

MATADORS

Raymond Cree Middle School Instrumental Program
1011 E. Vista Chino, Palm Springs, CA 92262 | 760.416.8283 | RCMSBand.org
Eduardo Contreras, Director of Bands | EContreras1@psusd.us

2019-2020 RCMS Band Handbook

The “Desert Treasure”

Table of contents:

1. Philosophy	2
Goals	
The Ultimate Goal	
2. Course Descriptions	
Beginning Band	3
Advanced Band	4
Wind Ensemble	5
3. How Will I Be Graded?	6-7
4. Attendance	8
5. Rules	9
6. Band Class Procedures	10
7. Student Store	11
8. Ensembles Uniform Attire	12
9. What If....	13-14
10. Agreement <u>(DETACH AND RETURN)</u>	15

PHILOSOPHY

It is the belief of the instrumental music department, that every student should have an equal opportunity to learn in a safe environment that is conducive to the educational goals of the Raymond Cree music program.

GOALS:

1. To provide a background in music appreciation through the skills of performance on a musical instrument.
2. To provide instruction in the fundamentals of music theory and performance practice that will prepare students to continue their music study in high school and at the college level.
3. To broaden the student's sense of self-discipline and commitment through work toward the common goal of musical achievement and performing excellence.
4. To promote responsibility and good citizenship through structured musical activity.
5. To establish a means of self-fulfillment as well as a recreational outlet through development of a student's musical talent.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

It is hoped that all of the skills and concepts taught in the instrumental music program will lead to the student's musical independence. In other words, the successful student should be prepared to participate in any high school band program and to perform in appropriate musical organizations outside of the school environment.

Our program's continual growth and evolution necessitate the need for change. Your input is encouraged!

Course Description

BEGINNING BAND(Beginning level course)

Beginning band is a one-year course designed to teach beginning instrumental skills to students with no previous experience or some experience at an earlier level.

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

1. To assemble and maintain your instrument.
2. To produce a good quality sound/tone on your instrument.
3. To read and write traditional musical notation.
4. Performance skills and etiquette.
5. Basic music Theory.
6. To work with other musicians toward a common goal.

II. WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

1. An instrument – Own/Rent/Borrow
2. A method book (Accent on Achievement Book #1). Other material will be given throughout the year.
3. White 3-ring binder with clear front for insert.
4. Clarinets and Saxophone will need to purchase reeds. Brass will need to purchase oils and grease. Percussionist will need mallets and sticks.
5. A pencil for taking notes and completing written work in the book.
6. A positive attitude that promotes learning, respect, responsibility and team work.

III. INSTRUMENT STORAGE DURING THE DAY:

Instruments will be stored in the band room, in lockers during the entire day. Most students should be able to have their own locker this first year or might be sharing with another student. Most beginning band lockers will not require a lock but some lockers will be able to use a BAND combination lock only. If lost, there is a \$10 replacement fee.

IV. TRIMESTER GRADING:

1. Daily participation in class activities
2. Written (vocabulary, theory) and playing tests (clapping/instrument)
3. Performances (Concerts)
4. Weekly Practice Cards (20 minutes a night based on seven nights).

Course Description

ADVANCED BAND

Advanced band is a one-year course designed to teach intermediate/advanced instrumental skills to students with one or more years of prior experience. Students have the option of being part of the Marching Band – once committed to Marching Band, they are required to continue. This group performs at many concerts and parades (if in Marching Band) during the year including required attendance at the Winter and Spring Concert and music festival in March. Other mandatory events include off campus tours and Marching Band trips (if in Marching Band).

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

1. To maintain your instrument in good working order.
2. To produce an advanced quality sound/tone on your instrument.
3. To read, sightread and write traditional musical notation.
4. Performance skills and etiquette.
5. To expand knowledge & proficiency of music theory.
6. To expand your note range and vocabulary of performance skills.
7. Memorization of Major Scales.
8. To work with other musicians towards a common goal.
9. Playing and movement technique associated with marching band.

II. WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

1. An instrument. (Rent/Borrow/Own)
2. Foundation for Superior Performance Book.
2. White 3-ring binder with clear front for insert.
3. Clarinets and Saxophone will need to purchase reeds. Brass will need oils and grease. Percussionist will need mallets and sticks. (Some may be provided by the program)
4. A pencil for taking notes and completing written work in the book.
5. A positive attitude that promotes learning, respect, responsibility and team work.

III. INSTRUMENT STORAGE DURING THE DAY:

Instruments will be stored in the band room, in lockers during the entire day. Most students should be able to have their own locker or might be sharing with another student in their class. Most lockers will be able to use a BAND combination lock only. If lost, there is a \$10 replacement fee.

IV. TRIMESTER GRADING:

1. Daily participation in class activities.
2. Written (vocabulary, theory,) and playing tests (clapping/instrument)
3. Performances- Concerts, Solo & Ensemble festival, Band and Orchestra Festival, Marching Band etc.
4. Weekly Practice Cards (30 minutes a night based on seven nights).

Course Description

WIND ENSEMBLE

Wind Ensemble is a one-year course designed to teach advanced instrumental skills and have proven through audition that they are ready for the highest-level ensemble. This group performs at many concerts and parades during the year including required attendance at the Winter and Spring Concerts, music festivals in March. Other mandatory events include off campus tours and Marching Band trips.

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

1. To maintain your instrument and be able to spot-check mechanical problems.
2. To produce an advanced tone quality consistent with your instrument.
3. To read, sightread and write advanced level musical notation.
4. Advanced level performance skills and etiquette.
5. Appropriate major/minor and chromatic scales.
6. Advanced level music theory.
7. Expanded note range and music vocabulary skills.
8. To prepare a solo or small ensemble piece for festival or classroom.
9. Play and movement techniques associated with marching band performance.
10. To work well with others towards a common goal and skills to make a successful transition to a high school instrumental program.

II. WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

1. Your instrument in good working condition.
2. Foundation for Superior Performance Book.
2. White 3-ring binder with clear front for insert.
3. A PENCIL! For taking notes and music theory exercises
4. Time for practice (30 minutes min a night)
5. A Positive attitude that promotes, respect, responsibility, learning and teamwork.

III. INSTRUMENT STORAGE DURING THE DAY:

All instruments are stored in the band room in lockers during the day. Most lockers will be able to use a BAND combination lock only. If lost, there is a \$10 replacement fee.

IV. TRIMESTER GRADING:

1. Daily positive participation in class.
2. Attendance at all performances and sectionals
3. Written theory and vocabulary tests / Performance tests (Clapping & Playing)
4. Weekly Practice Cards (30 minutes a night based on seven nights)

How will I be graded in band?

Daily participation

10% of final grade

1. Students will receive 5 participation points per day. You need to have all of the following materials in order to receive your full 5 participation points. You need to have: your instrument, your music, a pencil to write with (not a pen) and your undivided attention during class.
 - a. In the event that you do not have your instrument because it is in the shop for repair, you must bring a note from your parent stating that your instrument is in for repair. If you do not bring a note, you will lose your participation points for that day. Also make sure to write on your practice card which days you did not have your instrument so that you can be excused for those days of practicing. Ask for a loaner from Mr. Contreras if one is available.
 - b. In the event that a student is disruptive during class (and is written up for their choice of behavior), that student will also lose his/her participation points for the day. These points cannot be made up.

Practice Cards

20% of final grade

1. Practice cards must have the following information in order to receive full credit:
 - a. Your name (receives no credit)
 - b. Your class period (-1 point)
 - c. A parent signature (-2 points)
 - d. Minutes Totaled (-1 point)
 - e. Goals/Accomplishments (-1 point)
 - f. Practice Agenda (-1 point)
 - g. Practice Week Date (-1 point)
 - h. Due Date (-1 point)
 - o **Points in () are deductions if they are not present on the practice card.**
2. Each weekly practice card is 10 points. They are due on every OTHER Monday on the marked DUE DATE. Late practice cards will NOT be accepted however extra credit assignments may be given to make up those points but will take time to complete – it is MUCH better if you take the time to PRACTICE and TURN IN your practice card so you don't spend EXTRA TIME doing extra credit!

Suggested MINIMUM practice minutes per week are as follows:

Wind Ensemble/Advanced Band 180-240 minutes per week (30 minutes per day)

Beginning Band 130-180 minutes per week (20 minutes per day)

DAILY thoughtful PRACTICE is essential to YOUR SUCCESS. Remember, 'playing' through your music is NOT the same as 'practicing' your music.

The two are different state of minds and one is GOAL oriented.

By being part of the RCMS Band you are committing to daily practice and improving YOUR skills.

Written and Playing Test

40% of final grade

Written Tests/Assignments

1. Written assignments will be given throughout the trimester in all band classes. Written assignments could include composer worksheets, music history worksheets, theory worksheets, rhythm worksheets and music vocabulary worksheets.
2. A vocabulary test will be given each trimester to all band students. At the end of the year all students will be tested on all music vocabulary they have learned over the course of the year.
3. This is an academic class and a performance-based class. You will be tested on written and playing material all year long.

Playing Tests

1. Playing tests will be given each week in front of the class.
2. An option for extra credit will be given from time to time. I encourage all of you to take advantage of extra credit when possible.
 - a. Types of extra credit given: play the exercise/piece memorized, play the exercise/piece at a faster tempo, play additional exercises that are not required (arpeggio exercise, interval exercises, second octaves in scales, etc.).

Test Days at RCMS

On Test Days, students will enter the classroom and get out their instrument and music and go over any last minute parts that they need to run through (I will give you ample time to review before testing begins). Students are encouraged to quietly finger through their part while fellow classmates are testing, as long as it is not disruptive. Talking is not permitted during testing (unless otherwise instructed to do so). *If you distract the teacher or fellow students during testing, it is considered rude and disrespectful. It is also considered a distraction that warrants a detention after school and/or possible grade deduction.* Please be respectful of those testing and stay quiet.

Participation in Performances

30% of final grade

1. Please note that if your student misses a band concert or marching event and does not have prior parent and teacher consent, they run the possibility of receiving an "F" for their trimester concert grade. Failure to participate at the concert will most likely result in the student receiving a final grade of an "F" for the trimester in band. **It is VERY important that every student shows up for the school concerts, marching events and festival performances.** This is a team! We cannot function correctly unless all of the members are at the concert/marching events and participating.
2. **All rehearsals lead up to the final the performances!** Students need to write down all events in their school planner/calendar and on their family calendar as soon as an event is announced. Any conflicts should be resolved as soon as possible, well in advance of the concert date. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE WEEK OF THE CONCERT TO TELL ME YOU HAVE A CONFLICT.
3. Please give parents all calendars, concert information sheets and extra rehearsal sheets AS SOON AS I GIVE THEM TO YOU. I recommend that you write down all rehearsals and concerts/performances in your agenda, as well as on your family calendar. If you do not have a "family calendar" I strongly recommend that you start one this year. Between band, sports, tutoring after school, concerts and family obligations, your life will be busy this year and every year throughout high school. It will do you a great favor!

Attendance

The nature of a performing group demands the presence **of all its members** at every rehearsal and every performance. Because new information is presented at each rehearsal, it is essential that each student be in attendance to learn the new material. An individual's absence not only puts the student behind in class work, it may also makes learning difficult for the students who are present at the practice session. Although some of the performances/rehearsals take place outside of the regular school day schedule, they constitute an important part of the music curriculum.

Wind Ensemble/Advanced Band/Marching Band Performance and rehearsal dates. Times will go out in a timely manner; this will allow you to place them on your family calendar to avoid conflicts. I anticipate the following events additional performances may be added (some dates are subject to change but you will know well in advanced):

Beginning Band Petting Zoo at JWMS – August 14, 4-7pm – Helpers & Beginning Band Students
Beginning Band Rental Night at RCMS – August 23, 5-7pm – Beginning Band Members/Families
Band Camp – October 12, 8am-1pm – Wind Ens./Adv. Band/Flags
Shakey's Night – October 16, 5:45pm – Advanced Band, Wind Ensemble, Flags
PSHS Homecoming Parade – October 23, Time 1-5pm – Marching Band
PSHS Band Day – October TBA, 4:30 Call – 8th Graders
Veterans Day Parade – November 11, 2-5pm – Marching Band, Flags
Festival of Lights Parade – December 7, 3-7pm – Marching Band, Flags
(Community Band Tour – December 11, School Day, 8am-2pm – Wind Ensemble)
Holiday Sampler – December 13, during Beginning Band Periods – Beginning Bands
Solo & Ensemble Festival – February 1 – Wind Ensemble & others that audition for Mr. C.
Band Carwash – Saturday, February 8, 8am-12pm, RCMS Bus Port – All Band Members
Winter Concert – February 20, 7PM– ALL BANDS
IHS Band & Orch. Festival – March 14, Time TBA – Wind Ensemble
Forum Festival/Knott's – March 20, All Day – Advanced Band / Wind Ensemble
Tea Party Fundraiser – April 24, 11:30am-2pm – Select Performers
End of Year Awards Concert – May 21 - 7PM – ALL BANDS

I will give you exact dates as I receive them. () = Possible dates.

Attendance is mandatory at all performances and rehearsals. Genuine illnesses, a death in the family or religious conflict are the only acceptable excuses. In the event that problems arise at the last minute, you should contact Mr. Contreras at school. Baseball, football games, dance class etc. are not considered excused, as your absence will affect the entire class and performance. Dates of performances will be given well in advance when possible. PLEASE SCHEDULE DOCTOR/DENTIST/ORTHODONTIST OR OTHER APPOINTMENTS FOR AFTER 3:45PM.

Students are expected to keep track of conflicts with other school events (i.e. club meetings, tutoring, after school sports etc.) and to see the director immediately when such a conflict occurs. The director and the other teacher/coach involved will resolve the conflict. (See Participation in Performance Page 7).

Tardiness whether on school time or outside of school time, will not be accepted. Attendance and promptness at all performance/rehearsal activities is an important component of the student's grade.

***Beginning band will not have any after school rehearsals except for a dress rehearsal right before each concert. There should not be any conflicts with after school sports or club activities.**

Rules

CLASSROOM RULES:

We are fortunate to have a spacious facility with adequate storage and good acoustics, as well as many musical equipment. The following rules are intended to maintain the quality of our facilities and equipment.

1. No food, drinks or GUM permitted in the band room at anytime.
2. Do not throw anything in the classroom.
3. Do not use or touch any instrument that you do not own or has not been checked-out to you.
4. The band office and storage rooms are off limits to students without permission.
5. Do not use language that you would not be proud to repeat for your parents. Phone call to parent or guardian will be made by student to acknowledge students choice of vocabulary and behavior.

INSTRUCTIONAL RULES:

1. Have your instrument, music and a pencil ready at the beginning of each period. Students should be in seat with instruments and music before class bell rings.
2. Ready to play when director is ready to start (on the podium)
3. Listen and observe when instructions are given. Talking is not an acceptable part of rehearsal.
4. Raise your hand if you have a question or need help.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Public display of affection between students is neither appropriate nor acceptable.
2. The laws and policies dictated by the California Education Code as well as those of the Palm Springs Unified School District Board of Education are in effect whenever the student is involved in a school (band) activity, whether on or off the school campus.

THE CON-CREE GOLDEN RULES:

1. Treat other people the way you want to be treated.
Be courteous to others, show respect, be polite, and say "please" and "thank you."
Have respect for others and others will respect you. Treat others well and they will in turn treat you well. If you are polite and courteous to others, they will in turn be polite and courteous to you.
2. "Discipline yourself and others won't have to." John Wooden, UCLA Coach
If you follow the rules then no consequences will be given! If you respect your peers, teachers, administrators and substitute teachers, they will in turn respect you and leave you alone. If you use appropriate language and behavior, no punishments are given.
3. Don't use the phrase, "I can't."
The only reason you "can't" do something is because YOU are stopping yourself from doing it. You are capable of accomplishing anything you put your mind to. You may not be "able to do it yet," but you are capable of doing it. Learn to be patient and persistent and you can do anything you put your mind to!!!

CONSEQUENCES:

If any of the outlined rules are not followed, consequences will be assigned:

1. The first infraction results in a warning.
2. The second, a phone call home plus 20 minutes detention.
3. The third, a half hour detention that may include campus beautification.
4. The fourth, an office referral. *Referral forms must be signed by the student and parent and returned to the vice-principal.*

Band Class Daily Procedures

Here are some daily procedures that will help you to be successful in this class:

1. When you enter the room, get your instrument and folder out of your locker and go to your assigned seat. Place your instrument on the **right hand side** of your chair. Your backpack, purse, lunch should be placed underneath the chair.
2. Get a stand and take it to your chair if there is not one already there.
3. Be sure your folder contains the following items:
 - Method Book
 - Rhythm Packet
 - Pencil
 - Warm up materials/scales
 - Name sign
4. Put your folder on your stand and put up your name sign.
5. Look at the board for the day's instructions and music.
6. When you finish an assignment, you can practice fingering your music, write counting in where it is necessary, practice your vocabulary words, read through your book etc. Do not talk or get out of your chair.
7. When the class lesson is finished and you are dismissed, put your instrument away in its case. Take your folder and instrument to your locker and lock it.
8. Make sure your stand is where it should be.
9. Go back to your seat and wait to be dismissed.
10. Do not touch anyone or anything that does not belong to you! See me right away if you have a problem with another student. You do not want to pay for an instrument that you broke!

Student Store

The student store is available for students to purchase almost any items needed to succeed in the program. All of these items will be for an additional cost. Any of these items could also be purchased through local music stores as well. Also there will be times when outside vendors come to the band room to sell items to students as well. Mr. Contreras will inform the students with time to plan ahead of time what they might want to purchase.

Accessories

Each student will need the following accessories for their instrument.

Flute	Cleaning/tuning rod, cleaning swab (for inside), cleaning/polishing cloth (for outside)
Clarinet	Cleaning swab, cork grease, at least three working reeds
Oboe	Cleaning swab, cork grease, at least three working reeds
Bassoon	Cleaning swab, cork grease, at least three working reeds
Saxophone	Cleaning swab, silver polishing cloth, at least three working reeds
Trumpet	Valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece cleaner
French horn	Slide grease, rotary valve oil, cleaning snake, mouthpiece cleaner
Trombone	Slide cream (not oil!), small spray/pump water bottle, and cleaning snake
Tuba	Valve oil, slide grease
Percussion	All Percussion: Percussion/Bell kit (bells, bell mallets, pair of drum sticks, drum pad, drum/bell stand)

*Please note: All of the above supplies can be purchased before or after school in the band office or from independent vendors who may come to the school

*Prices will be posted on Student Store window.

Multimedia

Please be aware that photos and media will be used to promote the Raymond Cree Middle School Band. All members must agree to the use of this form of promotion or the band will not be featured in ways that are extremely beneficial to the sustainability of the program. This is a high profile program and by signing the agreement form all parents and students agree to the use of media as a promotional and educational tool for the program's continued growth and sustainability.

Ensembles Uniform Attire

Marching Band and Concert Band (Advanced Band & Wind Ensemble)

Students in this ensemble are required to check out a tuxedo that includes a tuxedo shirt, tuxedo pants, vest and bowtie. The tuxedo and its parts must be returned in good condition at the conclusion of the performance season. It is the student's responsibility for any damage or loss except for normal wear. There is also a **\$150.00 participation fee (\$75 for tuxedo and \$75 for Knott's)** for the student to belong to the concert group and to travel and perform as scheduled with the band. Also included in the fee will be a required band t-shirt for use at performances and trips. See Mr. Contreras or send a note if you need to work out an individual payment agreement. CASH accepted and a receipt will be issued or Checks can be made to **RCMS BAND**. Multiple payments can be made to defray cost.

1. All Black Shoes. **SafeTStep® Athletic Duty** shoe (It's a TENNIS SHOE – DO NOT BUY THE DRESS SHOES!), available for purchase at Payless Shoesource for about \$25.00. A limited amount of used shoes in good condition are available from the band. DO NOT PURCHASE DRESS SHOES WITH STIFF SOLES – WILL NOT ALLOW STUDENT TO PROPERLY MARCH AS NEEDED.
2. All black socks. Long enough to cover your ankle.
3. All white T-shirt to go under the tux shirt. No logos or prints because they can be seen through the tux shirt.
4. FOR NON-MARCHING performances you may wear black dress shoes. Only for when we are not performing in a parade.

Beginning Band

1. Ladies – Nice blouses, dresses or skirts in seasonal color with covered toe dress shoes. No flip-flops! Remember you are dealing with equipment around you.
2. Men – Dress slacks, collared dress shirt, shoes and tie with coat or sweater optional.
3. Both Ladies and Gentlemen: You may also wear the 2017-2018 Band Shirt (\$10) tucked in and black pants or dark jeans with appropriate shoes.

*Students should not wear any of the following to a concert: shorts (any color), skirts above knee level (no mini skirts).

WHAT IF.....

Q: What if I forget my instrument?

A: You will still need your band folder and everything in it. You will be expected to participate in class as much as possible. A 20-minute detention will be assigned for each day you do not have your instrument.

Q: What if I come to school late, where should I take my instrument?

A: You should ALWAYS bring your instrument to the band room. I don't mind if you come in during another class as long as you are quiet. The safest place for your instrument is in band room.

Q: What if I go home early?

A: Come to the band room and pick up your instrument and folder. It is okay to come in during another class as long as you are quiet.

Q: What if I forgot to bring my band folder?

A: You will need to share books with the student next to you or you will be given an alternate assignment to fulfill.

Q: What if I need another copy of something?

A: I will have order forms available for you to fill out and give to me.

Q: What if I need to sharpen my pencil?

A: You may get up and sharpen your pencil at anytime when you are doing written work at your seat.

Q: What if I don't have any reeds to play on during class? (saxes/clarinets)

A: You are supposed to have three reeds at all times. If one breaks you have two others to choose from. If you don't have a reed during class you are still expected to get your instrument out and finger your parts. Students without reeds will lose participation points for that day. If it becomes frequent students will be issued a detention.

Q: How do I find out what I missed if I am absent?

A: Check with your neighbor then, ask the teacher.

Q: Where can I buy things I need for my instrument and this class?

A: The band student store sells all the things you need for this class as a convenience to you and your parents. I will only sell items before and after school, **not during class time**. There are also local music stores that have supplies available.

Q: What if my instrument won't play or is broken?

A: You should bring it immediately to Mr. Contreras who may be able to fix it at school for free. If it needs to go to a repair shop I can help you locate a reputable one. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIX IT YOURSELF! THIS INCLUDES PARENTS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES!!!**

Q: What if there is a substitute?

A: If I am absent, you will have a written assignment or watch a video. Your **full cooperation with the substitute is expected!** Your excellent behavior in my absence compliments our school and music program. Any problems can result in a detention or referral!

Q: What if I've been to the dentist and my teeth hurt?

A: You are still expected to bring your instrument to class. However, you will not have to blow into it. You will still be able to participate by fingering your instrument. Make sure you let me know how you are feeling, and do the best you can.

Q: What if I leave school early?

A: Come to the band room and get your instrument. Again, I don't mind as long as you are quite and respectful of the class that is in there.

Hopefully this answers most of your questions!!!

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have more!!!

AGREEMENT

As a student and parent who plan to participate in the band program at Raymond Cree Middle School, we have received and read the Raymond Cree Instrumental music handbook.

We understand the requirements and special needs of participation. We recognize the need for a commitment to regular attendance and practice in order for our student to enjoy the benefits of performing with the Raymond Cree Middle School Bands.

We agree to meet the expectations and encourage the necessary practice for successful participation in the Raymond Cree Middle School bands as set forth in the RC band handbook.

*****Please sign DETACH and RETURN THIS PAGE to Mr. Contreras*****

Student Name	Signature	Date	Period
--------------	-----------	------	--------

Parent/Guardian Name	Signature	Date
----------------------	-----------	------

*******Parents and students, please check on the band website for the latest information!*******

RCMSBand.org

Revised 7/19