND SYLLABUS

### Instructor

Mr. Richard J. Rebmann  
Email: RRebmann@rvaschools.net  
Website: RebmannMusic.com

### Meeting Time

Varied, Even/Odd days, Periods 1-5 (see student schedule)

### Required Materials

Student instrument/stick bag (percussionists)  
Method Book (Essential Elements 2000, book 1)  
Band folder (or will be provided by teacher)

### Provided Materials

Band folder  
Metronome  
\*Large instruments (bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, tuba, percussion instruments)

### Purpose

Middle School Band is open to any student with any level of previous instrumental experience, though performance in elementary band is always preferred. The primary focus of the band is to expose students to new music that offers new and exciting challenges. New rhythms and musical styles, as well as scales will be the backbone of those challenges. Students will meet daily as a class, with lessons provided at various times each day. Over the course of the year, students can expect to perform in at least two formal concerts, with the possibility for more. Students may also audition for the Richmond Public Schools All-City Band, and interested students should see Mr. Rebmann for more information.

Various opportunities for performance or study of music outside of band class are available, including solos, small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.), and band clubs (Jazz Band). Independent study on secondary instruments may also be available with the instructor's approval.

### Classroom Policies

Above all else, the policies set forth for the Binford Middle School student body will be adhered to at all times. Beyond those policies, several classroom policies have been put in place to ensure the most productive, fun, musical experience that we can offer. They are rules of **respect**:

1. Respect the Teacher:
  - Be silent while the teacher is talking
  - Teacher on podium means “rest position”
  - Stay in your seat
  - No cell phones
2. Respect Each Other:
  - Keep your hands to yourself
  - Only touch equipment that belongs to you
  - No judgements
3. Respect Yourself and Your Musicianship.
  - Take your instrument home to practice
  - Do not let others play your instrument
  - Have your property marked with your name or nametag
  - Prepare for and attend all rehearsals and performances
4. Respect the School and Equipment:
  - Keep our space clean
  - Take good care of school and personal property
  - No food, drink, or gum in band room (water ok)
5. Respect the Process
  - Have fun!
  - Try not to get too stressed or frustrated
  - I’m here to help
  - Maximum effort

### Lessons

Students are assigned to specific lesson periods on either even or odd days. It is important that students remember their instrument and materials on their assigned day. If there is a two-hour delay or early dismissal, assume that lessons will continue as normal.

### Grading

The current grading policy of the Binford Band class reflects a 50/35/15 breakdown as follows:

**50% Concerts and Performances** – Students must prepare for, attend, and perform in all concerts & performances, unless Mr. Rebmann is notified by their parent/guardian. **In the event a student is unable to attend a concert or performance**, an alternate assignment will be provided. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a zero for that assessment.

**35% Participation and Preparedness** – Students must be prepared for and participate in all lessons, meaning they are responsible for bringing their (working) instrument, music, and any other necessary materials to every lesson. Students can receive a full 10 points per lesson, and

would lose points for things such as: forgot lesson book/music (-2), forgot mouthpiece/no reeds (-3), forgot instrument (-5), or not participating/following directions (-1 for each infraction).

**15% Practice Records/Homework** – Students are responsible to practice 4 separate times each week, 15-20 minutes or more, and record their minutes practiced on their practice record. The practice record must be signed by a parent or guardian, and turned in to Mr. Rebmann on your first lesson day of the week (even/odd day). 10 points available per week: 2 points per day practiced; 2 points for parent signature.

### **Band Karate Belt Assessments**

Throughout the year, band students will reach for mastery in the Binford Band Karate Belts! Students must do a “belt check” (playing test) on their assigned level in their Essential Elements 2000 lesson book. Belt checks will be done once per week, on students’ last lesson day of the week (Thursday/Friday). When students master a new level, they are given the colored belt (string/rope/ribbon) of their achieved level to put on their case or instrument. If we miss a day because of field trips, holidays, etc., we will do the belt check at our following lesson. Will you reach the black belt...and beyond?!

- To achieve mastery on any belt level, you must be able to play songs from that level with no mistakes. Very small errors will be given another try, but only one or two tries are normally given. *Practice to be prepared for performance!*
- Belts must be mastered in order; you are not allowed to skip levels.
- Belt levels can help determine concert seating (Trumpet 1 vs Trumpet 2), entry into higher level groups (such as the Binford Jazz Band), or participation in outside events (such as Come & Play with the Richmond Symphony).

**Performance Attire**

All students are required to wear white dress shirts, black dress pants or bottoms, and black dress shoes during performances (Preferably, all students would wear button-up white dress shirts). Girls are welcome to wear a dress sandal, but flip flops, UGGs, slippers, sneakers, etc. may not be worn in concert. Concert attire should not have writing or images, and no designs such as striping or polka dots. It is possible that we may use the Binford Concert T-shirts that were purchased last year, and parents will be notified if they are needed, or if new band students need to buy one.

**Richmond Public Schools All-City Band**

Each year, RPS hosts their annual Fine Arts Festival. The festival consists of All-City band, orchestra, choir, and harp groups, with elementary, middle, and high school students representing each of our schools in Richmond. Student art and dance groups are also represented. Auditions and/or teacher selections for the band take place in January, and chosen students should be advanced in three skills:

1. Scales (memorized)
2. Solo
3. Sight-reading

While it may seem like a lot of work, the All-City bands continually provide exciting experiences for students and feature great conductors and teachers from our area. Many Binford students have successfully participated in the bands and have had only positive experiences to bring back to the middle school. Could you be next?!

**Instruments**

If you would like to purchase an instrument, be it new or used, please refer to the attached **“Suggested Instrument List”**. This list is by no means comprehensive, but provides a basic list of instruments trusted and recommended by music educators. After consulting the list and doing some price shopping, please contact Mr. Rebmann for a list of reputable vendors from which to consider purchasing your instrument.

**Accessories**

Please refer to the **“Suggested Accessories & Equipment”** list for items trusted and recommended by music educators.

**Suggested Intermediate Instrument  
Manufacturer List**

<b>Flute</b>	Yamaha Gemeinhardt Jupiter
<b>Clarinet</b>	Yamaha Buffet Jupiter
<b>Alto Saxophone</b>	Yamaha Jupiter
<b>Trumpet</b>	Bach Yamaha Jupiter
<b>Horn</b>	Conn Yamaha
<b>Trombone</b>	Bach Yamaha Conn
<b>Euphonium</b>	Yamaha Conn
<b>Tuba</b>	Yamaha
<b>Percussion</b>	See Mr. Rebmann.

### Suggested Accessories & Equipment List

<b>Reeds</b>	Vandoren Traditional Vandoren V12 (clarinet) Vandoren ZZ (saxophone) Rico Royal
<b>Mouthpieces</b>	Bach (3C, 5C, 7C) Yamaha (3C, 4C, 5C, 7C)
<b>Ligatures</b>	Vandoren Optimum Rovner Dark
<b>Cases</b>	Pro-Tec SKB Gator
<b>Tuners &amp; Metronomes</b>	Korg TM-40 (Metronome & Tuner)
<b>Sticks &amp; Mallets</b>	Vic Firth SD-1 Sticks Vic Firth M5 Med-Hard mallets Vic Firth M15 Soft poly-ball mallets Vic Firth T1 General Timpani mallets