
George Rogers Clark High School Band

Syllabus • Band Handbook • 2015-2016



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George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Welcome to the *family*.

The George Rogers Clark Band is proud to welcome your family to our organization. From band contests and Friday night football games to student pool parties and parent social time, there are opportunities for each member of the family to participate in our program. It takes a village to raise a child – together; we'll work for the common good of all our student-musicians, and provide them with ***life changing*** experiences that will prepare them for the college or career of their choice. Band opens doors – musically, socially, and academically. ***Active*** participation by the student, with the support of their family and friends, builds the citizens for tomorrow our society needs.

Commitment to Excellence

When you make the commitment to be a member of the GRC Band, you are making a statement to everyone around you. A member of this organization must demand excellence in all aspects of one's life: Academics, Citizenship, and Musicianship.

Academics

In order to qualify for a Band Letter, bar, or other award, Band Members are expected to maintain a 2.5 GPA. To qualify for a leadership position, students should maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Citizenship

The concept of citizenship means something different to every family. To the band family, we ask one question: "Do my actions bring respect to myself and to my family?"

Band Members are expected to follow all GRC rules. Be on time to class. We cannot afford to be without you for a performance or rehearsal if you are in detention or suspended. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Do we always like everyone around us? We all know the answer to that. Life is about building relationships and bettering ourselves. If there is a problem - talk about it. Offer to buy the other person an Ale-8 and take care of the situation. You may never agree on a solution, but you have to learn to respect each other. Our State Motto says it all:

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Musicianship

Band Members are expected to give their best at all times. Staff members, including the Director, will insure that each student receives excellent training during each rehearsal. This, however, is not enough. Members are expected to practice outside of class to reinforce what is learned in rehearsal. This can be done at school immediately following a rehearsal, or at home. On average, students should be practicing 2 hours a week, at a minimum, outside of rehearsal. Every student should strive to take private lessons. The greatest indicator of musical success is distinguished ratings – on the marching field, in the concert hall, and in the practice room. Distinguished practice skills lead to distinguished ratings.

Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Percussion Ensemble*

Students are placed into bands at the director's discretion, based upon demonstrated skill, attendance, and work ethic. All woodwind and brass members of the band program will be enrolled in one of these classes. Method books will be issued. Concerts and sectionals, which will occur outside the school day and on weekends, are a required parts of the student's grade. Any concert conflicts should be given to the director during the first week of school.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic band is the school's top music ensemble. Students who are placed in this band will be expected to take private lessons and work diligently to learn repertoire that is to be performed. Students in symphonic band may also be assigned to perform as part of the orchestra when their music calls for our services. Required after school rehearsals will be held in weeks leading up to concerts. Concert attire is provided by the Clark County Band Boosters.

Concert Band

The concert band will perform literature that will encourage growth as an individual, and build ensemble skills. Students assigned to concert band are encouraged to take private lessons, especially if they desire to make the symphonic band. Required after school rehearsals will be held in weeks leading up to concerts. Concert attire is provided by the Clark County Band Boosters.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Advanced Percussion

The advanced percussion class is designed for students who have begun to master percussion skills at the high school level and are moving toward collegiate preparation. Students in the advanced percussion class are asked to become members of PAS, the Percussive Arts Society, maintain a more diverse inventory of mallets and implements, and work together as an advanced percussion ensemble. This class includes after school/weekend rehearsals and concerts as part of the student's grade. Students in the advanced percussion class also perform as a part of the symphonic band and other ensembles, as assigned.

Grading (for all bands and percussion ensemble):

30% Participation (materials, attitude, timeliness, rehearsal attendance)

35% Performances (includes final exam)

25% Playing Tests and Quizzes

10% Final Exam/Scale Jury

*Band classes are year-round. Students who drop band without director approval may not rejoin.

Grading Breakdown:

Participation (30%): Students are expected to be prepared for instruction each day by having all required materials, participating to the best of their ability, and being on time.

Required materials:

- Instrument* (in good working order with all necessary accessories required)
- Valve/Slide oils for Brass, Reeds and appropriate reed case for Woodwinds
- Percussionists: Stick bag w/ Timpani and bell mallets, concert snare sticks.
- Music, in folder. Multi-page pieces should be taped. Name should be on all copies.
- Pencil

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

*Students are encouraged to own an intermediate (step-up) or professional instrument once they enter high school. For a list of recommendations, see grcband.org/instruments/

Students will be checked at random to ensure these materials are present. All GRC band students will be issued an instrument locker w/lock. Required band materials are the only items permitted in the band locker area. Other items, including water coolers, clothing, or books for other classes should be stored in a hall locker, not in the band room. Items left in the band hall or instrument room will be discarded or taken to the YSC as a donation. There is a lost lock fee of \$10.

Performances (35%): Students are expected to be on time, dressed appropriately, and in attendance for all performances. Performances will be posted on the Charms calendar and in the band room at the beginning of each semester. Note that some performances may be held off campus, and transportation may not necessarily be provided.

Playing Tests and Quizzes (25%): Students will be assessed on their performance skills and on musical aptitude as measured via written or computer based assessment. Smartmusic will be a part of this process, once the practice rooms have been properly equipped.

Final Exam/Scales (10%): Students will be asked to complete an annual review of their musical development, as part of the Kentucky Department of Education “Arts Pathway”. This Portfolio must be kept, and updated, and made available at the end of each semester for review.

Chamber Music Ensembles

Students will be asked to form a chamber music ensemble (i.e. Flute Trio, Clarinet Quartet, Brass Quintet) and prepare a selection for Solo and Ensemble Contest. These ensembles will be given a small amount of class time, but will rehearse mostly outside of school. Music will be selected or approved by the director. Each group will need to be heard by the director at least twice outside of school to receive full credit.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Parade/Pep Band (aka “The” GRC Band)

The GRC Band performs at community parades/events and selected athletic events as part of its civic mission to provide entertainment and represent the community as an official ambassador. **All band students are required to be at each performance.**

Labor Day Parade and Christmas Parade: All band students enrolled in symphonic or concert band, or percussion, are required to perform in these events. Basic parade maneuvers will be taught during class. Music memorization will be expected and is part of the performance grade.

Regular Season Basketball: The GRC Band will perform for 5 Boys and 5 Girls home games.

- Exemption: Each student will be permitted to miss one regular season basketball game with no grade penalty (to accommodate work schedules, dates, etc). To be exempt, you must be approved by the director via email, one week in advance. Students may miss additional basketball games, if approved at least one week in advance, at the discretion of the Director. Any reasonable excuse will more than likely be approved (except work). Students who use the exemption will not be eligible for the pep band bar. Students using the exemption may not attend the game as a “student”.
- Percussion: All Percussionists will participate in the basketball pep band this season.
- Uniform: Jeans and the official GRC Pep Band Shirt. Students not in uniform will be sent home.
- Music/Instrument: Students who are not prepared for the performance will be sent home and will not receive credit.

Basketball Tournament Band: The director will assign travel bands for the basketball tournaments and attendance is required. Students must attend their assigned game or provide a suitable alternate, as approved by the director.

Jazz Ensemble

The GRCJE is a traditional big band utilizing saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, bass, drums, electric guitar, and piano. Jazz concerts are held in conjunction with other concerts, and as stand-alone events. Rehearsals may occur after school or on weekends, and are a required part of a student’s grade. Same grading scale as concert bands.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

The George Rogers Clark Marching Band

(Prerequisite: All Marching band members must be concurrently enrolled in symphonic or concert band (or percussion ensemble), except guard.

The GRC Marching Band is a nationally respected outdoor performance ensemble that has a long tradition of excellence. It is up to every member of the band to write his or her own legacy into this tradition. The Marching Band has competed in both State and National competitions, including the KMEA State Marching Band Championships (Class 5A), the MTSU Contest of Champions, and the Bands of America Regional and Grand National Championships.

Commitment and Attendance Policy:

As a member of the marching band, both students and their families are making a commitment to be in attendance at every rehearsal and performance. Due to the nature of the activity, missing even one person can have a significant impact on a rehearsal or performance. As always, emergencies, funerals, and once in a lifetime opportunities will come up. All absences of this nature must be excused and cleared with the director as soon as possible. In cases of personal illness, students who miss school will be excused from rehearsal, provided proper channels are followed in accordance with GRCHS attendance policy. Unexcused absences will be treated as such. Students who fall ill at the end of the school day should turn in a note to the director when they return, signed by the parent or medical professional. If a student is ill on the day of a Saturday performance, it is recommended that they travel separately (with the parent) and perform, if at all possible. Students are expected to be in the stretch block on the rehearsal field at 4:00. Students not in their spot will be marked tardy. Two tardies equals 1 unexcused absence. On the 3rd unexcused absence, the student will be removed from performing with the marching band.

Rehearsals:

The marching band typically rehearses each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 4:00-6:15pm. Each student is expected to with clean up, help the pit, etc. A complete schedule is available online at grcband.org. Saturdays and days off of school are possible rehearsal days, allowing us to get the most efficient rehearsals possible - these are all on the calendar.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Grading:

Grades will be issued using the same criteria listed earlier for concert bands.

Memorization of music and drill can be part of the playing test grade.

Freshman, Guard, and Percussion Camp

This series of rehearsals will take place before Band Camp. This is mandatory for all students involved. Failure to be in attendance at each rehearsal during this week may lead to status as an alternate. The rehearsals run from 8am-5pm. Students will be outside in the morning learning marching fundamentals, followed by lunch and an afternoon music rehearsal. Student Leaders are required to be in attendance the entire day, while other members are encouraged to attend the afternoon music rehearsals.

Band Camp:

Students will have two weeks of mandatory rehearsals at the end of July at GRC. These rehearsals set the foundation for the fall marching show. A camp itinerary is available on the website. Students will not be permitted to leave campus for lunch/dinner.

Friday Home Football Games:

On evenings of home football games, band members will report to the Campbell JH loading docks to dress @ 5:30pm. We will warm up outside at 6pm, then head to the stadium. A short, traditional pregame show, including the Anthem and School Song, will be performed. Once the game starts, the band will play during time outs and when we are on defense. Students will be expected to memorize several short (8 measure) stadium cheers to be played during these times. We will exit the stands, beginning with guard and percussion, to warm-up for halftime at 5 minutes left in the 2nd quarter. At the conclusion of our field show, students will meet with the staff to discuss the performance. Afterwards, students will walk back to the stadium and remain in the stands until dismissal, after the game is over. If the Saturday Contest call time is before 8am, the band will leave after the halftime performance, with Mr. Bolen's approval.

Saturday Contest Days

Detailed itineraries will be provided on the Wednesday (or sooner) before each Saturday. Contest days will begin with a rehearsal at school approximately 4.5 hours before our departure time, which will vary from week to week. After rehearsal, we will begin the

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

EPL (Eat, Pack, Load). Rules on travel and behavior can be found at the end of the handbook. Depending on the circumstances, dressing into uniform may occur at school or at the show site.

Once we arrive, students will remain on the busses, seated, until the Director returns to give final instructions. Once students leave the bus, talking should be kept to an absolute minimum. After unloading, restrooms, and uniforms (if necessary), students will line up into two lines (“twos”) for inspection. Following the performance, students will circle around the Directors and Staff for comment about the performance and further instruction. Depending on the format of the contest, we will then head back to the stadium for awards, board the busses to go eat, or begin loading to return to school. The return to school is often very late. Parents should be at school waiting to pick up their student. Under no circumstances, other than illness, will a student be allowed to travel separate from the band.

Esprit de Corps and Behavior

No matter how we place in the contest, we will stand in quiet strength with our heads held high. We do all our talking on the field - nothing should be said to any other band except for “Thank You”, “Good Luck”, or “Congratulations”. This goes for the Internet, too. Any student heard saying anything else will be asked to not return. There is something to be said in this world about people with character. Many of you will find that listing GRC Band on your resume will benefit you in many ways. Businesses and colleges want to have responsible, respectful people in their organizations. This band is known for hard work and excellence - let’s keep it that way.

All rules of GRC and of the Clark County Board of Education will be followed and respected at all times. Breaking any of these rules will result in immediate discipline, including possible suspension from school or removal from the group, at the discretion of school administrators and the Code of Conduct.

Please treat all adults better than you would your own parents. Any disrespect shown to a parent or staff member will be treated the same as if you said it to the Band Director.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Student Leadership

Drum Majors, Guard Captains, Section Leaders, and other appointed Student Leadership will lead by example at all times. These students will go through an audition and/or interview process in the spring. These students will politely remind others to remain quiet or follow instructions, if necessary. They are the link between the staff and the students. Before you ask a Director what note you play in measure 23, ask your student leaders. Any problems should be brought to the staff's attention immediately, and under no circumstances will student leaders issue push-ups or haze members for any reason.

Uniforms

Marching and Concert Uniforms are provided by the Clark County Band Boosters. They are expensive and must be treated with care. Uniforms will be worn properly and fully, unless instructed otherwise by the Director. Failure to do so may result in being removed from the performance and/or a parent conference. When in uniform, students should not eat, drink, run, or use foul language. Uniforms should be hung properly when on the storage rack. Show shirt, thin shorts, Calf length (long) black socks, and black marching shoes are required parts of the uniform. These items will be purchased by each family through the band boosters, as needed.

Khaki shorts and the show shirt may be worn as an alternate uniform, as needed.

Travel and Parades

In addition to local parades, the GRC Band has been invited to perform across the country. Past performances have included the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the Orange Bowl Parade in Miami, the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade, and the Kentucky Governor's Inaugural Parade. Future trips could include the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, Cincinnati Reds Opening Day Parade, or the Kentucky Derby Festival. Trips of this nature will occur every few years.

Travel for marching band competitions is also possible, and could include places like Murfreesboro/Nashville, Tennessee; St. Louis, MO; Atlanta, Georgia; and Indianapolis, Indiana. The band will usually take at least one overnight trip every year. If invited, the Symphonic Band or jazz band could also have travel opportunities.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Travel Rules

1. School Busses and Chartered Coaches will be kept clean, and all posted bus rules will be followed.
2. Use the restroom before boarding the bus and avoid caffeinated beverages. We cannot stop every 30 minutes when on the road. Be responsible for your needs.
3. The bus driver and adult chaperones have the final say on any matter. Their job is to keep you safe.
4. If available, only DVD's rated PG and G will be permitted. Learn to love Disney movies on band trips. Again, chaperones have the final say.
5. The front and back seats shall be left empty for chaperones and medical kits, equipment, etc.
6. When on a competitive trip, busses will be silent upon entering the city limits of the performance venue. iPods and such are allowed, if that helps you to focus and relax.
7. Do not sleep on the way to a performance.
8. Students who cannot be on time may find themselves assigned to a chaperone for the duration of the trip.
9. Once a student is assigned a bus, they will remain on that bus. Students may not switch busses mid-trip.
10. No entering the hotel room of a member of the opposite gender or significant other, except with chaperone/director approval.

Awards

The band has two awards banquets held each year: one in November for the marching band, one in May for all bands. The following awards are typically presented each year:

Varsity Letter: Awarded to freshman who have completed a year of high school band, including marching band.

Bar: Awarded to students who have completed additional years of service, including marching band

Jazz Bar: Awarded to students who complete a year of service in the jazz ensemble

Pep Bar: Awarded to students who attend all basketball games to which they are assigned.

Guard Bar: Awarded to students who complete a year of service in the color guard and winter guard (must do both)

John Philip Sousa Award: Awarded to the most outstanding musician at GRC, as demonstrated by excellence in the ensemble, participation in all district and all state bands, etc.

Louis Armstrong Award: Awarded to the most outstanding jazz musician at GRC.

Most improved Section (marching band)

Most Outstanding Section (marching band)

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Certificate of Merit: Awarded to non-marching students who have demonstrated exceptional skill and commitment to the band program.

Band Member Responsibilities

- Refrain from talking during rehearsal.
- No cell-phones during rehearsal.
- Be courteous and respectful to all adults and students.
- Learn your music/work/drill as best and quickly as possible.
- Early is “on-time.”
- When a conflict arises between students, notify a staff member.
- Please address any concerns with Mr. Payne before or after practice.
- You are responsible for yourself.

Section Leader Responsibilities

1. Be a positive role model for your section:
 - a. Refrain from talking during rehearsal
 - b. No cell-phones during rehearsal
 - c. Learn your music/work/drill as best and quickly as possible
2. Be the “first one” to everything: Your Spot, back from break, etc.
3. When a conflict arises between students, notify a staff member.
4. Be responsible for keeping your sectional area clean.
5. When scheduling sectionals, contact Mr. Payne first.
6. Please address any concerns with Mr. Payne before or after practice.

Drum Major Responsibilities

1. Set-up and tear down of the rehearsal field. Coordinate with section leaders to accomplish this task.
2. Coordinate section leader meetings.
3. Be mindful of your words and actions; you are representing the entire organization!

Consequences

In the event that a member of the organization is unable to follow through with the responsibilities of their role, the **staff or band director** will take the following actions:

First Offense: A director/staff member will individually address the student.

Second Offense: A meeting with the band director will occur; parents will be notified.

Third Offense: A meeting with the band director, student, and parent guardian will occur.

George Rogers Clark Band Handbook

Further Infractions: A meeting with the band director, student, parent guardian, and school administrator will occur, as well as recommendation for removal from school ensemble.

Signature Page

Student:

I, _____, have read and agree to the terms of the 15-16 GRC Band Handbook.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent:

I, _____, have read and agree to the terms of the 15-16 GRC Band Handbook, and will support my student, as necessary. I also understand that the Clark County Band Boosters works to support every student in the band program by sponsoring fundraisers and collecting fair share payments. By participating in the band program, I understand that our family will be asked to participate in these fundraising events. Families are expected to participate to the best of their ability.

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Thanks, and best wishes for a great year!



Michael Payne
Director of Bands